small hand-mill, it is impossible to say how great a quantity of sugar may be produced on an acre.

The experiments have been directed more to ascertain the saccharine quality of cornstalk than the amount a given quantity of ground will produce—but the calculations made from trials on a small scale leave no room to doubt that the quantity of sugar will be from 800 to 1,000 pounds. This amount will not appear unreasonable, when it is considered that the juice of corn is as rich as that of cane, and the weight of green produce at least equal.

Mr. Ellsworth, in one of his publications, states, as the result of actual weighing and measuring, that corn, sown broadcast, yielded five pounds of green stalks per square foot; this is at the rate of 108½ tons to the acre.

My attention was first directed to maize as a material for sugar by observing that, in some stalks, the juice was extremely sweet, while in others it was weak and watery. On examination, it appeared that the latter had borne large and perfect ears and grain, while, on the former, these are either small in size or entirely wanting. The natural conclusion from this observation was, that, if the ears were taken off in their embryo state, the whole quantity of saccharine matter produced by the process of vegetation would be preserved in the stalk, from which it might be extracted when the plant was matured. But the idea occurred too late in the season to test it by experiment. A few stalks, however, were found, which, from some cause, had borne no grain; these were bruised with a mallet, and the juice extracted by a lever press. Some lime was then added, and the desiccation, evaporation, &c., began and finished in a single vessel. By these simple means, sugar of fair quality was produced, which was sent to the horticultural exhibition of our society in 1840.

I have since been informed, through Mr. Ellsworth, that M. Pallas, of France, has discovered, in 1839, that the saccharine properties of maize were increased by merely taking off the ear in its embryo state. An experiment, however, which I instituted, to determine the value of this plan, resulted in disappointment; the quantity of sugar produced was not large enough to render it an object. The reasons of this failure will be sufficiently obvious on stating the circumstances. It was found that taking the ear off a large stalk, such as is produced by the common mode of cultivation, inflicted a considerable wound on the plant, which injured its health, and of course lessened its productive power. It was also found that the natural disposition to form grain was so strong, that several successive ears were thrown out, by which labor was increased, and the injuries of the plant multiplied. Lastly, it appeared that the juice yielding from those plants contained a considerable portion of foreign substance, not favorable to the object in view. Yet, under all these disadvantages, from one hundred to two hundred pounds of sugar per acre may be obtained.

The manifest objections detailed above suggested another mode of cultivation, to be employed in combination with the one first proposed; it consists simply in raising a greater number of plants on the same space of ground. By this plan, all the unfavorable results above mentioned were obviated, a much larger quantity of sugar was produced, and of better quality. The juice produced by this mode of cultivation is remarkably pure and agreeable to the taste. Samples of the sugar yielded by it are now in the Patent Office, with a small hand-mill by which the stalks were crushed. Some of the same kind was exhibited to our agricultural society in October, 1841, accompanied with an answer to an invitation from it-president, Dr. J. W. Thompson, to explain the mode of culture and process of manufacturing the sugar. The molasses, after standing, as before mentioned, from one to two months, became filled with small crystals, which, on being drained exhibited a peculiar kind of sugar; the grain is small, and somewhat inferior in appearance, but still as sweet and agreeable to the taste as can be desired. A small sample of this sugar I have brought for your inspection. This product, from what was thought to be molasses, is a new and unexpected discovery, and discloses an important fact in the investigation of this subject. It shows the superior degree of perfection attained by the corn plant compared with the cane, in any part of the Union. It is generally understood that the latter cannot be fully matured in any except a tropical climate, and the proportion of molasses obtained from any plant is greater or less according to the immaturity or perfection of its growth. The sweetness of the cornstalk is a matter of universal observation. Our forefathers, in the revolutionary struggle, resorted to it as a means to furnish a substitute for West India sugar. They expressed the juice, and exerted their ingenuity in efforts to bring it to a crystallized state, but we have no account of any successful operation of the kind. In fact the bitter and nauseous properties contained in the joints of large stalks render the whole amount of juice from them fit only to produce an inferior kind of molasses. I found, on experiment, that, by cutting out the joints, and crushing the remaining part of the stalk, sugar might be made, but still of an inferior quality. The molasses, of which there was a large proportion, was bitter and disagreeable.

