BY S. B. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1859.

VOL. 5 .-- NO. 47.

LIFE NOW-A-DAYS.

Life is but a span—of horses; One is "Age," the other "Prime;" Up and down the hill our course is; Go in ponies' -- "make your time. Boyhood plies the whip of pleasure:

Youthful folly gives the stroke; Manhood goads them at his leasure, "Let 'em rip," "they're tough as eak." "Hi, ya! there," the stakes we'll pocket; To the wind let care be sent; Time, 2-40. "Whip in socket, Give 'em string, and let 'em went."

On the sunny road to fifty, "Prime," is drowned in Lethe's stream "Age" is left, lame. old. unthrifty, Life then proves a one horse-team, "Age" jogs on, grows quite unsteady, Reels and slackens in his pace;

"Kicks the bucket" always ready;
"Gives it up"—Death wins the race.

[COPYRIGHT SECURED.] CLEARFIELD COUNTY: OR, REMINISCENCES OF THE PAST.

At an early day, a few persons leaving the river bottoms to penetrate further into the woods, gave an impetus to three important settlements-the Ridge settlement on the north side of the West Branch, between the two turnpikes-the Grampian Hills settlethe south of the River. Abraham Passmore was born in Chester County on the 11th of August, 1764, and died in the first named settlement on the 10th of August, 1854, having just completed his ninetieth year. Although munity. His business was more extended the river for the ridge settlement, and comfor himself a comfortable home, and was soon surrounded by children, whose marriages have connected him with many of those who now settlement. He had two sons and six daughters. The Blooms, Baileys, Hartsocks and Smeals are related to him by blood and marriage. His wife died before him, in 1813, having reached three score years and ten.

We believe the first clearing made on the ridges was by Robert Askey, who has been mentioned before, and who took up a piece of vacant land about a mile and a half from the river. He soon after had for a neighbor, Caleb Bailey, the progenitor of a numerous famtly. In 1794, Benjamin Hartshorn, a native of Maryland, moved to Centre county, and in 1806, having determined to try the new county of Clearfield, accompanied by his wife and six small children, his goods borne by a wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, left the former for the latter place. For some distance he had to cut the road. On his way here, a mishap compelled him to leave his little family in the woods for two days and nights without a rendered him liable, and his property was protector. Within five miles of Phillipsburg his wagon broke down, and with difficulty and delay he had it repaired, and continued his moved to Williamsport. He had followed journey. A flood in Clearfield creek prevent- Nicholson to Philadelphia, where he found ed him crossing for several days. Having him in custody, and Nicholson, to repair as crossed the river, near Jordan's, he penetrated the forest. Axe in hand, he felled the trees to permit a passage for his wagon from the river to where he settled, late in October, on the farm of Jonathan Hartshorn, making a cover of hemlock brush to shelter his family until he erected a cabin. Here, after clearing some land, he resumed his former business, by commencing a tarnery. He died in March, 1821, leaving eight children, who were single and under age, in charge of his wife, who survived him 34 years. His children were : Margaret, who was married to Alexander Caldwell, formerly Sheriff of this county and twice elected a member of the Legislature; Anne, the wife of Robert Ross, formerly Sheriff of the county; Jonathan; William, now dead; Benjamin, who, as a politician, is pretty well known throughout the State; Nancy, married to Samuel Clyde; Eliza, the widow of George Welch, jr., and Mary Ann, the wife of Manning Stevenson. This ridge settlement is principally inhabited by former citizens of Centre county and their descendants. It lies high and presents to the eye, from several parts of the county where it can be observed, a large expanse of well cleared land. The land is rolling and well adapted to the culture

That part of the county now known as the Grarapian Hill settlement in its origin might John Bennet, Nun England, William Hepburn, Joseph Spencer, Francis Severns and Samuel Cochran, as vacant land. From IS05 to 1808 Smith. These settlers soon made quite a large opening in the woods. Their lots were cast in pleasant places. They have all departed to

