TIMELY TOPICS.

The wheat crop of the present year taking the aggregate yield throughout the United States, promises to be unprecedentedly large. By some the crop has been estimated as high as 550,000,000, but according to the New York *Tribune* it may be safely set down at not less than from 480,000,000 to 490,000,000 bushels, or from 30,000,000 to 40,000,000 bushels in excess of the great crop of 1879.

A Berlin dispatch states that the police have discovered the existence of a gigantic Socialist organization, with ramifications extending throughout the whole of Germany. Although the discovery has created a marked sensation among certain classes, no one at all conversant with what has been going on beneath the surface is surprised at these developments. It is said that the government will take stringent measures to suppress the organization.

Baltimore expects a small windfall. An old man who was commonly known as the "Prince" or the "Count," though he had followed the occupation of a tailor for a number of years, died a few days ago in the room he occupied in Albemarle street, leaving about $7,000 in the savings bank, though always living in the most frugal way. He had not worked at his trade for a year or two, and spent most of his time in the office of a lawyer, who allowed the harmless old man that privilege during office hours. The rest of the day and night he spent in his room, where he slept and ate, doing himself what little cooking he wanted done. If no heirs appear the money will go to the school board.

St. Peter's cathedral, which has been in process of erection in Dominion square, Montreal, nearly ten years, and would have been one of the largest church edifices, when finished according to design, on the continent, is doomed to destruction, when almost ready for the roof, and after hundreds of thousands of dollars had been expended, as well as many lives of working men lost in its erection. It is said that the undertaking was of too leviathan a description to be successfully carried to completion within the next half century. It has therefore been determined by the Catholic church authorities to have the building razed to the ground, and a church of moderate dimensions erected in the east end of the city, where the Catholic people reside, chiefly out of the materials.

Among articles which are now freely adulterated is that of butter. For a long time this article was not known to be adulterated, but of late New York dealers who handle large quantities of butter have noticed that the tubs of butter from the West weigh six or eight pounds heavier than usual in fifty pound tubs. The increase of weight to the same bulk baffled investigation for some time, but has at last been found due to an adulteration with powdered soapstone. A firm in Cincinnati, known as the Cincinnati Facing Company, manufactures powdered soapstone, and the article is said to have a ready market for legitimate purposes, as well as for the adulteration of butter. Housekeepers have been, for a long time, accustomed to soapstone mantels, but to look for soapstone among their food will be an undesirable search.

It is only a few years since the manufacture of plate glass was started here, but the business has been brought to that state of perfection where we are able to produce as good a quality of plate as either France or England. In 1876 Messrs. Bouvien and Girard, the former the manager general of all the plate glass factories of France, and the latter one of the vice-pre idents of the French plate glass corporation, visited the United States for the purpose of attending our Centennial exposition, and visiting our plate glass establishments, which at that time were a comparatively new enterprise in this country. They visited the factories at Louisville, New Albany and Crystal City, near St. Louis. They were very much surprised at the progress our works had made, and acknowledged that we had accomplished in a few years what it had required their manufacturers centuries to learn; that we had the best sand in the world and the best fuel for the manufacture of plate glass, and that our glass was fully equal in quality to that produced by them.

The Sand Blast.

Among the wonderful and useful inventions of the times is the common sand blast. Suppose you desire a piece of marble for a grave-stone, you cover the stone with a sheet of wax no thicker than a wafer; then you cut in the wax the name, date, etc., leaving the marble exposed. Now pass it under the blast and the sand will cut it away. Remove the wax and you have the raised letters. Take a piece of French plate glass, say two by six feet, cover it with fine lace and pass it under the blast, and not a thread of the lace will be injured, but the sand will cut deep into the glass wherever it is not covered by the lace. Now remove the lace and you have every delicate and beautiful figure raised upon the glass. In this way beautiful figures of all kinds are cut in glass and at a small expense. The workmen can hold their hands under the blast without harm, even when it is rapidly cutting away the hardest glass, iron or stone, but they must look out for finger nails, for they will be whittled off right hastily. If they put on steel thimbles to protect the nails it will do little good, for the sand will soon whittle them away; but if they wrap a piece of soft cotton around them they are safe. You will at once see the philosophy of it. The sand whittles away and destroys any hard substance—even glass—but does not affect substances that are soft and yielding, like wax, cotton, or fine lace, or even the human hand.

