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The Rain-Crops.

Throughout Friday, Saturday and Sunday we were visited with heavy rains. The weather being warm it had a most happy effect upon vegetation, and everything has put on a refreshed appearance. The worth of such a rain is not to be over estimated. We sincerely hope that no unfavorable circumstances may occur hereafter to mar the improved prospects of the country. The season is late—but the crops never presented a finer appearance or promised a more bounteous harvest. Under these circumstances we cannot but think it otherwise than foolish to pay \$2.50 a bushel for wheat, as is now done in Allentown. In seven or eight weeks wheat will not be worth more than half that price, and instead of flour commanding twelve and thirteen dollars a barrel, it will come down to a price which will place it within the reach of many who cannot afford to purchase it at that price. There is a prospect of an abundant crop of all kinds of fruit throughout our county the present year—from the bushes in the garden up to trees of the orchards.

New Line of Stages.

Mr. CHARLES SEAGREAVES intends in a few days to run a new daily line of stages from this place to Reading, so as to connect with the trains of the Lehigh Valley Rail Road. By this arrangement passengers from Reading will be enabled to reach New York at an early hour the same day. The fare from Reading to New York, it is said, will be only \$3.00.

Important Decision.

Below we give the decision of Chief Justice BLACK, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in a case which caused much difficulty, and with which many of our readers may be familiar. It is the disposition of the property of Abraham Worman, Sr., after his demise. Mr. Peter Huber and Abraham Worman, Jr., the two heirs of the estate, took out letters of administration, had the same appraised, and Abraham Worman, Jr., accepted the same at the appraisal, by decree of the Orphan's Court. The administrators, however, failed in rendering the proper securities, neither did Worman enter into the proper recognizance for the acceptance of the property. In consequence of the fire in the summer of 1848, Peter Huber became insolvent, and the property was seized as that of Abraham Worman, Jr., and accordingly sold by the Sheriff to George Beisel. The Court set aside the sale on the ground that the property was first held liable for the payment of the debts of Abraham Worman, Sr., as surety for Peter Huber, and appointed Henry King, Esq., administrator to settle the estate, who afterwards sold to the "Allentown Water Company," the present owners. Mr. Nathan Drescher and Dr. Leshler Trexler, also sureties of Peter Huber, had an execution issued and resold the same as the property of Peter Huber and Abraham Worman, Jr., as heirs of Abraham Worman, Sr., and purchased the land at Sheriff's sale for a trifle over \$200. The decision of the Supreme Court reverses the decree of the Orphan's Court and confirms the Administrator's sale to the Water Company as follows:

Black's Appeal.—Lehigh county. Opinion by Black, J. It is considered and adjudged that the decree of the Orphan's Court of Lehigh county be reversed, and it is now here decreed that the proceeds of the sale of the land of Abraham Worman, Sr., deceased, made by the administrators, be distributed as follows: that is to say, first, to the Society of the United Brethren for propagating the gospel among the heathen, so much of the said fund as may satisfy the debt and the interest due on their mortgage against A. Worman, Sr., and the balance pro rata or in equal proportions among all the other creditors of said A. Worman, Sr., dec'd.

The Fourth of July.

What say our goodly citizens of Allentown and its vicinity, shall we appropriately celebrate the approaching anniversary of our national independence, or shall it be passed in quiescent indifference, unworthy and unbecoming the magnitude and interest of the memorable events connected with it? This great holiday, like Christmas, invites our attention but once a year. Habit, association—indeed, patriotism demand that it should be set apart and devoted, with religious exactness, to the service of our country; to the remembrance of the "crisis that tried men's souls" and the ennobling self-sacrifice then cheerfully offered upon the altar of human liberty. The Fourth of July has its own associations, and when it is celebrated with civil and military display, with bonfires and illuminations, the ringing of the bells, and the firing of cannon, the associations are natural, strong, exciting and inspiring. Then it is that the fires of patriotism are rekindled and those impressions are made upon the minds of our children, which insure to our dearly bought freedom, a love, veneration and security, which are not gained in any other way so easily or so certainly. We ask then, again, shall this day be permitted by the citizens of Lehigh county to pass unheeded; or in unmeaning frivolity without suitable respect and consideration? The time is at hand when the needful preparations shall be adopted, if adopted at all, initiatory to the usual demonstrations and festivities in honor of the day, and correspondent to the wealth and magnanimity and patriotism of our citizens. Let us not falter in the discharge of a duty so imperative, interesting and instructive. That eventful day marks a governmental epoch, original but sufficient for the exigencies of the chaotic affairs of a colonial people seeking political happiness and safety.