From one to two feet of the lower part of these stalks was full of juice; but the balance, as it approached the top, became dryer, and afforded but little. From the foregoing experiments we see that, in order to obtain the purest juice, and in the greatest quantity, we must adopt a mode of cultivation which will prevent the large and luxuriant growth of the stalk.

As we are upon the threshold of this inquiry, many other improvements may be expected in the mode of operation; for example, it may be that cutting off the tassel as soon as it appears on the plant will prevent the formation of grain, and prove a preferable means for effecting that object.

On the whole, there appears ample encouragement for perseverance. Every step in the investigation has increased the probabilities of success; no evidence having been discovered why it should not succeed as well, if not better, on a large scale, than it has done on a small one.

1. In the first place, it has been satisfactorily proved, that sugar of an excellent quality, suitable for common use without refining, may be made from the stalks of maize.

2. That the juice of this plant, when cultivated in a certain manner, contains saccharine matter remarkably free from foreign substances.

3. The quantity of this juice (even supposing we had no other evidence about it) is sufficiently demonstrated by the great amount of nutritive grain which it produces in the natural course of vegetation. It is needless to expatiate on the vast advantages which would result from the introduction of this manufacture into our country.

Grain is produced in the West in such overflowing abundance that the markets become glutted, and inducements are offered to employ the surplus produce in distillation. This business is now becoming disreputable. The happy conviction is spreading rapidly, that the use of alcohol as a beverage, instead of conducing to health and strength, is the surest means of destroying both. Some other production, therefore, will be required, in which the powers of our soil may be profitably employed. This, it is hoped, will be found in the business now proposed. Instead of distilleries, converting food into poison, we may have sugar-houses, manufacturing at our doors an article in universal demand, not merely useful, but necessary, furnishing as it does one of the most simple, natural, and nutritious varieties of human sustenance found in the whole range of vegetable production.

It is said that the general use of sugar in Europe has had the effect to extinguish the scurvy and many other diseases formerly epidemical. It may be doubted whether a tropical country can ever furnish a great amount of exports, except through the means of compulsory labor. It appears, then, highly probable, that if the inhabitants of temperate countries wish to continue the use of sugar, they must find some means to produce it themselves. The beet appears to succeed well in Europe, and the manufacture from it is extending rapidly; but there is no hazard in making the assertion that Indian corn is far better adapted to our purpose. The following mode of cultivating the plant, and making the sugar, is the best that can now be offered. The kind of soil best adapted to corn is so well understood, that no directions on this point are necessary, except that it should be rich—the richer the better; if not naturally fertile, manure must be applied either plashed in or spread upon the surface, or used both ways, according to the ability of the owner. Nothing can form a better preparation for the crop than a clover sod well turned under and harrowed the immediately before planting.

Select for seed the largest and best ears of any variety of corn not disposed to throw up suckers or spread out in branches; that kind most productive in the neighborhood will be generally the one best adopted to this purpose. The planting should be done with a drilling machine. One man, with a pair of horses and an instrument of this kind, will plant and cover, in the most perfect manner, from ten to twelve acres in a day. The rows (if practicable, let them run north and south) two and a half feet apart, and the seed dropped sufficiently thick in the row to ensure a plant every two or three inches. A large harrow, made with teeth arranged so as not to injure the corn, may be used to advantage soon after it is up. The after culture is performed with a cultivator, and here will be perceived one of the great advantages of drilling: the plants all growing in lines, perfectly regular and straight with each other, the horse-hoe stirs the earth and cuts up the weeds close by every one, so that no hand-hoeing will be required in any part of the cultivation. "It is part of the system of cane planting in Louisiana, to raise as full a stand of cane upon the ground as possible, experience having proved that the most sugar is obtained from the land in this way." As far as my experience has gone, the same thing is true of corn. This point must therefore be attended to, and the deficiencies, if any occur, made up by timely replanting.

