

SMOKING.—At the Cooper Institute, Wednesday evening, February 14th, the Rev. S. W. Bailey delivered a frigid lecture on the "philosophy of smoking," designing to prove that the practice was conducive to the growth of democratic ideas and family happiness. There was a good attendance, and the lecture was entertaining and well received. In the course of the interesting address, it was remarked that the advent of the use of tobacco gave birth to democratic ideas, and that in olden times tobacco had been regarded as a gift of the great though unknown spirit, and that in latter years we heard of smoking the pipe of peace. The regard entertained by Indians for tobacco was then dwelt upon, and their customs were humorously referred to. The lecturer then called to his aid, in behalf of the use of the favorite weed, the great poets of by-gone times, who, through their works, still live among us. Tobacco was declared as divine and rare; a sovereign remedy to all desires of quietude and peace. The well-known ode, by Charles Lamb, to tobacco, was then quoted in behalf of the almost universal use of tobacco. Tobacco, said the lecturer, is a powerful political agent, it is loyal to the State, and is destructive of despotism, as well as protective of democratic freedom. The use of tobacco was then characterized as a choice blessing, and ripened early youth into full grown manhood. Its elating and inspiring qualities were then dilated upon. As a perfect stimulant it was almost unequalled, and it engendered a high tone in social life. The learned lecturer then called to his aid the poetical odes of Cowper, and others, on tobacco. Various illustrations were quoted, and the whole tenor of the speaker's ideas was in favor of the free use of the fragrant weed. The question as to how much the world is indebted to smoking was referred to. It begot real kindness between the various classes of society. It was a democratic leveler, and was conducive of the utmost equality. Mr. Bailey then concluded by a humorous sketch of the various uses to which tobacco is applied, arguing in a felicitous manner that tobacco was beneficial, and not, as some supposed, injurious. The lecturer brought his address to a conclusion amid considerable applause. —[New York "News."]

FREE TRADE VS. PROTECTION.—The Buffalo "Express," of the 16th of February, declaring its original adhesion to protection, now declares that the people of America are being educated to free trade, and, among other reasons for the change, gives the following: "There is no good reason why cotton goods, that sold in 1860 for twelve cents per yard, should now bring more than twenty-five cents. We are assured by those who have experience and intelligence in relation to such matters, that the cotton and woolen mills in New England are now making profits equal to three hundred per cent. per annum on their capital. If our information is at all reliable, this accounts for present high prices, and is an oppression that the consumer cannot afford to endure. The price of printing paper is another source of grief. The manufacturers have been living upon the vitals of publishers for five years, that they have become so pithoric that it requires extended trips to Europe and lavish expenditures at home, to keep them from being overburdened by their gains. The publishers who use their paper do so much necessarily for an outlet to their profits. Newspaper to-day should be furnished at gold rates compared with 1860. That would bring it at about thirteen cents per pound, and pay a fair profit on the investment, while the market now runs from eight to ten to twenty cents. Other manufacturers are equally prosperous, under these enormously high prices, which are daily and hourly educating the people in the doctrine of free trade. We regard the present position of the manufacturing interests of the country as analogous to that of the individual which o'erleaps itself and falls on the other side." Their present policy is more ruinous to the tariff than the assaults of all its ancient opponents.

The Missouri Weekly "Republican" says: The New York "Commercial" expresses our own opinion in the structure it levels at that part of the Internal Revenue Commissioners' report which relates to the tax on inheritances. That paper says: We are, above all, surprised to find the Commissioners advocate the tax on legacies and inheritances, in regard to which they say "Their collection and enforcement, as a part of the present revenue policy, of the country, is to be strongly recommended." Now, by what principle of justice or equity is a Government authorized to seize a portion of a man's property at his death? It is always supposed that it is one of the special duties of Government to protect the widow and orphans, although it is true that nearly all legislation for their benefit in reality facilitates their robbery—rarely, if ever, protects their rights. Certain it is, Governments have no more claim on a man's estate after his death than that of the widow and orphans, although the loss of their natural protector is a sufficient evil without its aggravation by the confiscation of a portion of their inheritance for the benefit of the State. They pay their full share of the expenses of the Government through the ordinary taxes, and every right-minded man in the community should raise his voice against this unjustifiable robbery of the defenceless by the very power that should protect them. Beside, the tax can and will be evaded. Any one may transfer his property to his heirs before his death, and thus have it escape this iniquitous tax. The Commissioners themselves admit that the law which imposes the tax has practically been a dead letter, "having produced, during the past fiscal year, only \$546,703."