**Breadstuffs and Prices.** There is quite a struggle going on just now, in relation to the prices of breadstuffs. All sorts of speculations are indulged, and the buyers and sellers are advantaged by turns. The difficulty is to ascertain, not only the sections of country that are bare, but those from which supplies are to be expected. On Monday last, the receipts at New York amounted to 10,000 barrels of flour, and 17,000 bushels of wheat, and the consequence was, a momentary depression in prices. On Tuesday, however, the demand was quite active, flour closed at an advance of 12 1/2 cents per barrel, and the receipts showed a considerable falling off. In Philadelphia, the market was quiet, but prices were firm, the rates being \$10 1/2 and \$11, and \$11 and \$11 1/4 for extra. With the improving crops, however, the rates must come down. The reports in relation to the supplies in Canada are contradictory. One authority says that we shall receive half a million of barrels of flour from that quarter before the next harvest, and another fixes the aggregate at 200,000 barrels. A Washington letter writer, alluding to the subject in rather a discouraging tone says:—"In regard to future prices, it may be said that the surplus of former years is exhausted, the crop in the great wheat producing region of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania will be short from three causes—namely, the smallness of the area sown last fall, the dry and hard winter, and the terrible drought of the spring which the scanty rains of the first of this month scarcely alleviated. On the other hand, the crop in the great wheat States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin appears to be in good condition."

Again, the Rochester Advertiser recently published a calculation by a cautious miller of that city, who estimated that the whole West would be able to furnish the Eastern Markets with 1,500,000 bushels of wheat—equal to only 300,000 barrels of flour, exclusive of what may come from Canada. The Buffalo Republic, in the same vicinity, however, takes this "cautious miller" to task, and states that the amount is three times the quantity he estimates. The editor says, from actual observation, he knows the amount to come forward is—from Lake Michigan, 650,000 bbls.; from Detroit, 125,000 bbls.; from Toledo, 100,000 bbls.; from Cleveland 50,000 bbls., making a total of 925,000 bbls. flour, "exclusive of Canada," which is put down at over half a million barrels, making a million and a half barrels of flour, equal to the number of bushels the "cautious miller" allowed.

It will seen from the foregoing, that the accounts vary, either according to the interests of the writers, their means of information, their hopes or fears. On the whole, the chances are, that prices will decline, but not very materially, until the new crop begins to come in. Flour cannot now be exported without a loss, so that no drain in this way need be anticipated. The lakes and canals are all open, the railroads are numerous and in constant activity, and the prices are sufficiently high to induce all who have any surplus on hand, to forward it with as little delay as possible.

Improvement on Window Blinds.

A short time since a patent was granted to our young townsman Mr. Charles Rose, for an improvement on Venetian Window Blinds. It consists in the construction of double or upper and lower heads, in such a manner, that when the upper head is fastened to the window frame the lower head to which is attached the lath, may be connected or separated therefrom with great easiness, so that when a cleansing of the blind or window is necessary, it can be removed in a moment. In the removal of ordinary window Blinds it is in most instances necessary to procure a machanic to take them from the windows. The necessity of doing so is however obviated with the Patent Blinds, as the improvement is so simple and works so easy, that it can readily be taken from the window and replaced by any child. Mr. Rose can at all times be seen at the Blind Manufactory of Mr. Alex. F. Muir, where a Blind with the improvement can be seen, and where he will be pleased to see his friends call to examine it.

Graham's Magazine.