turns. The Bennet improvement, subdivided, is in the occupancy of the heirs. The England property has passed into other hands, and the most of those who were related to Nun England have left the county. Job and George, two of his sons, have with their families removed to Ohio. Isaac England, another son, an upright and respected citizen, lives in Morris township. William Hepburn was a native of Scotland; a worthy and honest man, and noted for some eccentricities. He died recently on his farm, leaving two sons, John and Samuel C., and a daughter, the wife of James Thompson of Curwensville. Joseph Spencer was a member of the Society of Friends. Frugal and industrious, he kept adding to his store of wordly goods, removing his stakes, and enlarging his boundaries. His family, which embraces some of the most substantial farmers in that section, now own barns well filled on farms well tilled. Severns and Cochran had African blood coursing through their veins. The latter deserves more than a casual notice. He was a light mulatto. His mother being born a slave, his condition followed hers. Fearless and energetic, when he came to man's estate, slavery was galling to ment, on the same side of the River, but high- him. Its restraints were more odious when a er up-stream-and the Ridge settlement to young master came to exercise control over him. A determination to free himself from his bonds, induced him to fly. He was captured and taken back. Several times afterwards he left and returned voluntarily. At last a compromise was effected and he purnot the first who made an opening in this set- chased his freedom: he dictating his own tlement, he was one of those who early emi- terms. He came here from Lycoming county grated to the county. Leaving Chester coun- in the summer of 1804; settled first on the ty, he removed to Spruce Creek, from thence | south side of the river about a half mile above to Centre county, and afterwards, in the fall James Ferguson's, on land now owned by of 1802, he settled on the bank of the West | Grier Bell. Here he erected a hewn log house Branch, where he commenced clearing the and remained several years. Later he took up steadily until they reached the village of Vofarm now occupied by Jacob Hoover. He fol- about three hundred acres of the best land in lowed his trade-blacksmithing-and from the Grampian Hills, where he worked indus- which, however, it is separated by a range of Instead of bringing up their forces to repel pard" now makes his appearance, and running that fact was quite an accession to the com- triously; cleared over one hundred acres, hills. Upon these hills, in the rear of the which made a fine farm ; increased his comthan extensive-his customers coming from all forts, and secured the confidence and respect the surrounding settlements. In 1806 he left of his neighbors. He erected a hewn log house, a large double barn, kept generally six height where the Emperor had stood at the menced anew upon the farm now owned by his horses and a large amount of stock, and was son, Col. Geo. C. Passmore. Here he made for some time the most extensive farmer in the settlement. His house was the stopping place for the teamsters on the Kittanning road. He had quite a large family of boys, to whom live at ease in this productive and flourishing he gave a good education, and prior to the amendment of the State constitution, when he had four voters in his family, he felt himself to be of some importance. His motto was. "free and half white." He was athletic, civil; demanding and receiving consideration. When deprived of political privileges, he lost his self-respect and spirit of independence. Intemperance has swept away the major part of his family, and dissipated rapidly his

The difficulties with which John Nicholson was surrounded gave rise to the early settlement of the other portion of the Grampian Hills. Nicholson had been arrested in Washington city and placed in the custody of the Sheriff, Joseph Boone. Sheriff Boone gave him the privilege of the yard, and Nicholson, taking advantage of this, succeeded in making his escape. Boone was then possessed of censiderable means. The escape of Nicholson swept from him. He was a native of Maryland, but after this untoward fortune he remuch as possible the injury which he had caused to Boone and his sureties, transferred to them a number of warrants which were afterwards surveyed for Hopkins, Griffiths and Boone on the north side of the river in Bell, Penn and Pike townships, and which lands have been of late known as the Nicklin and Griffith lands. This company gave to Dr. Samuel Coleman three hundred acres to induce him to settle. His farm gave the name to the settlement. The first ploughing done on it was by Benjamin Fenton. Dr. Coleman commenced his clearing in 1809. He was assisted by a slave named Oto, and three white men, one of whom was called Gibson. He encamped in a cabin, open in front, and similar in construction to the open sheds to be found at public houses. Each man had a large piece of chestnut bark for a bed, but the drying of the bark caused the sides to curl and rendered them uncomfortable. Their cupboard-ware was less brittle, and less servicable, than that to be found in modern houses. Large chips served for plates, and these, when soiled, were shaved off, in lieu of washing. Early in the same summer, Joseph Boone and his family reached Esq. McClure's. They came there from Williamsport in a boat; a wagon conveyed them to Coleman's camp, and the wagon served as their resting place for the first night. The next day, having the assistance of those have been considered as two distinct settle- who lived near the river, they raised a cabin ments. A portion lying towards the river and of round logs, with large strips of chestnut back of the bottom lands occupied by Bell, bark, laid on the ribs and secured by poles, Ferguson and Fenton, was early taken up by for a roof. This answered for a residence that season. Boone still retained some mementoes of his former affluence, but the mahogany side. board and other furniture illy contrasted with it was claimed unsuccessfully by Charles the rough walls and rude house to which he had brought his family.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Marriage, says Cotton, is a feast where the that bourne from which no traveller e'er re- grace is sometimes bettor than the dinner.

