

GUANO-ITS HISTORY.

Guano, as most people understand, is imported from the islands of the Pacific—most of the Chincha group off the coast of Peru, and under the dominion of that government. Its sale is made a monopoly, and the avails, to a great extent, go to pay the British holders of Peruvian government bonds, giving them to all intents and purposes, a lien upon the profits of a treasure intrinsically more valuable than the gold mines of California. There are deposits of this unsurpassed fertilizer in some places to the depth of sixty or seventy feet, and over large extents of surface. The guano fields are generally conceded to be the excrements of aquatic fowls which live and nestle in great numbers around the islands. They seem designed by nature to rescue, at least in part, that untold amount of fertilizing material which every river and brooklet is rolling into the sea. The wash of alluvial soils, the floating refuse of the field and forest, and above all, the wasted materials of great cities, are constantly being carried by the tidal currents out to sea. These, to a certain extent at least, go to nourish, directly or indirectly, submarine vegetable and animal life, which in turn goes to feed the birds which at our day are brought away by the ship load from the Chincha islands.

The bird is a beautifully-arranged chemical laboratory, fitted up to perform a single operation, viz.—to take the fish as food, burn out the carbon by means of its respiratory functions, and deposit the remainder in the shape of an incomparable fertilizer. But how many ages may these depositions of seventy feet in thickness been accumulating?

There are at the present day countless numbers of the birds resting upon the islands at night; but, according to Baron Humboldt, the excrements of the birds for the space of three centuries would not form a stratum over one-third of an inch in thickness.—By an easy mathematical calculation, it will be seen that at this rate of deposition, it would take seven thousand five hundred and sixty centuries, or seven hundred and fifty-six thousand years, to form the deepest guano bed! Such a calculation carries us back well towards a former geological period, and proves one, and perhaps both, of two things—first, that in past ages an infinitely greater number of these birds hovered over the islands; and secondly, that the material world existed at a period long anterior to its fitness as the abode of man. The length of man's existence is infinitesimal, compared with such a cycle of years; and the facts recorded on every leaf of the material universe ought, if it does not, to teach us humility. That a little bird, whose individual existence is as nothing, should, in its united action, produce the means of bringing back to an active fertility whole provinces of waste and barren lands, is one of a thousand facts to show how apparently insignificant agencies in the economy of nature produce momentous results.—London Farmer's Magazine.

The Sound Dues.—What they are.

The "Sound Dues" at the present time being the subject of much agitation at Washington and elsewhere, and as they may possibly give rise to a serious dispute between the United States and Denmark, it is well that all should know what they are. The "Sound" is a narrow strait lying between the Island of Zealand, belonging to the Danes, and the Swedish coast, and gives entrance to the Baltic Sea. The fortress of Cronborg Castle commands the passage, and exacts a payment from all vessels entering the Baltic; the ships of Denmark herself have to pay, as well as foreign tonnage. The origin of this exaction is, that in ancient times, Denmark undertook to build and sustain certain light-houses along the coast, for which the Hanseatic towns agreed to pay toll. England, France, Holland and Sweden pay a duty of one per cent, on every cargo entering the Baltic. Other countries including the United States, pay one and a quarter cent; even Danish ships are taxed to this rate. In the year 1826, a treaty recognizing this duty was concluded between the United States and Denmark. This treaty, however, according to one of its stipulations, may be dissolved by either of the parties, provided they give one year's notice of their intention. During the Presidency of John Tyler, our Government determined to put a forcible end to this imposition. Mr. Upshur, then Secretary of State, fitted out a fleet of merchantmen and vessels of war, under Commodore Stuart, which he designed should force its way into the Baltic, and thus at once rid the United States of the Sound dues.—Mr. Upshur's sudden death, however, by the explosion of a cannon just as the fleet was ready to start, delayed the exhibition, and it was finally abandoned. Other attempts were made to abolish this tax. While Denmark was at war with Schleswig-Holstein, Mr. Flenniken, the U. S. Minister offered, on the part of his Government to pay Denmark \$250,000 for 10 years' suspension of dues; his death prevented the proposal coming to a head. Finally, on the 12th of April last the U. S. notified the Danish Government of their intention to cease paying the Sound dues, and the stipulation of the treaty will accordingly expire next Spring. Should no amicable arrangement of the question be arrived at in the meanwhile, we may then expect to see our vessels passing the Sound under warlike convoy. A serious conflict will then most probably arise.—Aib. Trans.