Compressed peat in London, and, indeed, in almost all the towns of considerable size throughout Great Britain, is rapidly coming into use. On one of the most important railroad lines, too, compressed peat has for some time been used, and with entire satisfaction, the fact appearing, from the engineer's report, that twenty-one pounds of peat will raise steam for a mile of transit, while the number of pounds of coal required to do the same work is twenty-six. Its cost is less than one-half that of coal.

According to Kolb's "Universal Statistics," the average length of life among those in comfortable circumstances is fifty, among the poor thirty, among ministers sixty-five years.

The Traffic in Dried Fruits.

The perishable nature of all kinds of fruit has led to the employment of many methods for its preservation, the most primitive of which is probably that of drying. Although recent improvements in canning processes have created an increased demand for canned fruits, the market for the dried article is brisk every year. Many commercial firms in New York deal almost exclusively in dried fruits, or make this article a leading specialty. Besides the demand for dried fruits in that market, there is every year a large demand for export to foreign countries. Dealers also do a large trade with the Western States and Territories. In many of these, especially the later settled districts, farmers have not had time to grow orchards as yet, and so must buy their fruit, both fresh and preserved. Dried fruit is also much used in the mining regions, being easily transported; and the miner must often take his choice between dried apple pie or none at all.

Dried peaches, berries, plums and cherries, find a good market in the Western States, and are made into pies, puddings and sauce. Few of these smaller fruits are exported, the foreign demand being chiefly for apples. Of these there were exported in October of last year 1,853,044 pounds, and in the first ten months of the year, 4,499,156 pounds. The export trade has increased largely, of late, as will be seen by the record of 1874, when only 1,909,792 pounds were exported. In 1876 the exports rose to 6,900,535 pounds, and last year when the apple crop was much less than the present year, there were exported 5,895,258 pounds. France, Germany, Belgium and England are all using more dried apples this year than usual. This is a result of the general failure of the apple crop in those countries, and also of the unusually low prices in this country. "Evaporated" fruit, which sold last year from thirteen to sixteen cents a pound, now sells at from six to eight cents. Common fruit, which last year brought from seven to nine cents, now brings only from four and one-half to five and one-half cents.

On account of the general failure of the grape crop as well as the apple crop in France, the distillers in that country are using large quantities of dried apples for the manufacture of brandy. The common grades of apples are preferred for this purpose, especially Southern fruit, which is said to yield ten per cent. more alcohol than ordinary fruit. An import duty of one-half cent a pound was to be levied on dried apples in France after January 1. Previously, dried apples have been on the free list in that country. The exporting of the ordinary stock tends to keep the market firm, and dealers are generally confident of good prices. The English market will take little except evaporated apples, and it is only within a few years that any have been shipped there; but the demand now is steadily increasing. For the German market fruit dried in quarters is preferred. "Sun dried" apples are about the only kind shipped to Continental Europe.

The "evaporated" apples are dried very quickly, by artificial heat, in a carefully-constructed apparatus. After being peeled, cored and sliced transversely into thin rings the fruit is subjected to the fumes of sulphur, which causes the white color to be retained in drying. So effectually does this fumigation arrest decay that quantities of the apples may be left several days before drying without injury. "Evaporated" apples are generally packed in wooden boxes containing about fifty pounds. The common grades are packed in barrels.

All of the older States send more or less dried apples to this market. New York State takes the lead, and Ohio and Indiana comes next. Tennessee and other States in the Southwest also send large quanties. Dried peaches and blackberries come in large part from North Carolina. Peaches are also dried by the evaporation process, and there is some demand for them in the English market. Although there was a very large yield of apples last year, dealers say that there was not a correspondingly large amount dried. The reasons given are, that driers generally anticipated that large quantities would be dried and that prices in consequence would be low; accordingly they were afraid to engage in the business very largely. It is also stated that the cold weather coming so early in the season destroyed many apples that otherwise would have been dried.—*New York Tribune.*

A Brave Old Woman.