THE BATTLE OF SOLFERINO.

A letter received at New York by the Canada, gives the following interesting details of

the battle of Solferino :-"The battle commenced at little before five o'clock in the morning, not far from sunrise. Just back of Castiglione rises a high range of hills, which project a mile or thereabout into and Russia for the purpose of establishing, if the plain, and then breaks off towards the left possible, a basis for combined mediation. into a wide expanse of smaller hills and so into the rolling surface which makes that portion of the plain. The Austrians had taken position of these hills, planting caunon upon hose nearest to Castiglione, which they could approach as the French army was in full force in and around that little village, and stationed their immense army all over the surrounding plains. As near as we can learn, the Emperor Francis Joseph had collected here not less than 225,000 troops and commanded them in person. His evident purpose was to make a stand here and risk the fortunes of the war

upon the hazard of the day. "Napoleon promptly accepted the challenge, and commenced the attack as soon as it was light, by placing cannon upon the hills still nearer to Castiglione than those held by the Austrians, and opening fire upon them on the heights beyond. He took his own stand upon the highest of these, a steep sharp backed ridge which commands a magnificent view of the entire circuit of the plain, and from that point directed the entire movements of his army during the early portion of the day. The French very soon drove the enemy out of the posts they held nearest to the town and followed them into the small villages of the plain

"The first of these was Solferino, where they had a sharp and protracted engagement. The Austrians disputed every inch of ground, and fought here, as they did throughout the day, with the utmost desperation. They were three times driven out of the town before they would stay out. The people, moreover, took part against the French, upon whom they fired from their windows, and the French were compelled, in self-defence, to burn the town. When they found it impossible to hold their ground any longer, they fell back slowly and town, and over-looking it completely on the south and south-east sides, the Austrians had planted very formidable batteries, and when I arrived upon the field and went at once to the opening of the engagement, but which he had left an hour before to follow his victorious troops, these batteries were blazing away upon the French, who were stationed on the plain below.

"The general result was soon made evident y the slackening of the Austrian fire and by the flowing back of thin smoke and a corresponding advance on the part of that which rose from the French artillery. The cannonading at that point lasted for over an hour, but in precisely what direction the Austrians retreated it was not possible from the position l occupied to see. Part of the Austrian force probably crossed the Mincio river which flows

and empties into the Po. "But the battle continued to rage all over the region northwest of a line connecting the towns of Castiglione, Solferino and Volta at one point after another. A sharp cannonading would arise and continue for half or three quarters of an hour, and after each successive engagement of this kind the result became apparent in the retreat of the Austrians and the advance of the French forces. During all the early part of the day the sky had been clear and weather hot, but clouds began to gather about noon, and at five o'clock, while the cannonade was at its height a tremendous hunder storm rolled up from the northwest. The storm lasted for about an hour, and the cannonading, so far as we could distinguish, was suspended. Then the rain ceased, the clouds blew away, the sun shone out again, and the air was cooled and perfectly delight-

"Though the cannon may have ceased for a time to take part in it, the fight had meantime gone on, and when I again resumed my post of observation from which the storm had expelled me, the cannonading commenced quite the very borders of the lake north-east from Castiglione and west of Peschiera. The Piedmontese troops, under the King, who commands them in person, had been posted there and received the Austrians as they came a-

"From about seven o'clock until after night here kept up. The batteries of the two armies were apparently about half a mile apart, and at the outset they were both served with nearly equal and effective vigor; but the Austrians gradually slackened their fire and several times took up new positions, while the Sardinians poured a rapid and uninterrupted shower of balls upon them, suspending only for a few minutes at a time, and then renewing it again with redoubled fury. The wind had now gone down, the air was still, and the sound of musketry as well as of cannon was distinctly heard. Sometimes only a single flash would be seen, then two or three at once, and sometimes half a dozen would break forth in constant succession. It was beginning to be dark when I turned to descend the hill, and all the way down I still heard the roar of the cannon and the clattering of the guns of the infantry."