The next operation is taking off the ears. Many stalks will not produce any; but, whenever they appear, they must be removed. It is not best to undertake this work too early, as, when the ears first appear, they are tender, and cannot be taken off without breaking, which increases the trouble. Any time before the formation of grain upon them will be soon enough.

Nothing further is necessary to be done until the crop is ready to cut for grinding. In our latitude, the cutting may commence with the earlier varieties about the middle of August. The latter kinds will be ripe in September, and continue in season until cut off by frost. The stalks should be topped and bladed while standing in the field. They are then cut, tied in bundles, and taken to the mill. The top and blades, when properly cured, make an excellent fodder, rather better it is believed, than any hitherto used; and the resources after passing the rollers, may easily be dried or used in the same way—another advantage over the cane, which, after the juice is expressed, is usually burned.

The mill should be made on the same general principle employed in constructing those intended for grinding cane. An important difference, however, will be found both in the original cost and in the expense of working them. Judging from the comparative hardness of the cane and cornstalk, it is believed that one-fourth part of the strength necessary in the construction of a cane mill will be amply sufficient for corn, and less than one-fourth part of the power will move it with the same velocity. It may be made with three upright wooden rollers, from twenty to forty inches in length, turned so as to run true, and fitted into a strong framework, consisting of two horizontal pieces, sustained by uprights. These pieces are mortised, to admit wedges on each side of the pivots of the two outside rollers, by which their distances from the middle one may be regulated. The power is applied to the middle roller, and the others are moved from it by means of cogs. In grinding, the stalks pass through on the right side of the cylinder, and come in contact with a piece of framework called the dumb returner, which directs them backwards, so that they pass through the rollers again, on the opposite side of the middle one. (See plate.) The modern improved machine is made entirely of iron, three horizontal rollers, arranged in a triangular form, one above and two below; the cane or stalk passes directly through, receiving two pressures before it escapes. (See plate.) The lower cylinders are contained in a small cistern which receives the juice. The latter machine is the most complete; the former the least expensive. These mills may be moved by cattle; but, for large operations, steam or water power is preferable. When the vertical cylinders are turned by cattle, the axis of the middle one has long levers fixed across it, extending from ten to fifteen feet from the centre. To render the arms firm, the axis of this roller is carried up to considerable height; and oblique braces of wood, by which the oxen or horses draw, are extended from the top of the vertical axis to the extremities of each of the arms. When horizontal cylinders are propelled by animal power, the upper roller is turned by the cogs at one end, which are caught by cogs on a vertical shaft. It is said that, in the West Indies, the purest cane juice will ferment in twenty minutes after it enters the receiver. Corn juice has been kept for one hour before boiling, without any apparent injury resulting; but so much delay is not desirable, as it may be attended with bad effects.

The process which has been employed in the manufacture of maize sugar is as follows: The juice, after coming from the mill, stood for a short time, to deposite some of it coarser impurities. It was then poured off, and passed through a flannel strainer, in order to get rid of such matters as could be separated in this way. Lime water, called milk of lime, was then added, in the proportion of one or two table spoon full to the gallon. It is said by sugar manufacturers that knowledge on this point can only be acquired by experience; but I have never failed in making sugar from employing too much or too little of the lime. A certain portion of this substance, however, is undoubtedly necessary, and more or less than this will be injurious; but no precise directions can be given about it. The juice was then placed over the fire, and brought nearly to the boiling point, when it was carefully skimmed—taking care to complete this operation before ebullition commenced. It was then boiled down rapidly, removing the scum as it rose. The juice was examined, from time to time; and if there was any appearance of feculent particles, which would not rise to the surface, it was again passed through a flannel strainer. In judging when the sirup is sufficiently boiled, a portion was taken between the thumb and finger; and if, when moderately cool, a thread half an inch long could be drawn, it was considered to be done, and poured into broad shallow vessels, to crystallize. In some cases, crystallization commenced in twelve hours; in others, not till after several days; and in no case was this process so far completed as to allow the sugar to be drained in less than three weeks from the time of boiling. The reason why so great a length of time was required I have not yet been able to discover. There is no doubt but that the processes and process of manufacture will cause it to granulate as quickly as any other.