WHAT WE BUY IN EUROPE.—The total amount of imports at New York still continues slightly in excess of what we send them of our own industry and resources. The total imports thus far this year are \$25,170,072 against exports of \$23,422,913. Among the imports of the last week we notice \$35,378 in China and earthenware; \$17,765 in plate glass; \$20,802 in brimstone; \$12,419 in indigo; \$13,710 in paints; \$34,623 in furs; \$19,864 in lemons; \$6,581 in oranges; \$7,704 in nuts; \$96,669 in raisins; \$10,289 in musical instruments; \$13,549 in jewelry; \$57,857 in watches; \$33,372 in wines and champagnes; \$24,692 in copper; \$62,837 in cutlery; \$7,985 in brooks; \$20,145 in paper; \$56,533 in buttons; \$270,688 in coffee; \$36,955 in fancy goods; \$135,849 in sugar; \$100,855 in tea, and \$4,380,620 in dry goods. Among the exports of domestic produce, to pay for the above imports, we notice for the week 29,488 barrels of wheat flour, 128,656 bushels corn, 11,987 bales cotton, 2,787 barrels pork and beef, 644,889 pounds cut meats, 665,390 gallons petroleum, 104,236 pounds butter, 555,640 pounds cheese, 473,441 pounds lard, etc., etc. —[Buffalo Express.]

OXEN VS. MULES.—It has always been in Colorado a vexatious question whether oxen or mules are the best modes of transportation to use upon the Plains. We think the matter has been tested satisfactorily by a merchant of this city, Joseph Comforth, Esq., who started eight wagons, varying from twenty to twenty-five hundred pounds each, with one yoke of cattle to each wagon, from Atchison, Kansas. His brother, Birks Comforth, Esq., of E street, informs us that one man drove three teams, taking three men to nine teams, the number they started with, leaving one wagon on the road, which had been used as a feed wagon. The oxen were corn fed all through the trip, and were kept well shod. They made the whole distance, with mule teams, this proving to be a profitable mode of transportation. The oxen is much less, and they can pull more than mule teams can. A gentleman who started with mule teams three days after Mr. Comforth, had not arrived in Denver four days after the arrival of the former. Messrs. Stebbins & Porter have tested this mode, Mr. Kiskadden has also tried it and both find it much the best to adopt. Mr. Comforth says the actual cost of the freight by these means is eight cents per pound, covering all expenses, and his cattle have reached their destination fat, and in good order for beef purposes. —[Denver Gazette.]

THE WAY TO DO IT.—An exchange has the following sensible item in reference to its local columns, that will apply to other localities as well: "The way to make the local columns of a paper interesting as well as useful in its locality, is for every subscriber and friend of the paper, when anything of interest transpires in his neighborhood, to report the facts to the office of the paper. Many interesting items might be reported in this way, that would otherwise be unrecorded, as the editors cannot everywhere be on the spot, or be all over the town and country at the same time. We hope our friends will act upon these suggestions, and aid us in keeping our readers and the world of mankind fully posted in all that is transpiring around us. The editors cannot ever tribute to our columns from time to time, will please accept our thanks and continue their favors."

JUDICIAL KINDNESS.—A very learned and compassionate Judge, in Texas, in passing sentence upon a John Jones, who had been convicted of murder, concluded his remarks as follows: "The fact is, Jones, that the court did not intend to order you to be executed before next spring, but the weather is very cold; our jail, unfortunately, is in a very bad condition; much of the glass in such dilapidated state that the chimney in such a dilapidated state that no fire can be made to render your apartments comfortable; besides, owing to the great number of prisoners, not more than one blanket can be allowed to each; to sleep sound and comfortable under such circumstances, and wishing to lessen your suffering as much as possible, the court, in the exercise of its humane compassion, hereby orders you to be executed to-morrow morning, as soon after breakfast as may be convenient to the Sheriff and agreeable to you." —[Missouri "Republican."]