By the arrival of the steamer Etna we have still further details.

At Paris it is believed in some quarters that the French loss at the battle of Solferino amounted to from 16,000 to 18,000, as follows: Gen. Neil's corps 6,000 to 7,000; D'Hilliers nearly 5'000; McMahons 2,500; Canroberts 1,000; besides casualities in the artillery and special corps. The French people are said to be dissatisfied with the scantiness of the details as yet published in the Moniteur. The Patric says that Napoleon had an epaulette shot away. Gen. Dien is reported among the dead. Austrians had seven or eight Generals and very many of their superior officers wounded. Gen. Greschke was killed. Some of the French infantry regiments were nearly cut to pieces. The Piedmontese suffered so severely as to be incapable of forming in the line of battle.

Austrian accounts of the battle admit their loss to be 20,000 killed, wounded or missing. Twenty thousand corpses are said to have been buried and many were yet lying in the ditches and corn fields. The Berlin and Vienna letters confidently speak of negotiations having been opened by Prussia with England

possible, a basis for combined mediation.

The correspondent of the London Herald says so little did the French expect a battle, that on the previous night a message from the King asking for supports in case he should be attacked was met with a refusal on the ground that an attack by the Austrians was not probable at day break. However, the corps of Marshal D'Hilliers came in sight of Solferino and was immediately set upon by a large Austrian force, which rushed down the hill and trian force, which rushed down the hill and fought with the greatest fury. The Marshall resisted the attack to the best of his power, and sent off his aid-de-camp for supports, but it was not before three hours of frightful courage had elapsed that the corps of Gen. Niel age had elapsed that the corps of Gen. Niel the thing is palpably plain-it is merely a made its appearance. The Austrians were wheel within a wheel, working as smooth as slowly driven back and every now and then there was a pause, and the French continued to gain ground, heaps of their own and the enemy's corpses marking the fluctuations of

The Austrians were thus slowly driven out of Solferino but all of a sudden they made a tremendous burst forward and the French were driven down the hill, being admirably supported by their artillery, however, they made a stand and commenced once more to advance. It was like a bail storm of bullets and balls, and whole files were moved down by a single discharge. In the meantime at the right and left wing the Austrians were getting decidedly the best of it. The Piedmontese were being slowly driven back. Gen. Canrobert's corps was also heavily punished, and had there been a skillful general in the Austrian army to collect and concentrate their forces against | ty of broken down black-legs, and finally a the weak point of the enemy's line, matters would have had a very different aspect.

The French commander, to whom the credit of the day is entirely due, whether it be Niel, McMahon, or the Emperor himself, sent forward the Imperial Guard and a strong division | hind the throne greater than the throne itto, directly south-east from Castiglione, and of the infantry of the line against the Ausonly about a mile from the river Mincio, from trian centre, and succeeded in breaking it. this formidable attack, the supports were sent | his fingers glibly over the keys of an antiquato the left and right wings, which did not ted piano, then starts off on an overture need them. Desperate attempts were made to re-capture Solferino, but the French strongly held it, and the bugles began to sound a general retreat. An attempt was made by the cavalry to pursue them, which led to an encounter between the French Chasseurs and the Austrian Hulons, in the which the former were rapidly put to the right about. It is stated that not a single Hungarian regiment was allowed to take part in the battle, and that the Italian regiments had all been sent

HOW HE "DYED" FOR LOVE.