Enough has been said to enable any one so disposed to manufacture sugar from maize.

As to the profits of the business, I shall make no positive assertions; experience on the subject is yet too limited to warrant them; and, as all the facts in relation to it are now before the public, every one interested can draw his own conclusions. It is said, by those acquainted with the cultivation of the cane that business cannot be carried on profitably on less than one hundred acres in crop; and that attempts on a small scale will be certain to fail, with a great loss of time and labor. How far this may be applicable to corn remains to be seen.

Some comparison between the cultivation of cane and that of corn may perhaps be interesting.

The cane lands in Louisiana are redeemed to agriculture by strong embankments along the river, and by numerous ditches, which extend back into the swamp to a considerable distance beyond the line of cultivation. The ground is still further divided, by smaller ditches, into lots of from one to two acres in extent. It is extremely rich and productive, but the expense of draining and keeping up the embankments must be considerable; this forms the first difference to be noted in the culture of the two plants under consideration.

The best season for planting cane is in the fall, which is also the time of harvest, when labor is the most valuable, and the greatest exertions are required to secure the crop before it is destroyed by frost.

But the most striking difference will be found in the cost of seed, and in the labor of planting. The cane is propagated by layers; these are partly furnished from the tops of the plants, when cut for grinding, but are principally ratoons. Of the latter, it requires the produce of one acre to plant three. The grain from one acre of corn will be sufficient for planting forty acres; therefore, the difference in the expense for seed will be as one to thirteen.

In planting cane, furrows are made with the plough from two and a half to three feet apart; in these layers are placed, in a double row, and the earth drawn over them, with hoes, to the depth of three or four inches.

In the spring, before the plants are up, this covering is partly scraped off, so as to leave them buried from one to two inches. From this account, it is evident that no more manual labor will be required to deal fifty acres in corn, than to plant one acre in cane. The labor of cultivating the latter plant during its growth is also greater, but this may be balanced by the extra work required to take off the suckers and ears from the corn. When cultivated in the mode recommended, the stalk of corn is soft, remarkably heavy, and full of juice from bottom to top. The amount of power required for grinding them must be much less than is necessary for cane, or, what is the same thing, an equal power will do it with greater rapidity. The average yield of cane, in Louisiana, is one thousand pounds of sugar and forty-five gallons of molasses per acre. From the above comparative statement, it would appear that one-half this amount of crop from corn would be equally, if not more profitable.

I will only add, in conclusion, that whether or not the sugar from the cornstalk may soon become an article of profitable export, its manufacture in the simplest form will enable every family to supply themselves with an article for common use, now become so much a necessary of life, and thus save a considerable bill of expense yearly paid for foreign sugars.

Extract from Annales de la Societe Polytechnique Pratique, No. 22, for October, 1839.

SUGAR OF CORN.—There is no plant of greater general interest or utility than Indian corn. It can serve under a great variety of different forms, for the nourishment of man and the domestic animals, and, above all, the application of industrious science.

In reference to its saccharine qualities, maize has not been sufficiently appreciated. Travellers report that under the tropics the stalk of this plant is so very saccharine that the Indians suck it as in other places they do the sugar cane. M. Pallace, who has made a great many researches on this application of maize, has arived at a remarkable result; he has found by many experiments, both in France and more recently in Africa, that this vegitable, by a simple modification applied to its culture, is able to furnish a much more considerable quantity of sugar than by the ordinary method. This method consists in detaching from the palnt, immediately after the fecundation of the ovarics, (after the plant has tasselled,) the young ear, and to leave it to develop itself, thus deprived of its fruit. Arrived at maturity, the stalk of Indian corn cantains crystallizable sugar in quantity very often double that obtained when the plant is left to mature with the grain. In fact, by the ordinary mode of culture, the grain is nourished at the expense of the sugar in the stalk, as it absorbs a great quantity of this immediate principle, which, by the process of nutrition, is converted into starch. On the other hand, if the young ears are immediately destroyed, the sugar intended to nourish them remains in them, where it accumulates, and the maize plant is thus converted into a true sugar cane, while the fibrous part can be manufactured into paper.