Obituary.—A late number of the Boston Times contains the following:—

"Died in this city, a few days since, 'Charley's whiskers. They had long been an ornament to the circle in which they moved; but alas! their roses hue had departed, and instead they present an appearance of unearthly blackness, which color is gradually changing to a purple, mingled with a lovely lilac. 'Happy are they who dye young.'"

Let a bachelor get a scratch upon his face, and it is said he has been in an awful fight; but when a married man appears with two black eyes, a swollen face, and a severe headache, it is only said that he has fallen into a little "love spat."

It is a "disagreeable fact" to be placed in, when you essay a bow to a fair friend, on the opposite side of the way, to have an omnibus intrude itself just in the season for your bow to take effect directly in the middle of the crowd of passengers inside, half of whom bow to you in return, and the other half stare in a puzzled attempt to recall who you are.

A lady promised her servant girl five dollars as a marriage portion. The girl married a man of low stature, which somewhat surprised her mistress. "Why, Mary, what a little husband you have got!" "La, Missus," replied Mary, "what can you expect for five dollars?"

You say, Mr. Jay, that you saw the plain (iff leave the house. Was it in haste?" "Yes, sir." "Do you know what caused that haste?" "I'm not quite certain, but I think it was the boot of Mr. Stubbs, the gentleman he boards with." "That will do, Mr. Jay. Clerk, call the next witness."

The editors of a western paper observe: "The poem which we publish in this week's Herald was written by an esteemed friend, who has lain many years in the grave for his own amusement."

One man falsity abroad in this age is the notion that women, unless compelled to do it by absolute poverty, are out of place when engaged in domestic affairs.

A waggish eulogizes his musical attainments—"I know two tunes, the one is Auld Lang Syne, and the other isn't—I always sing the latter."

Mrs. Partington expresses great apprehension that the people in California will bleed to death, as every paper she picks up announces "another vein opened."

A genius has invented a spy-glass of wonderful power. He says he looked through it at a third cousin, and it brought him relatively nearer than any of his brothers.

"I say, Pat, are you asleep?" "Devil the sleep." "Then be after lendin' me a quarter." "I'm asleep, now be jabbers."

BUSINESS DIRECTORY. TERMS OF PUBLICATION.

The AGITATOR is published every Thursday Morning, and furnished to subscribers at \$1.00 per annum in advance; or \$2 if payment be delayed over the year. No subscription taken for a shorter period than six months, and when for that term only, payment must be made strictly in advance, or it will be charged. The foregoing terms will be strictly adhered to. No paper will be discontinued until paid for, unless at the option of the editor. Clubs.—Ten Copies, \$1; Fifteen Copies, \$1.50. ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at \$1 per square, (of fourteen lines or less), for the first or three consecutive insertions, and 25 cents for every subsequent one. Yearly advertisements inserted at a reasonable discount on the foregoing rates. No advertisements discontinued until paid for unless at the option of the Publisher. Transient advertising published in advance. All letters must be post-paid.

DR. WHITTAKER, Hydropathic Physician and Surgeon. ELKLAND, TIOGA COUNTY, PA. [June 14, 1855.]

JOHN N. BACHE, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW.—Office, north side Public Square, Wellsborough, Pa. Refers to Messrs. Phelps, Dodge & Co., N. Y. City Hon. A. V. Parsons, Philadelphia. July 13.

SPENCER & THOMPSON, Attorneys & Counselors at Law, CORNING, Steuben County, New York. Geo. T. SPENCER. C. H. THOMPSON. April 18, 1855-ly.

CLOTH DRESSING AND WOOL CARDING DONE on short notice and reasonable terms at THE STEAM COUNDRY WELLSBORO, PA., [Sept. 13, 55] L. C. PENDLETON.

H. O. COLE BARBER & HAIR DRESSER, Wellsboro, Pa. Shop in the Bar Room of Robinson's Hotel. Everything in his line of business will be done as well and as promptly as it can be done in the more fashionable City saloons. Preparations for removing dandruff, and beautifying the hair for sale cheap. Hair and whiskers dyed any color. Call and see. Wellsboro, Oct. 18, 1855. (1f)

Tailoring for the People! THE undersigned would respectfully announce to the Citizens of Wellsboro and vicinity, that he has opened a shop over Robert's Store & Tin Store where he will be happy to attend to the wants of the people in his line of business. From his knowledge of the business he flatters himself with the belief that those wishing GOOD FITTING CLOTHING will do well to give him a call. All work entrusted to him will be done with neatness, and a GOOD FIT WARRANTED. CUTTING done to order on short notice. Wellsboro Sept. 10th 1855. R. R. RUNDEL.