An amusing story is told, as an episode to a story in a foreign review, about a military young gentleman who dyed for love. The affair occurred in Paris. The hero was named De Marsay. He was violently enamored of a southward from the lower end of Lake Guarda | very pretty woman whom he met by chance in the street, and discovered afterwards to be the wife of a 'dyer,' in the Rue de Marias. Whether she was disposed to favor his addresses or acted in concert with her husband to punish him, is not very easy to say; the result would incline to the latter supposition. At all events she gave him a rendevous, at which they were surprised by the dyer himself-a fellow strong as Hercules, and of an ungovernable temper. He rushed wildly on De Marsay, who defended himself for some time with his rapier; a false thrust, however, broke the weapon at the hilt, and the dyer springing forward caught poor Gustave round the waist and actually carried him off over his head, and plunged him neck and heels into an enormous tank filled with dyestuff! How he escaped drowning-how he issued from the house and ever reached his home-he never was able to tell. It is more than probable the consequences of the calamity absorbed and obliterated all else; for when he awoke the next day he discovered that he was totally changed-his skin, from head to foot, being dyed a deep blue! It was in vain that he washed and washed, boiled himself in hot baths, or essayed a hundred cleaning remon the extreme left of the entire field, and on edies; nothing availed in the least-in fact. many thought he came out only bluer than before. The most learned of the faculty were consulted, the most distinguished chemists-all in vain. At last a dyer was sent for, who in an instant recognized the peculiar tint, and said: "Ah, there is but one man in Paris has the secret of this color, and he lives in the Rue

de Marias." Here was a terrible blow to all hope; and in the discouragement it inflicted three long months were passed, De Marsay growing thin and wretched from fretting, and by his despondency occasioning his friends the deepest solicitude. At length one of his relatives resolved on a bold step. He went direct to the Rue de Marias and demanded to speak with the dyer. It is not easy to say how he opened a negotiation of such delicacy; that he did so with consumate tact and skill there can be no doubt, for he so worked upon the dyer's compassion by the picture of the poor young fellow, utterly ruined in his career, unable to face the world-to meet the regiment-even to appear before the enemy, being blue !- that the dyer at last confessed his pity, but at the same cried out: "What can I do? There is no getting it

off again !" "No getting it off again! do you really tell me that?" exclaimed the wretched negotiator. "Impossible! that's the patent," said the other, with an ill-dissembled pride. "I have spent seven years in the invention. I only hit upon it last October. Its grand merit is that | life."

it resists all attempts to efface it." "And do you tell me," cries the friend in terror, "that this poor fellow must go down to fence-in that unhaly tint ?"

"There is but one thing in my power, sir." "Well, what is it, in the name of mercy Out with it, and name your price ?" him a very charming yes, a beautiful green, monsieur !"

"Well, my little fellow, what's the matter?" "Don't know where to go thir; boo-hoo-hoo?" ly, "I have a great respect for Italian inde-"Why don't you go to school?" "Then mas-pendence, but I am also very foud of shooting." ter'll beat me! boo-hoo-hoo!" "Well, then It is reported that at Solferino nearly every take up your books and go home." "Then officer and man of the artillery attached to the mother'll lick me, thir. I can't help getting we must refrain from doing what we blame in Imperial Guard was put hors du combat. The | licked any way ! boo hoo! boo hoo hoo!

THE CHEAP AMUSEMENTS OF THE CITY.

Written for the "Raftsman's Journal." Philadelphia, unlike New York, rejoices in but few theatres. Indeed if we except the Academy of Music, and the Circus, there are but two regular Theatres in the city of Philadelphia, while in New York there are no less than nine. This is a greater disparity than the difference in population would seem to justify, assuming that the people of each city are goverened by the same taste for that artificial stimulus so common in cities, and so essential to their very existence. But Philadelphia has other amusements, which have grown into institutions. I have reference to what I denominate the lager beer concert saloons. They are neither chaste nor elegant, and yet it is astonishing what an amount of patronage they receive, since no less than six, or probably seven of them are in full blast nightly. To one that which done Hon's "knitting." Let the reader follow me into one of these Concert Saloons, cheap Theatres, or by whatever title

we may choose to designate them.
We ascend a wide stair case of a building located in one of the most popular thoroughfares in the city, and at a small hole we hand in a dime, which entitles us to admission. We enter. The room is long, fitted up with benches, with an aisle between the two rows. Before each bench there is an elevated trough, or gutter, the use of which we can not yet determine. At the far end of the reom there is a kind of raised stage with fancy wall paper proscenium. The air is redolent with the stench of smoke emitted from villainous segars. It is yet early, but the audience commences to pour in. First a couple of rough looking rowdies-next a brace of clerks, a parcouple of finished swells. The audience is made up, and consists of about one hundred persons. "How is this?" we inquire mentally-"sure such a number is not sufficient to remunerate." Ah! but there is "a power beself," and it will develope itself in due time.