The June number of this ever punctual monthly is already on our table. It is filled to repletion with elegant engravings, choice literature, fashion plates, choice designs for embroidering dresses, &c., &c. No lady who desires to get up her summer toilet gracefully and fashionably should be without it.

A Still Larger Yield.

THE THREE ANTHRACITE FURNACES now in blast at the Crane Works, Catawissa, Pa., yielded last week the following extraordinary amount of iron, all with the exception of a few tons being of the best No. 1 quality.—Furnace No. 1, having 11 feet boshes, 110 tons; No. 4, 18 feet do, 217 tons; No. 5, 18 feet do, 239 tons—amounting to 566 tons, which is believed to be the largest quantity ever made in one week by furnaces of the same size, either in the old country; and the performance of No. 5 will be put against that of any sized furnace in the world.—Correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger.

The above surprising yield has been beaten by two furnaces in our neighborhood. One of the North Lebanon Furnaces, with 12 feet boshes, has made in one week, 156 tons of iron, mostly of quality No. 1; and one of Mr. Robert W. Coleman's furnaces, at Cornwall, having also 12 feet boshes, has repeatedly made 130 tons per week of No. 1. In this statement it should also be mentioned, that the ore used in our furnace is much more difficult to smelt, than the ores in use at the Crane Works, and at these latter works they have the additional advantage of a mixture of ore, which experience has shown to be far more favorable to a large yield of iron than the single ore of richer quality, used with us.—Lebanon "Boy of Seventy-six."

The number of bounty land applications now reaches 150,000.

Latest Foreign News.

The steamship Pacific arrived at New-York on Wednesday, with news from Europe one week later, advices being to the 19th ult. from Liverpool. The siege of Sebastopol progresses the same as before, with fierce cannonades, desperate sorties, the springing of mines and countermines, and all the terrific circumstances of war. The French General, Canrobert, has resigned his chief command on account of ill health, but remains as general of division, and hands over the command of the army to General Pelissier. Various expeditions of the Allies to different points in the Crimea, are said to have been undertaken. One of these, composed of 12,000 English and French troops, left Bala-kalava on the 4th, commanded by General Sir George Brown, destined for Kertsch. A part of the allied fleet sailed to that point, but returned after landing some troops in Kamiesch bay. The French army at Sebastopol is to be reinforced by 80,000 additional troops. They have been throwing stinkpots into the Russian lines; but the example was set by the Russians themselves, as appears by the despatches of Gortschakoff. Besides the French reinforcements, there are expected 10,000 mere Sardinians, and 16,000 Egyptians, and Omar Pachia is fast organizing a Tartar force at Eupatoria. With all these, it is said that the allied forces will number nearly 300,000 men. From Eupatoria the news is that Sul is occupied by 25,000 Russians and large quantities of warlike stores. The Russians are fortifying the road from Eupatoria to Sebastopol. A report appears in a London paper that Count Nesselrode, the Russian premier, had resigned; but it is contradicted. In Turkey the capitulation tax on Christians is finally abolished, and they are liable to render military service, but will form separate corps. In Asia, Erzeroun and Kars were fortified, and General Williams was preparing to open the campaign. Pianori, who attempted to assassinate the Emperor Napoleon, has been executed. He died shouting "Vive la Republique!" In Great Britain the Ministry is fast becoming unpopular.

Agricultural Society.

A meeting of Lehigh County Agricultural Society was held June 2d 1855, at the Public House of Benjamin Lagenbuch, in Allentown. President H. J. Schantz, in the Chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and adopted.

Resolved—That the account as corrected and approved by the Auditors be reported to the Treasurer.

Dr. Charles H. Martin, Chairman of the Committee to select awarding Committees, made report, which was adopted and the Committee discharged.

Resolved—That the Premium list with the awarding and other Committees be published. On motion the meeting adjourned.

A. L. RUILE, Secretary.

The True Doctrine.