There was a runaway on Broadway in New York and a lady and child were in great danger. One gentleman seized the lady and drew her in safety to a doorstep. Another grabbed the child and carried it out of danger but nobody apparently thought of stopping the horse except an old woman, who sprang forward and with both hands seized the horse by the bit. The beast reared and lifted the lady clear from the ground, but she held fast to her hold and finally brought him all panting to a standstill. Then she released him to the charge of some men, and while contemplating ruefully the glove she had torn by her effort a gentleman begged the pleasure of the brave woman's name. "What for?" she queried. "In order that your brave action may have done it the honor it deserves," was the answer. "Oh, that is it," replied the practical and nervy woman. "Well, I am Mrs. Robert Lanier, and I live in Philadelphia. My husband was a soldier in the regular army—the cavalry—and I was with him on the plains." Then, after a pause, and glancing about half apologetically, she added: "I know how to break mustangs." With this she hailed a downtown car, and, acknowledging with a grave courtesy the lifted hats of the half dozen of gentlemen who had come up, disappeared.

Egyptian Obelisks.

There are thirty of them at the present time scattered over Europe. Rome has eleven, four of which are higher than our New York obelisk. The highest of the Roman obelisks, which is also the highest in Europe, stands before the Church of St. John Lateran. The obelisk in the piazza of St. Peter's is eighty-two feet nine inches high. Both of these were mounted on high pedestals. The pedestal of the St. John Lateran obelisk is forty-four feet high, making the entire height of obelisk and pedestal 150 feet. The pedestal of the St. Peter's obelisk is a trifle less than fifty feet high, making the whole height of the monument 132 feet two inches.

When a man has to hang to a street-car strap for nearly an hour he realizes how trying is the position of the upright man.—*Philadelphia Herald.*

A Doctor's Mistake.

At some of the more primitive German and Bohemian watering places a quaint old custom prevails, in virtue of which the resident medical or bath doctors take up their stations every morning at a fixed hour, under particular trees, on the leading promenade of their respective Bade-Ort, so that their patients may make sure of finding them for consultation or advice at a particular time and in a particular place. A good memory for faces is a sine qua non to these sons of Æsculapius, who in the height of the season frequently interview from fifty to sixty invalids apiece during these receptions. Mistakes as to identity, however, will occur, and sometimes result in singularly comical complications. Recently one of the most popular physicians at a crowded Bade Ort was visited under his tree by an American gentleman, a recent arrival, who complained that the waters caused him such terrible headaches that he thought he had better drop them and depart to other climes. The doctor unwilling has promptly to lose his patient, looked over him hastily and, perceiving that he wore a fat sombrero, told him it was not the waters that made his head ache, but his unconscionably heavy hat." Swiftly the American betook him to the nearest hatter, of whom he purchased a straw fabric so light as to be all but imponderable, and went on drinking the waters as before. His headaches, however, growing worse instead of leaving him, he again called upon the medical adviser a few days later, and told him that his head was still so bad that he really must try some other cure. The doctor, within the meantime had forgotten all about his previous prescriptions, and was as reluctant as ever to let patient depart, again cast a comprehensive glance at him, and espying the straw hat, exclaimed:

"You cannot expect to be free from headache if you wear such preposterously light head-covering. A man of your age, nearly bald, in this hot weather, must protect his head from the sun's rays, by a stout, solid hat!"

The American gazed at his interlocutor for a few seconds in blank astonishment, then, after bowing profoundly, he sardonically replied:

"Thank you, doctor; I am off to the railroad station!" turned on his heel and departed.

A Street Scene in New York.

"Come, papa; I know where we are. This is the Bowery, and Canal street is only a little way up. Come on."

The speaker was a boy, about seven years old. He was neatly and warmly dressed, and as prettily spoken as any of the children that play in Reservoir square on a summer afternoon. His hand was clasped in the big, begrimed palm of a man in the dress of a hard-working mechanic. The man was so drunk that he nearly went upon all fours, and when he lurched from one side to another he jerked the little fellow from his feet. It was 3 30 o'clock on Sunday morning.

"Yes, I'll show yer papa where to go. Come right along with me."