The quantity of sugar is so very great in the stalk of the maize, deprived of the ear, that the pith of this vegetable retains a sensible flavor of sugar, even after it had been dried, as is easily proved by examining the specimens deposited by M. Pallas in the bureau of the Academy of Sciences. These results are so important as to merit experiments on a grander scale, which may obtain thus for France a source of new industry in the manufacture of sugar.

No. 4.

DEAR SIR: Your favor is duly received. You request to know the best method of crystallizing corn sirup, and I know of no more ready method to afford the information required than to detail the entire mode which should be pursued for its manufacture:

1st. To cut the cane as ripe as possible, but before any acetic acid is formed; litmus paper, touched to the fresh-cut cane, will turn if acid.

2d. Express the juice without loss of time, as every moment after cutting will deteriorate its quality.

3d. A small quantity of clear lime water (say one quart to a hundred gallons of juice) should be added the moment it is expressed, unless the juice shows acidity with litmus paper; in that case, no lime should be used, but a solution of sal soda, or soda ash, should be added, until it is precisely neutral.

4th. When the juice is neutral (free from excess of acid or alkali) it should be evaporated in such an apparatus as would finish its charge in 30 minutes; if the boiling power is too small, good crystallization cannot possibly be obtained.

The whole time occupied from the cutting of the cane to finishing its boiling should not exceed one hour.

5th. *To know when the boiling is finished*, place a thermometer in the kettle, and continue to evaporate until it stands at 239° Farenheit. If, when placed to run off after cooling, it should be found too freely boiled, the next time boil to 240°, or, if too light to run off, to 238°, and so on.

6th. The kettle or boiler should be so arranged that the moment it is done its charge should be thrown into a cooler, capable of holding a number of charges. The first charge should be left in the cooler, with stirring, until the second charge is thrown in; then with an oar scrape the crystals found on the side and bottom of the cooler loose, and gently stir the whole mass together, (the less stirred the better:) so continue, at the letting in of each charge, to stir gently; and when all is in the cooler, let the whole stand until it cools down to 175°; then fill out into sugar moulds of a capacity not less than 14 gallons. When cooled in the mould sufficient, (say fourteen hours,) pull the plug out of the bottom of the mould, and insert a sharp point, nearly as large as the hole, some six inches; withdraw the point, and stand the mould on a pot to drip.

7th. If the sugar is intended to be brown, leaving it standing on the pot for a sufficient length of time, in a temperature of 80°, will run off its molasses, and leave it in the merchantable shape; it will probably require twenty days. It can then be thrown out of the moulds, and will be fit for use. When moulds cannot be obtained, conical vessels of wood or metal, with a hole at the apex, will answer equally well.

The above description will be sufficient for any operator, if strictly followed; but should any of your friends wish to make the experiment on a large scale, or to produce white instead of brown sugar at a single operation, they had better see me personally before commencing, as the kind of kettle, and many other minor particulars, will be important. The above description, however, is fully sufficient for the use of the farmer. If the juice of cornstalks be manufactured with the rapidity named in the former part of this letter, no clarification will be necessary, and scum which may rise during the boiling can be taken off with a skimmer; but in the *large way* both clarification and filtration would be requisite, as in large operations every part of the kettle cannot be got at to skim. Since I last saw you, I have made some experiments on the cornstalk; and if your statements are correct as to the quantity of juice which can be obtained from the acre, then there can be no doubt of its entire superiority to the sugar cane. I fear, however, that the enthusiasm of those who made the experiments you spoke of has led them into errors. It is true that the juice of the cornstalk, grown with a view to sugar making, will yield a juice at 10° Beaume. I have made arrangements to try the experiments fully in the coming summer, and when done will communicate the results.