The New York Leader, in noticing the proneness of benevolence to seek some far-away object upon which to bestow its gifts, says it is in favor of that charity, be it religious or temporal, displayed in free gifts of Bibles and tracts, or donations of beef and puddings, which begins at home. We should like to see the millions now disbursed for the salvation of the Hottentots, and Hindoos, and other barbarians, employed in educating and reclaiming the miserable outcasts, black and white, that swarm our large cities. The substance of moral degradation and religious destitution is at our doors; it corrupts the air we breathe; it shames the piety, the philanthropy of the age. Why should we pass the monster that darkens our very thresholds, to make a foray on barbaric superstition? The Scriptures tell us that the man who cares not for those of his own household, in preference to strangers, is worse than an infidel. It would be a blessed thing, then, if our Bible missionaries, and others sympathizing with the benighted savages, would wash the dirty faces, fill the empty stomachs, and cleanse the stained souls of the multitude of their white brethren now journeying devilward, by the roads of destruction and ignorance, instead of devoting all their energies and resources to the instruction of those who would as leave eat their souls as listen to them. There is a good deal of truth in that, Mr. Leader.

The Virginia Election.

The Richmond Enquirer has returns from all but 14 counties, and makes Mr. Wise's majorities so far 10,572. It says his majority in the State will be about 11,000, as the strong Democratic counties of Scott and Lee, are among those not heard from. The Dispatch makes the majority only 9295, and 13 counties to be heard from, which gave PIERCE 910 majority. The Democratic majority in the Legislature will be over 40. The Enquirer says the returns leave no doubt of the election of Lewis to Congress, so that the Democrats will have the entire delegation.

Proposed Sale of the Public Works.

It appears that the original cost of constructing the public works of Pennsylvania was \$32,924,267. During the twenty three years that they have been in operation the working expenditures have amounted to \$19,499,857, and the interest on loans to \$451,56,796, making the whole amount of cost to November, 1853, \$52,870,416. The revenue to the same period was \$25,342,020, showing a balance against the improvements of \$65,304,156. So that the State has been paying 5 and 6 per cent. per annum on its loans made to build the works, while the works have yielded the State less than one per cent. The legislature has passed a bill to sell the main line of these works, fixing the minimum price thereof at seven and a half million of dollars, and if purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at eight and a half millions, and repealing the tonnage tax.

Flour in New York declined from 50 to 6 1/4 cents per barrel last week, and is stated that several parcels for June delivery, have been sold as low as \$8.75.

Letter from Iowa.

KEOKUK, Iowa, May 20, 1855. We had looked forward, anticipating much pleasure in our trip up the Mississippi, and so far, can say that it has been more than realized. The scenery, it is true, will hardly equal that of the Hudson, but what it lacks in beauty is more than made up in the grandeur of the river. The width varies from a half to three-quarters of a mile, and its length surpasses that of all others except the Missouri and the Amazon. There are some views that are beautiful, eye grand in the extreme. The river is studded with little islands, which are covered with trees that are now putting on their mantle of green foliage, which sparkles in the sunbeams like emeralds of a richer hue. The banks on the Illinois side are low, and covered with trees which shut out from view the beautiful prairies beyond—save now and then an opening intervenes, and a farm-house is dimly seen in a cluster of peach and cherry trees that are now in full bloom, showing in beautiful contrast the fields carpeted with green, and all nature smiling at the approach of Summer. On the Missouri side the banks are high. A bold bluff runs along the shore which shuts out from view the beauties of the country beyond.

The current of the river is about 6 miles per hour, and our little craft steams it "like a thing of life," carrying us safely onward over the majestic waters of the Mississippi that flow unceasingly onward from the regions of perpetual ice, to the regions of perpetual flowers. We halted a moment at Alton, Ill. Did not have time to visit the town, but were enabled to see a large portion of it from the river. It is situated on a high bluff that overlooks the river, and the country to the east. This place for many years was in the hands of speculators which greatly retarded its growth and prosperity, but now it is rapidly improving. They have a population of ten thousand, and a fair prospect of a continued healthy growth. Our next halt was at Hannibal, on the Missouri side, a place of about 7,000 inhabitants. Prices of produce range high; rain has not visited this section of the country (save in occasional showers) for nearly two years. Hay is worth \$1.50 per 100 lbs.; corn 75 cents; wheat 1.50; potatoes \$2.00. The drought of last year destroyed nearly everything. Although there has been no rain this spring, the grounds are in a good condition; the snows of last winter were gradually washed away by the heat of the sun, and very little of the water has found its way into the streams, consequently the prospect of good crops this year is very good.