The second speaker was a young man with broad shoulders, and wearing clothes that were fashionable a year before. He spoke in a coaxing voice, and caught the man's hand while he was speaking, and tried to hustle the man and boy along from the corner of Division street toward New Bowery. The little fellow protested that he wanted to go up the Bowery to Canal street. He clasped his father's hand with both his own, and tugged manfully in the direction he wanted to go, saying: "Come on, papa; this is the way."

"What are you doin'?"

The third speaker growled that question to the young man with broad shoulders. He was a stout, bow-legged person, dressed in coarse clothes, and he eyed the young man suspiciously from under the brim of a slouched hat. The young man dropped the drunken man's hand and hurried away.

The little boy was not alarmed at the overtures of the man who had gone, nor did he show any sign of gratitude to the man who had interfered; he was intent only on getting his father home. They started up the Bowery, the father staggering from one side of the walk to the other, and the little fellow clinging to his hand and encouraging him with: "Come on papa; I know the way."

While crossing the Bowery at Canal street the man fell, and it seemed in the darkness to those a short distance behind as though he must have fallen on the child. They lay together in the street for a moment, but when a policeman arrived the little fellow was up and tugging at his father's hand.

"Is that yer pop, sonny?" the policeman asked.

"Yes, sir; he's my father."

"Where do you live?"

"In Mott street—only two blocks over. Come on, papa; I know the way."

The drunken man had got to his feet, and the little fellow led him away toward home.—*New York Sun.*

Sudden Checking of Perspiration.

A Boston merchant, in "lending a hand" on board one of his ships on a windy day, found himself at the end of an hour and a half pretty well exhausted and perspiring freely. He sat down to rest, and engaging in conversation, time passed faster than he was aware of. In attempting to rise he found he was unable to do so without assistance. He was taken home and put to bed, where he remained two years; and for a long time afterward could only hobble about with the aid of a crutch. Less exposures than this have in constitutions not so vigorous resulted in inflammation of the lungs—pneumonia—ending in death in less than a week, or causing tedious rheumatisms, to be a source of torture for a lifetime. Multitudes of lives would be saved every year, and an incalculable amount of human suffering would be prevented, if parents would begin to explain to their children, at the age of three or four years, the danger which attends cooling off too quickly after exercise, and the importance of not standing still after exercise, or work, or play, or of remaining exposed to the wind, or of sitting at an open window or door, or of pulling off any garments, even the hat or bonnet, while in heat.

Never try to go to sleep with an old coat for a pillow. There is no such thing as getting a nap on it.

As the sled is bent so is the boy inclined; as the slipper falls so is he made to mind.

Dead From Homesickness.

The St. Louis papers tell this pathetic story of how a Swiss emigrant girl living in that city died from homesickness: Pauline Fuchs lived with the family of a distant relative, all crowded together in two little rooms over a shop. After only two weeks of America she died. She was born near the town of Einsiedeln. Her father was a simple peasant, whose mind was bound up in his country and his religion, and the girl was his only child. She was spoiled and petted, having everything her own way until she was eighteen years old, when she met a young man named Henry Baumgartner, who though only a mechanic appeared a prince to the peasant girl. Of course, she loved him, and also, as a matter of course, her father would not let her marry him. In spite of the prohibition she set her mind on marriage, and last March had perfected her plans to elope with her lover, but on the very day set her father found her out and thwarted her. She was closely watched after this, and the young man was forbidden the house. Pauline pined and was sullen.

She alarmed her father by threatening to run away and come to America, where Mary Fuchs, her cousin and friend, had come a few months before. The threat was constantly repeated, until at last, when two months ago her father's cousin, his wife and six children, made up their minds to come to New York, he told her to go with them. She was unwilling to leave home, but too proud to stay, so, taking her little stock of clothing and her dead mother's crucifix, she started on her long journey across the seas.

At Havre they took steerage passage on the steamer Canada, arriving in Castle Garden three weeks ago; remaining there a few days they came to St. Louis, where Mary Fuchs and her brother had been living since April. Mary is flaxen-haired and rosy-cheeked. She was overjoyed to meet her friend Pauline, who seemed especially pleased to see her, and who was for the first week cheerful. Then she began to long for Switzerland, and the color left her cheek. Mary was her room-mate, both sleeping together on a "pallet" made on the floor in the room, and to her she confided her desire to return. "I will die here," she said, simply. When any other member of the family asked her the cause of her changed demeanor, she replied: "My heart hurts me."