A Teutonic gentleman "bearded like the and ends by giving the keys particular fits.

The curtain now goes up, and out comes a young lady whom I should judge to be fourteen years of age. I say that appears to be her age, and yet her form is as fully developed as that of a woman of twenty-five. In her hand she holds a piece of music, and advancing to the foot lights, she bows profoundly, and then sings "Hark, I hear an angel sing." The execution is indifferent, but the applause which follows would hardly be recognized as legitimate among the frequenters of the Italian opera. One fellow with a thin foxy moustache is exceedingly vociferous, and pounds the floor with his cane as if he was bent upon punching a hole in it.

A lull follows, and in every direction we hear the "hist" of individuals, some of whom are calling "zwey," and others holding from one to five fingers in the air, which being interpreted, means so many glasses of lager, which the German boys who act as waiters supply almost on the instant. And it is therein lieth the actual profit of the cheap concert saloon.

The bell tinkles, and out comes a masculine looking-I will not say woman-for a board of medical examiners alone could determine her dressed in what is intended for Chinese costume, and she dances, in the most indecent attitudes, all the time wearing the winning smile of the harlot.

More lager and German segars follow. Next comes a half grown impudent looking boy, and a tawdry painted girl, who sing miserably out of tune a vulgar duett, the burthen of the chorus being, "Oh! Yes by thunder," "Shouldn't wonder," &c.

More lager. Calls from every part of the house as if a fire raged which lager alone could quench. Now comes a fellow with ragged coat, an old hat, and an indefinite quantity of red paint

upon his face. He butchers and mangles up an Irish comic song in the most barbarous manner, having no idea, however remote, of either time or tune, nevertheless he is most enthusiastically applauded. After the usual lager calls, fearfully increased as the evening advanced, two fellows with

banjo and tamborine, and faces well covered with burnt cork, appear and sing a number of songs nearly as "old as the hills," and perpetrate jokes we have heard oftener than those of the circus clown. And thus they go on, singing old stale songs, repeating musty, worn out jokes, and dancing lewd, indecent dances until a late hour of the night.

How enlightened people in a city can nighty witness such exhibitions, and even take a delight in them, when they never fail to disgust those from the rural districts who are attracted thither, is a mystery to me.

At about 11 o'clock the gas lights are turned down, and the audionce disperses. The performers, pale, emaciated looking women and seedy looking men, emerge from the stage and start for home-perfect butterflies robbed of their gay colors. The ladies generally find men to escort them, and so the scene closes. I go to my hotel, and to my bed. The great city is hushed-a solemn silence reigns. I reflect upon the fact that it takes all kinds of people to make a world. The performers pass in review before my eyes, and before I sink into sleep I see their graves in my mind's eye, in Potter's field, without a stone to plead to the memory of those who now the attention of appreciating audiences command. This in the vista of the future-nevertheless "sich is

Hollidaysburg, Pa., July 1859.

A correspondent of the Siecle says that one his grave in that odious-well, I mean no of- the best shots in Garibaldi's service, is an Englishman of fifty years old, who carries a you a great deal, and paid you up promptly, capital Lancaster rifle, and, aided by a pair of spectacles of which he stands in need, brings "O, yes," said the merchant, "I make no down every Tyrolean chasseur that he takes complaint." he had been attracted to join the volunteer corps by a strong feeling for the Italian cause or by a love of sport. He answered very cool-

> In order to live justly, and be respected, gain, you had better wear a longer cent, or steal a shorter cod fish."

VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY .- NO. 1.

The name, humus, has been given to the black carbonaceous matter which results from the putrefaction of organic substances. Vegetable humus is nothing but the woody matter which burns slowly under the influence of the atmosphere and changes into carbonic acid. It was believed for a long time that it was at once absorbed by the root of the plants and that its carbon, assimilated immediately, and without transformation, contributed powerfully to the nutrition of vegetables : but it has been proven that humus is insoluable in water and that it nourishes plants by presenting to their roots a slow and continuous source of carbonic acid, which, dissolving in water, penetrates to the interior of the plant. The decomposition of humus is favored by the presence of alkalies, which provoke the formation of carbonic acid and form with it soluable carbonates absorbed by the roots. It is necessary that the soil should be stirred so that it become permeable to the air, and that there be formed in the humid earth an atmosphere of carbonic acid which shall furnish to the young plant its most important aliment. A plant can vegetate without humns; but that which accelerates the development of the plant and gains time, is of the highest importance to the agriculturist.