Quincy was our next stopping place, and we spent a day there. It is one of the oldest towns on the river, having a population of 15,000. The city is lighted with gas, and improvements have been made here that render it a delightful place. It is situated high above the river, and a square of about four acres is enclosed and ornamented. A court house stands prominent on one side and a hotel on the other. Stores and shops fill up the space, so that all face the common. This is purely an eastern city in appearance, and a love of its beauties have drawn in so many here that trade of all kinds is rather overdone. The country back is beautiful, but lands are high. Improved farms near the city are worth from \$100 to \$200 the acre. Brick and stone are the principal material used in building. Both are easily obtained. Wood is \$3.50 per cord; coal in abundance for about \$2.50 a ton.

Keokuk was our next stopping place. It is situated on the west bank of the river, in the State of Iowa. There are now about 7000 inhabitants here. It is one of the smartest and most enterprising places on the river from St. Louis to the falls of St. Anthony, and take our word for it, it will be the largest city north of St. Louis. It possesses natural advantages that no other city on the river ever can have. The city has had the misfortune to be located on what has been called the "half breed tract." These claims have hung like an incubus over all its growth and prosperity. The original number to which our government extended the land of charity, was thirty-seven. This tract of land was given to them and by them sold and re-sold until about eighty persons claimed the tract, which was ceded to the original thirty-seven. This led to difficulty, as many had settled and improved the lands, and yet no satisfactory title could be obtained. The result was that Congress appointed a committee to decide on the various claims. The eighty were finally allowed to come in pro rata, and those called squatters were to receive an equivalent for their improvements. While this state of things lasted, there was no reliable title to be obtained, and consequently there was but little growth or prosperity to that place. Now that the storm has passed away, and the sun once more shines on a free and happy people, they are on the high road to wealth.

This place to us is full of interest. The story of the red man of the forest—the wrongs he has suffered—his resentments, and his inevitable approaching fate—it causes a tear of pity and a blush of shame. These broad and beautiful prairies that once bloomed with many colored flowers, were theirs; the forests filled with game, and the streams with fish were theirs.—Now how changed! A few rude mounds levelled by the wheels of time tell where some victim of strife was hastily laid, and the setting sun points to where the remnant of a once powerful people still linger.

Yours &c., JERIAL.

Marriage Extraordinary.

Tom Thumb, the celebrated little great man, was married at Webster on Thursday last, to a Miss Vinton, of Bridgeport, Ct. An attempt was made to keep it from the public, but somehow it leaked out through some of the company who were a little indiscreet after imbibing pretty freely of Heidsieck, provided for the occasion.

The city of Cleveland has a law that every owner of a dog shall pay a tax on male canines \$5, on females \$10.

Curiosities of the Census.

The census of 1850 shows that the oldest person living in the United States was 140. This person was an Indian woman, residing in North Carolina.—In the same State was an Indian aged 125, a negro woman 111, two black females 110 each, one mulatto male 120, and several white males and females aged from 106 to 114. In the parish of Lafayette, Louisiana, was a female black, aged from 110 to 115. There were in the United States in 1850, 2,555 persons over 100 years. This shows that about one person in 9,000 will be likely to live to that age.—There are now 20,000 persons in the United States who were living when the Declaration of Independence was signed, in 1776. They must necessarily be about 80 years old now, in order to have lived at that time. The French census of 1851 shows only 102 persons over 100 years old; though their total population was near 36,000,000. Old age is, therefore attained among us much more frequently than in France.

Cheesemaking in California.