HEART DISEASE AND TOBACCO.—M. Decaisne, in a communication to the "Academie des Sciences," exhibits another clause in the heavy bill of indictment against the abuse of tobacco. He states that in the course of three years he has met, among eighty-three inveterate smokers, twenty-one instances of intermittence of pulse, occurring in men from 27 to 42 years of age, and not to be explained by organic lesion of the heart. The absence of such lesion, or other condition of health, capable of including interruption of the action of the heart, and the fact in nine of these instances, in which the action of the organ was abandoned, the normal action of the organ was restored, Mr. Decaisne believes, will justify him in concluding that, in certain subjects, the abuse of tobacco may give rise to a condition which may be termed "narcotism of the heart," characterized by interruption in the movements of that organ and in the pulsation of the radial artery; and that, in some cases, a suspension or diminution in the practice of tobacco is sufficient to cause an entire disappearance of this irregularity.

HIGH RENTS.—One of the New York papers says of the "extortions" of landlords: "A dry goods firm have rented a store for the current year for \$15,000. The owner called on them a few days since to ask their intention, for another year. They expressed their wish to remain if the terms were made agreeable. He offered to treat them fairly, and suggested that \$10,000 per annum for three years' lease would be a reasonable advance. They indignantly refused to treat, and he left. After a few days' search for another place, they concluded to pocket their indignation and accede to the terms. Calling on the owner for this purpose, they learned that they were too late, the premises having been leased for three years at \$50,000 per annum. A further search left them hopeless of securing anything more eligible, and they have to purchase the lease of the new parties for a bonus of \$10,000."

WOODEN GUNPOWDER.—Captain Schultze, of Berlin, has established a wooden gunpowder manufactory. This powder is made by applying the process for gun-cotton to wood. The wood—beech is preferred—is cut into veneers across the grain, granulated, subjected to the action of nitric acid, washed and dried. The advantages claimed are, absence of danger in the manufacture, for another year the chemicals can be kept separate till within a few hours of being wanted; it burns with a brilliant flame, with no smoke, and leaves only a light feathery dust, which does not cake or foul the gun; its power is uniform, if soaked in water drying will make it as good as before; weight for weight, it is of double the strength of black powder, and is a little cheaper.

REMARKABLE OCCURRENCE.—At Haverhill, on the 3d inst., a pleasure party, consisting of two gentlemen, three ladies and two children, started out in a small ferry on the Merrimack to take a trip down the river. When opposite Maynard's Island, a large sturgeon jumped from the river directly over one of the young ladies into the bottom of the crowded boat. After many unsuccessful attempts to expel the unwelcome guest, the boat was put to the shore, when the fish was landed, and found to be over six feet in length and one hundred and fifty pounds in weight. Had not the ladies and children preserved the utmost quiet, the consequences might have followed which are not pleasant to contemplate. —[San Jose "Herald."]

MURDER.—The Norfolk "Day Book," of Feb. 7th, contains the following: On last Saturday night, in a dark corner of Gates County, North Carolina, called Scratch Hill, some six or eight men, dressed in the uniform of Federal soldiers, were seen riding quietly along the road, a little after dark, going in a well known desperate character of that section. Arriving at the house, calls were made upon Tylee, a well known desperado of that section. He came out and surrendered, or he would otherwise have been killed. He refused to capitulate, and the battle killed. It began with alternating fortune for some time, but at length all opposition from the house of Tylee ceased, and upon the attacking party entering the fortress, they found the dead body of Tylee in the defense. Tylee was a terror to that entire portion of the county of Gates in which he lived, and while, of course, the citizens of that shape or county cannot countenance murder in any shape or form, yet the feeling of relief and security since his death pervades all classes. It is not for a moment supposed that the perpetrators of this deed were Federal soldiers. During the late struggle Tylee had waged a desperate war upon many of his neighbors, and their vengeance has at last overtaken him.