HARNESS MAKING. SIGN OF THE "BIG SADDLE." THE subscriber having removed his Harness Shop to Ben. Seely's old stand, two doors above the Presbyterian Church is ready to make to order all articles pertaining to the business, in the best manner and of the very best material. TO FARMERS AND OTHERS he would say that he sells articles in their line of business CHEAPER FOR CASH than any other establishment in the county. A good assortment of Whips, Harness, &c., &c., constantly on hand. CARRIAGE TRIMMING done in the best style, and as cheap as it can be done elsewhere. REPAIRING done on short notice and in the best possible manner. All orders promptly filled and warranted to give entire satisfaction. Call and examine his stock before purchasing elsewhere. "Live and Let Live," is his motto. Most kinds of Country Produce taken in exchange for work at the best market price. A fair share of public patronage respectfully solicited. E. E. KIMBALL. Wellsboro, Feb. 1, 1855.

W. W. WEBB, M. D., HAS established himself in the practice of Medicine and Surgery in the Township of Liberty, where he will promptly attend all calls in his profession. Liberty, Feb. 1, 1854.

S. F. WILSON, Removed to James Lowrey's Office. JAS. LOWREY & S. F. WILSON, ATTORNEYS & COUNSELLORS AT LAW, will attend the Courts of Tioga, Potter and McKean counties. Wellsborough, Feb. 1, 1853.

SELECT SCHOOL. MISS H. A. SEARS, will open a Select School on Monday, the 27th of August, in the building back of R. S. Bailey's Store, TUITION. Reading, writing, spelling, and plain Sewing, \$1.50 Common English branches, Embroidery, 2.00 Higher English branches, 3.00 Music, 4.00 Piano, 5.00 Wellsboro, August 2, 1855.

WALL PAPER! THE LARGEST BEST, CHEAPEST lot of Wall Paper ever brought into this place, for sale at wholesale and retail by Wellsboro, Feb. 1, 54. BAILEY & FOLEY.

MARINOS and Paramattias, of all colors just received and for sale very cheap at JONES & FOLEY'S. EMBROIDERIES.—A splendid assortment just received at J. R. BOWEN'S.

THE subscribers are now opening their stock of GOODS for the Spring Trade, consisting of a large variety of the most desirable goods, which will be sold at a very small profit. Being determined not to be undersold by our neighbors, our goods are marked at the lowest figure, and we invite a comparison of our goods and prices with any other in the market. Among the assortment of DRY GOODS will be found a great variety of Ladies' Dress Goods consisting in part of Bereges, Berege Delanes, all-wool Delanes, Lawns, plain and printed; Gingham, English, Scotch and American; Poplins, Prints of all shades and colors, a good stock of SILKS. Also, for men's wear may be found Broad Cloth Cassimeres, Tweeds, Kentucky Jeans, silk, satin and summer Vestings. Also, Sherings, Shirtings, bleached and brown Tickings, Summer Goods for boys' wear, Cotton Yarn, Carpet Wagon, Cotton Batten, with a variety of other articles too numerous to mention. Groceries and Provisions. A full stock will be kept on hand. Those in want of Sugar, Tea, Coffee, Molasses, Stewart's best Syrup, Spices, Pepper, Ginger, Saleratus, Flour, Fish, Salt Tobacco, or any other article in this line, will be willing to call on us before purchasing elsewhere. HARDWARE, a large and complete assortment as can be found in the county. Among which is Cutlery of all kinds, Carpenters Tools, Chains, Hoes, Shovels, Forks, Batts and Screws, Door Hinges, Blows, &c., &c. CROCKERY, GLASS & STONE-WAR, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Steel Iron, Nails, Paints and Oils, Glass and Putty, Ready-Made Clothing, &c. Thankful for the liberal patronage of the past season, the undersigned feel a pleasure in inviting the public to an examination of our Spring stock believing that good Goods and low prices will insure a speedy sale for ready pay. B. B. SMITH & SON. Wellsborough, May 25, 1855.

NEW SPRING GOODS

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