They may talk of the grazing districts of Goshen and Rome in the State of New York, or some of the equally famous rural districts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but perhaps few of our citizens are aware of the fact, that there is a sufficient amount of cheese made in some of the counties of this State, to give them a notable place among the best grazing localities in the Atlantic States. On one "Milk Branch," in the Petaluma Valley, Sonoma county, owned by Mr. O. F. Holabird, sixty-five thousand pounds cheese have been made within the last six months, and most of it was consumed as soon as made, for owing to its excellent quality it was not permitted to remain long on the hands of the manufacturer.—So extensive had the business become, that Mr. Holabird found it necessary to establish himself in this city, to attend to its disposal, and it was his splendid marble tables we casually noticed the other day, in passing through the market.—San Francisco Journal.

The Magnitude of the Earth.

According to a recent authority the circumference of the Globe is 25,020 miles. It is not so easy to comprehend so stupendous a circle as to put down its extent in figures. It becomes more palpable, perhaps, by comparison, such as this:—A railway train, traveling incessantly, night and day, at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, would require six weeks to go round it. The cubical bulk of the earth is two hundred and sixty thousand millions of cubic miles! Dr. Lardner says, if the materials which form the globe were built up in the form of a column, having a pedestal of the magnitude of England and Wales, the height of the column would be nearly four and a half millions of miles. A tunnel through the earth, from England to New Zealand, would be nearly eight thousand miles long.

Wreck of an Emigrant Ship.

The ship John, which sailed from Plymouth with 871 emigrants, for Quebec, encountered a heavy gale to the northeast of Eddystone. The vessel got closer to land than the Captain was aware, and in making the Black Head headland, ran the ship upon a dangerous reef called the Miracles, by which the bottom was stove in, and the vessel sunk within about 4,000 feet of the coast. The bulk of the passengers were swept off by the sea, and 190 were lost. Ninety-three clung to the rigging, and after great exertions by the Coast Guard, were saved.—Among them were several females, and Capt. Rawles and crew. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Capt. Rawles, and he was taken into custody.

A Valuable Stick of Mahogany.

On Thursday a stick of Cuba Mahogany was sold by E. T. Eisenberg to Messrs. Moore and Compton, for \$1100. The size of the log was 18 feet long, by 20 inches square. It was of the most rare quality and color, known as the superior mottled, and hence its great value. The stick has been cut into veneers at Mr. Eisenberg's Mill, in Pear street, in doing which 280 cuts were made, producing 7500 square feet of veneering. This tree was purchased while standing last December about 45 miles from Cienfuegos.—Phil. Ledger.

Pianos.

At the time of the great exhibition in London, in 1851, it was estimated that there were made in that city some 450 pianos per week, or upwards of 23,000 per annum—and in other parts of Great Britain 57,740 pianofortes in one year, valued at £2,844,500. The number made in France is estimated at one-third that of Great Britain, and all others in Europe at two-thirds—making in all 155,480 pianofortes manufactured in Europe in one year, furnishing employment for not less than 25,000 workmen.

One Vote.

At a recent election in Chambersburg, Pa., one vote elected the three town Auditors. It was not generally known they were to be voted for. One single individual, familiar with the charter of the borough, voted for those officers. They were of course, elected, and he selected them. The borough was surprised.

Singular.

Last winter some gold fish in a basin in the Crystal Palace, New York, were frozen up solid, but when the ice thawed this spring the fish came out alive, though the color came off. As warm weather comes on the color is returning. So says an exchange paper.

Re-exportation of Paupers.

On the 15th ult., thirty-six foreign paupers were re-exported from Boston by the State authorities of Massachusetts, to the country whence they had originally been sent, in the same state of destitution, Great Britain.

The average duration of human life throughout the world is 33 years. One-quarter die previous to the age of seven years; one-half before reaching seventeen.

Our Chip Basket.