I remain, sir, yours, respectfully,

J. J. MAPES.

Hon. H. L. ELLSWORTH.

FOREIGN.

NEW YORK, March 13.—The steamship GREAT WESTERN, Capt. Hosken, arrived at this port at 1 o'clock, P. M., from Bristol, Eng., via. Maderia, having been 29 days on her devious way. She brings European advices six days later, with the news by an overland mail from China.

The European news is not important.—England is tranquil and her poor less miserable than a few months ago, though the activity in her manufacturing districts consequent on the news of Peace with China has somewhat abated. The Cotton market has been so glutted that buyers have their own way, and a farther decline of 1-8d is nearly or quite established. For Provisions, the market is more favorable.

Parliament is actively in session, and discussions of the Ashburton treaty and of Canadian affairs are frequent and earnest. The warmest feelings of good will to the United States is expressed by all parties. The Ministry have avowed in debate their express approval of Sir Charles Bagot's course in Canada in taking the French into his confidence. [Then why supersede him?]

Sir Samuel Spry (Cons.) has been elected to the House of Commons from Bodmin, beating Mr. Sawle (Liberal,) by 165 to 161.

In FRANCE, the Ministry have had a severe struggle in the Chambers of Deputies, being assailed upon their Foreign policy, with reference to England, Spain, &c. Marshal Soult ably and fearlessly sustained M. Guizot. M. Duperre had resigned his station of Minister for the Marine and Colonies, and been succeeded by Baron Rousin.

In SPAIN, the fermentation of Barcelona has by no means subsided, but has been excited to a smothered fury by the severities and exactions of Gen. Seaone. Another insurrection is anticipated, though the Government and Gen. S. have taken the most vigorous measures to prevent it.

Abd-el-Kader has made another inroad into the French possession in Algiers.

The English are complaining of the high duties on their Manufactures exacted by Russia, which virtually shut them out of that country.

RIGHT OF SEARCH.—*House of Lords, Feb 7.*—Lord Brougham entered into some explanations, with a view to remove a misapprehension entertained by the Attorney General of France (M. Dupin) as to what had fallen from him (Lord Broughman) on a former occasion in relation to the objections on the part of America to any treaty containing a clause recognizing the right of search. In 1824, the Americans had sent a treaty to this country agreeing to the right of search, but objecting to its extension to the American ports; a reasonable objection, because it was unlikely that slave vessels should be in the waters of New York as in those of the Thames. If this one point had been waved, the right of search might now have been in existence for the last nineteen years.

THE WASHINGTON TREATY.—*House of Lords, Feb. 9.*—Lord Campbell wished to put a question to the government, which they would have no difficulty in answering; which was, whether they intended to introduce a bill into parliament for the purpose of carrying out the 10th article of the treaty of Washington, an article which he highly approved. It was respecting the delivery up of persons who had committed crimes in England or America. Unless a bill were introduced, that article would be useless in this country, as by the common law of the land, no person could be given up.

Lord Ashburton said, that although he was not so well acquainted with the law as the noble Lord, yet he knew very well that unless an act of parliament was passed the 10th section of that treaty would be useless. He had written to the American Secretary stating this, therefore, there was no doubt but her Majesty's government intended to introduce an act for the purpose of carrying out that article. Although it required an act in this country, in America it did not.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, February 9.—AMERICAN BOUNDARY.—LORD PALMERSTON gave notice that he should postpone his motion on the subject of the American Boundary from Tuesday the 21st instant to Thursday the 23d.

From the East.

The Overland Mail reached London on Sunday night, with intelligence from Bombay to the 2d of January, and from Macao to the 19th of November. As regards China, events were progressing favorably. The Queen's ship Herald had arrived at Hong-Kong, on her way home, with £1,500,000 more in dollars, part of the first instalment. That place is ceded in perpetuity to England, and the Hong merchants are virtually defunct. A friendly feeling had succeeded the beligerent one, with which the English and the Chinese favorably regard each other.