It is now demonstrated that the alkalies which we find in plants are necessary to vegetation. At first they form with the carbonic acid soluable carbonates which penetrate by the roots into the vegetables, and atterwards, under their influence, the water and carbonic acid are decomposed; form, by means of oxygen, with which they combine, oxalic and tartaric acid, and then become sugar, starch or woody fibre; and in proportion as the acids are transformed the alkalies diminish in the sap. This can be observed in the ripening of

Thus vegetable aclds are indispensable to the existence of plants, and their formation depends 1st on water and carbonic acid, which combine to form them, and 2nd on alkalies, which provoke this combination. These vegetable acids being always found combined with alkalies, the necessity of the latter is incontestable. Besides, if the life of plants is connected with their presence, their proportion should invariably be as that of the acids to which they serve as bases. As all the alkaine bases in their mode of acting can be mutually substituted, it suffices that a wanting base be replaced by an equivalent of another base. Thus, they have analized the ashes of two pines of the same species, collected from different localities; these ashes showing faithfully the total of fixed alkaline bases contained in the wood. One of the pines contained magnesia, which was wanting in the other; the quantities of potash and lime contained in them were also very unequal, but notwithstanding this difference of composition the ashes of the two pines contained a like number of equivalents of alkaline bases-that is to say, that the quantity of oxygen all the bases took

together, was the same in each tree. The chemist Leibig drew from these facts a very important conclusion; it is, that if definite and constant quantities of vegetable salts are to be found under certain conditions in the organs of the plants and that these salts are indispensable to the accomplishment of their functions, the plants should always have to absorb potash or lime for instance, and if they could not find enough of it, the quantity wanting should be replaced by a corresponding proportion of another alkaline base-if none of these bases are presented to the plants they cannot develop, and die. And that which succeeds in proving that the presence of certain alkaline bases which are found in the ashes of plants, far from being accidental, are essential to their existence, is this, that if a plant is forced to absorb a salt which is not suitable to it, and which is brought to it by the water which surrounds its roots, it afterwards returns it to the earth.

A LOSING BUSINESS.

The following statement appears in the columns of a daily journal :-

"It is stated that the account between the Overland Mail Company and the Post Office Department will stand thus at the close of the six monthss' accounts: Expenditures by the Department, \$3,600,000; receipts, \$90,000; showing a clear loss from the route of three millions five hundred and ten thousand dol-

It is to maintain this useless, expensive and worse than unproductive route across the desert to and from California that the mail accommodations of the people in this region of country whose postages more than pay the cost of the facilities extended to them, are being curtailed and diminished. Is it any wonder that the Post Office Department is bankrupt, when it engages in such wild and extravagant enterprises as this Overland route? No body in tact profits by this enterprise but the contractors, who in the brief space of six months draw from the Treasury the enormous sum of three millions and six hundred thousand dollars, the revenue at the same time amounting to only ninety thousand dollars-a dead loss to the Government of three millions five hundred and ten thousand dollars in a half a year, from this single foolish experiment! This is the way that political favorites are enriched at the public expense under this administration; for, of course, "the Overland Mail Company" is made up of Simon Pure "Democrats," of the real Lecompton stripe.

A Good Stony .- An anecdote, worth laughng over, is told of a man who had an infirmfty, as well as an appetite for fish. He was anxions to keep up his character for honesty, even while enjoying his favorite meal; and while making a bill with his merchant, as the story goes, and when his back was turned the honest buyer slipped a cod-fish up under his coat tail. But the garment was too short to cover

up the theft, and the merchant perceived it. "Now," said the customer, anxious to improve all opportunities to call attention to his virtues, "Mr. Merchant, I have traded with and honestly, haven't I?"

"Well," said the customer, "I always in-sisted that honesty is the best policy, and the. best rule to live and die by."

"That's so," replied the merchant. And the customer turned to depart. "Hold on, friend," called the morehant: "speaking of honesty, I have a bit of advice to give you. Whenever you come to trade a-