IMAGINARY POISON.—A shocking case of poisoning occurred at the Western Home, St. Louis, on Broadway, a night or two since. Four mischievous young men, boarders at the house, took it into their heads to make a clandestine examination of the contents of a pack belonging to a peddler of the Israelite proselytists, for the purpose of ascertaining what kind of goods he dealt in. In the pack they found a paper containing a white powder, and they were anxious to ascertain what it was. One of them took a pinch of the powder, and, after tasting it, pronounced it salutarious. Another swallowed a small quantity, and declared it was alum. The third tried it and thought it was soda. The fourth gulped down a spoonful, and said it was starch. Being unable to agree, they made a close examination of the paper, and found it written upon it the fearful words, "IMAGINARY POISON," and they all felt a fearful griping in their stomachs, and started on a full run for the drug store. The store was closed, and in an agony of despair, the four young men rolled over on the pavement, and concluded to give up the ghost. The police, however, was slow in its operation, and neither of them died. They found a druggist, and getting him to examine the powder, discovered that it was starch! They immediately recovered, and declared that they would not attempt any practical jokes on a peddler. —[N. Y. "News," Feb. 10.]

BUSINESS WITH MONTANA.—We learn that the prospects existing for a heavy trade, this spring, between St. Louis and the Upper Missouri, are of the most flattering kind. In the last few days a single transportation company has made engagements of freight to the extent of three millions of pounds for Montana Territory alone. The freight will be moved by steamboat, as soon as navigation opens, to the mouth of the Mussel-Shell, on the Missouri river, and thence by wagons to Virginia City and other points in the Territory. —[St. Louis "Republican," Feb. 12th.]

A STATUE WEPT BY STEAM.—The Florence correspondent of the Independence "Belge" says that a singular discovery has been made in a church in one of the Faubourgs of Milan. A statue of Saint Magdalen, which has been long famous for weeping in the presence of unbelievers, was recently moved, in order to facilitate repairs for the church. It was found that the statue contained an arrangement for boiling water. The steam passed up into the head, and was there condensed. The water, thus produced, made its way, by a couple of pipes, to the eyes, and trickled down upon the cheeks of the image.

DEAR MOTHER.—The other day, as we were passing a handsome corner residence, in this city, we beheld, from the open windows of the parlor, the beautiful form of a sweet nineteen, while the notes of her costly piano poured forth sweet strains, accompanied by the inevitable, "Oh, who will care for mother now?" Passing around the corner, our way led by the window of the kitchen, and over the steaming cooking stove we had the opportunity of witnessing "dear mother" caring for herself and all the family besides. Our admiration for the musical talents of sweet nineteen underwent a sudden collapse. —[Exchange.]

SAD EFFECTS OF INSANITY.—A young lady in Florida, who had been gradually becoming insane, lately destroyed her ambrotype and letters, set fire to her clothing in a wardrobe, and dressing herself in heavy woolen fabrics and broadcloth cloak, set fire to herself and sprang into bed, where she was found enveloped in flames, with clasped hands, exclaiming, "Oh, ain't this glorious? Ain't I a martyr?" Though her limbs, and the lower part of her body, were baked brown, she did not appear to suffer pain. She shortly afterwards died.

COPPER TRADE.—The total supply of pure copper from all sources in 1864 was nearly 26,000,000 pounds, of which Lake Superior gave 12,000,000. The latter is put into ingot and cake copper at refineries in Detroit, Portage Lake and Cleveland. The ores produced from mines in California, Canada and the Eastern States, also imported ores, are smelted in Boston, New York and Baltimore. Those of New York are located at Bergen Port. The 12,000,000 pounds from these works, added to the product of Lake Superior, and a moderate quantity of imported refined copper, makes up an aggregate of 26,000,000 pounds as above stated. —[Buffalo "Express."]

AN INCIDENT OF THE BORDER.—It is related that a keen custom-house officer on the bridge across the St. Croix river, from St. Stephens, N. B., to Calais, Me., saw one evening a woman with a bundle in her arms. "What have you there?" he demanded. She hesitated, stammered and then said: "Nothing dutiable." He insisted on seeing it; she resisted; a struggle ensued. At last she yielded and placed the bundle in his arms, saying, "Take it, then, and much good may it do you." Then she returned to St. Stephens, whilst he made for the light to examine the treasure, which proved to be an infant a few days old. The mother remains undiscovered and the child remains on the hands of the official.