This was all that she ever said on the subject until Friday, when she grew so sick that they begged her to go to bed. She would not, persisting still that there was nothing the matter. In the evening she said to Maria Fuchs, her cousin:

"I want to go back to Einsiedeln; I must go back, for I cannot live here."

She went to sleep on the floor and at three o'clock yesterday morning her cousin heard her moaning. When they went to her, she persisted that she was not sick, and so they left her.

This morning when Mary awoke, the girl had been dead for an hour. The policeman told the coroner, who, as they were too poor to give the unfortunate girl decent burial, ordered the body to be carried to the morgue.

"She died of homesickness, because she was out of sight of the mountains," insists her cousin.

An Aching Void.

A troubled young man begins a poem in the Breakwater *Light* as follows:

"I cannot love another now,
Since thou hast proved untrue,
Another's lips upon my brow
Cannot this aching void subdue."

It is an awful pity for the young poet that he has to carry an "aching void" around in his head. Nothing is more distressing than an "aching void," particularly in one's head, and the distressed young man ought to fill it with cotton. If "another's lips" won't "subdue" it he might try a mustard plaster.—*Middletown Transcript.*

[Chicago Journal.]

A Chicago Broker's Happy Investment.

Lewis H. O'Conor, Esq., whose office is located at 93 Washington street, this city, lately related the following in the hearing of one of our reporters as an evidence of special good fortune. "I have been suffering," said Mr. O'Conor, "for a number of weeks with a very severe pain in my back, believed to be from the effects of a cold contracted while on the lakes. I had been prescribed for by several of our physicians and used various remedies. Three days ago, I abandoned them all, and bought a bottle of St. Jacobs Oil, applied it at night before retiring and to-day feel like a new man. I experienced almost instant relief and now feel no pain whatever."

The famine in Russia, it is predicted, will assume proportions altogether beyond previous estimates, and no steps are taken to meet it.

[Cleveland Penny Press.]

See the Conquering Hero, etc.

Among the most wonderful articles of the period is St. Jacobs Oil. The Hon. Leonard Swett, of Chicago, pronounces it the most thorough conqueror of pain that he has ever known.

Scientists have declared that the Blue Hill range of Massachusetts is older, in a geological point of view, than the Alps or the Pyrenees of Europe.

All should recollect that with the loss of health, loss of enjoyment and happiness soon follows. A Cough or Cold quickly undermines the health, and should be checked by the prompt use of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. For sale by all druggists. Price 25 cents.

There is a woman in Lancaster, Penn., who has not lived in vain. She has had nine sons, and every one has entered the ministry.

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The most wonderful and marvelous success, in cases where persons are sick or pining away from a condition of miserableness, that no one knows what ails them (profitable patients for doctors), is obtained by the use of Hop Bitters. They begin to cure from the first dose and keep it up until perfect health and strength is restored. Whoever is afflicted in this way need not suffer, when they can get Hop Bitters. See "Truths" and "Proverbs" in another column.

A man never looks so much like a red-handed villian as when he is told by the photographer to "look pleasant."

It Seems Impossible

that a remedy made of such common, simple plants as Hops, Buchu, Mandrake, Dandelion, etc., should make so many and such marvelous cures as Hop Bitters do, but when old and young, rich and poor, Pastor and Doctor, Lawyer and Editor, all testify to having been cured by them, you must believe and try them yourself, and doubt no longer. See other column.

Josh Billings says when a feller gets agoin' down hill, it duz seem as tho' everything had been greased for the ekashun.

The Cause of Science

has received an important addition in the elegant Observatory which Mr. H. H. Warner, proprietor of the valuable Safe Kidney and Liver Cure, has erected at Rochester.

Shot glace silks are fashionable for demi-toilets.

PURE COD LIVER OIL made from selected livers, on the seashore, by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York. It is absolutely pure and sweet. Patients who have once taken it prefer it to all others. Physicians have decided it superior to any of the other oils in market.

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