Lovely weather after the rain. Population of Newark, 57,500. Buffalo contains 50,000 inhabitants. Alabama promises a great wheat crop. Ornamental Fret-work.—The eyes of your beloved after she has been crying. A Secret Warranted To Keep in any Climate.—A woman's age. It is said that there are eighty thousand troops under arms in the Island of Cuba. Of our fourteen Presidents, not one was a citizen of a great city! No soldier under eighteen years of age is sent to the Crimea. Why is an old maid like Sebastopol? Because she is "not yet taken." Now my tale's ended, as the tadpole said when he turned into a frog. Queen Victoria was 36 years old on Thursday last. Paper will shortly be manufactured from saw-dust and shavings. The Indiana Prohibition Law goes into effect on the 12th inst. The aggregate cash value of farms in the State of New Jersey, is \$120,237,511. In the town of Liberty, Texas, a fine of \$25 is imposed on all individuals using profane language in the hearing of females. A little girl near Elmira, lost her life by drinking a table spoonful of strong ley, supposing it to be cider. The bread of repentance is in many instances made of the wild oats we sow in our youth. There are two bores in society—the man who knows too much, and the man who knows too little. Advice from Texas announced that the drought in that State has ended, heavy rains having fallen every where. There are now about 20,000 persons in the United States who were living when the Declaration of Independence was signed, in 1776. I hold it to be a fact, says Pascal, that if all persons knew what they said of each other, there would not be four friends in the world. "Mother," said an inquisitive urchin, a few days since, "would you have been any relation to me, if father hadn't married you?" "Sonny, what did you find in your stocking this morning?" inquired a father of his wee boy, one Christmas day. "A big hole," replied the young hopeful. "I wonder what makes my eyes so weak," said a loafer to a gentleman. "Why, because they are in a weak place," returned the latter.

Large Tree.

There is an oak tree near Raleigh, North Carolina, which, at the sun's meridian, covers with shade a space of 9,000 square feet. It would afford shelter for 4,500 men.

A Strong Solution of Alum.

A strong solution of alum with some whiskey mixed in it, is said to be a most excellent remedy for the galled shoulders of horses.—Apply it three times a day until the wound is healed.

In Boston.

In Boston there are 227 women who pay tax on \$6,000 and upward. Mrs. H. K. Hunt, who protested on the ground that it was taxation without representation, pays \$308.10 per annum.

The Agricultural Bureau.

The Agricultural Bureau, which has been attached to the Patent Office, at Washington, is to be discontinued, it is stated, in a week or two, the appropriation for it being exhausted.

Save Your Trees.

A gentleman who has tested his theory by experience, advises his friends to shake their trees thoroughly, to clear them of worms. He thinks that the operation repeated at intervals of four or five days for the next three weeks, will abate the nuisance.

The Hotel Keepers of Philadelphia.

The hotel keepers of Philadelphia have raised their charges to transient boarders. The hotels are divided into three classes; those of the first class charging from \$2 to \$2.50 per day for board and lodging; those of the second class \$1.75, and those of the third class \$1.50. Other charges are in proportion.

National Sheep Show.

A national sheep show is to be held at the village of Bath, Steuben county, N. Y., the three last days of May, by the "Wool Growers Association of Western New York," and the premiums announced are from \$10 to \$75 for the best pen of five or ten sheep. The prices are all for fine wool varieties.

From California.

The Steamship George Law, has arrived at New York, with California news to the first of May, and \$1,324,000 in gold. The Walker expedition had not yet sailed. An act has passed the Legislature, and signed by the governor to levy a capitation tax of \$50 on every Chinese emigrant arriving in the State. Two parties of Chinese in California have had a pitched battle near Weaverville, in which several Chinamen were killed and a great many wounded. One Swede, who interfered, was also killed. One party numbered 411, and another 120.

Useful Receipt.

A cement, which gradually becomes as hard as stone, may be made by mixing twenty parts by weight of clean sharp sand, two of litharge, and one of whiting, and making them into this putty with linsed oil. For seams in roofs, a cement may be formed of white or red lead, thinned with boiled linsed oil, into which some sharp, dry sand is stirred. For the joints of water and gas pipes, white lead cement is the best.

Making Money.

Four or five of our heaviest sugar merchants have made about \$100,000 each on the recent "rise in sugar." One house has on hand 6000 hogheads, the increase on the value of each of which during the last two months, while it has been reposing in the warehouses has been \$20, making a clear profit of \$120,000.—Cincinnati Commercial.