A London Merchant recently advertised for a clerk who could "bear confinement." He received an answer from the mother of thirteen children.

THE MICHIGAN AND MISSISSIPPI SHIP CANAL.—The Rev. (H.) "Herald" says: "The people all along the proposed route seem to be in great earnest about water communication between the Mississippi and Illinois. They have held large meetings at different points, and appropriated funds to make the preliminary examination. That canal, if it ever should be built, in all probability, will run across the country in a more direct line, than to pass down the valley of the Bureau, and thence up the Illinois river to the mouth of the Michigan and Illinois Canal." The Genesee (H.) "Republican" states on good authority that "the engineers, who are now surveying the route for a feeder to the ship canal to the summit, at Sheffield, pronounce the work entirely feasible, and less difficult of construction than was apprehended. There are no obstacles that may not be readily overcome." The survey removes all doubts on the question of feasibility, and now, we suppose, the survey of the general route will be early undertaken and speedily put through."

CHANGE OF STATION.—The Richmond "Times," of a recent date, says: "A few mornings since, we noticed at the first market, two beautiful, well-dressed females, young in years, from Powhatan county, who had driven a wagon from home, loaded with produce, which they were offering for sale. These ladies were of high respectability; and, before the war, were in affluent circumstances. Their efforts to gain a livelihood by their own exertions should serve as an example for many young girls who are too proud to do any other work than that which is of the most agreeable character."

THE UNKNOWN CUT OF ALL.—The Havana "Voluntario" says that a man of that town, who had been away from his family for some time, and, on his return, found that his wife had become notorious in the extremities of his grief, was heard to say, "I thought her cutting up with the men had enough, but when I found some of 'em wearing my clothes that annoyed me like h—!"

THE COLORADO "Mining Journal," of the 20th ult. says: "The 'Gazette' editor incidentally remarks, at the close of a touching notice of himself, 'but some men may be asses,' (referring to himself) 'but that they are not professed thieves,' (referring to us). There is no rule without its exception—to this one the 'Gazette' editor forms the exception. That is to say, he is both. Quien sabe?"

PARTIES obtaining land patents from the State, or United States, appear not to be aware that such patents should be placed on the county records. It is said that many are neglecting this requirement, an omission which may entail much difficulty at some future time. —[Mining and Scientific "Press."]

IT SHALL RISE AGAIN.—When Hon. George Bancroft, in his Lincoln Oration before Congress on Monday Feb. 22, referred to the Republic of Mexico, he elicited unbounded applause by the declaration—"It shall rise again."

A CHINESE DECISION.—The Chief of the Bureau of Arts and Sciences, at Peking, has made a favorable report on the question of railroads, and decides that the use of steam is not dangerous to the people!

THE OVERLAND TRADE is commencing early this season. A train of ten wagons, loaded chiefly with groceries, left St. Joseph, on Saturday last, for the mountains. —[St. Louis "Republican," Feb. 21st.]

A LATE LETTER from Richmond, Virginia, states that property there has fallen twenty per cent. within the last four weeks. Capital is retired. After planting time, March and April, land will be sold cheap.

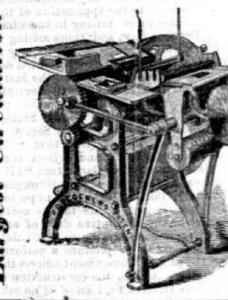
"One-Armed Berry," the notorious Kentucky guerrilla, has been found guilty, by the military committee, of eleven murders, and was sentenced to be hanged on the 3d inst.

A FLOWING OIL well has been struck by the Philadelphia and California Petroleum Company in the San Bernardino mountains, Los Angeles county, California. It is 234 feet deep, and flows from ten to twenty barrels per day.

FASHIONABLE parties and festive reunions are frequent in Carson City and Virginia, Nevada. They are very gay, this winter, over in Washoe.

OVER \$300,000 more are reported to have been recovered from the wreck of the Aspinwall steamer Golden State.

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