Before leaving Nankin, the Imperial Commissioners gave a grand entertainment to the officers of the army and navy, at which professions of amity were indulged on both sides. The British forces were to be stationed in about equal divisions at Amoy, Hong-Kong, and Chusan. English merchants and their families are permitted, by the decree of the Emperor, to reside at Canton, at Amoy, at Fowchowfoo, at Ningpoo, and at Shanghae. At the last mentioned place, Captain Balfour is to be stationed as British Consul-General. Sir Hough Gough, the military commander of the expedition, was about returning home, and Sir Henry Pottinger was expected in the beginning of December at Hong-Kong, to arrange about a commercial tariff.

India.

The India mail has arrived, and we have received the India journals and letters to the 2d of January.—The intelligence which they bring, though not of the exciting interest of some mails of last year, is satisfactory, as proving that the peace and tranquility so much desired in our Eastern possessions have been thoroughly established.

Burning of a Russian Theatre.

Recent English papers give an account of the burning of a theatre at St. Petersburg, which occasioned a terrible destruction of human life. The fire broke out behind the scenes, and the director of the theatre ordered the curtain at the back of the stage to be drawn up, that every one might be aware of the imminence of the danger. Thick smoke and flames poured out toward the body of the house. Laughter was suddenly turned into pallid fear, and shrieks of horror burst from the bosoms of thousands, who but now had been convulsed with mirth. Grasping what was dearest them, all rushed toward the outlets.

These were too few for the magnitude of the theatre, and it was very slowly that the foremost made way for those behind them. So much the more rapidly did the flames communicate to the resinous fir planks, and quickly advancing from scene to scene, they soon penetrated into the body of the theatre, still swarming with people. As ill luck would have it, one of the large folding doors at the entrance, which opened inward, had in the confusion been accidently pushed too, and resisted all efforts to force it either from without or from within. Thus only half of the main entrance was available for escape in this critical moment, and the retreat of the audience was of course proportionably delayed.

The police would not at first suffer private individuals to render assistance that they might keep the conduct of the business to themselves. A tradesman nevertheless, contrived with a spade to break down a board on one side of the theatre; and to drag sixty half suffocated persons out of this harlequin's hell through the aperture, with imminent peril of his own life. The Emperor Nicholas rewarded the worthy man with an order, and, as he was poor, with a pension of 2000 rubles.

Meanwhile the people in the street, as may be supposed, became aware that the matter was no joke.—The fearful tidings soon spread through the city that Lahamnn's theatre was on fire, and that thousands of persons in it were likely to perish. It is impossibe to conceive the consternation and despair that seized all Petersburg. There was not a family one or more who se members might not be among the wretched sufferers. When the Emperor on the first news of the fire, hastened from the Winter Palace to the spot, women ran up to him and cried, "Sir, save, save!—My son is among them!—And my husband is there!—My brother is not out yet!"—"Children," replied the Emperor, "I will save all I can."

When the fire was over, when the flames and life were extinct, and all who were within lay in a burned and charred heap, the melancholy business of removing the dead was commenced. The sight is said to have been beyond all idea harrowing and appalling, when, on clearing away the timbers which had fallen in, the mass of bodies was gradually discovered.—They were pulled out one by one with hooks; some were completely carbonized, others roasted like chesnuts; many had only the hair of the head singed;—many with glazed eye, burned hair, and charred faces, had on their holiday clothes and decorations which the flames had not reached, on account of the close pressure of the throng.

These presented a far more repulsive spectacle than those which were entirely burned. In one part of the building, which the flames had spared, were found dense masses of bodies still standing upright, like a host of shades from the nether world. A female was found with her head hanging over the gallery, and holding her hand and her handkerchief before her face. A gentleman who witnessed the operation of clearing away the bodies, told me that he could not touch food for three days, so frightful were the images that had incessantly haunted him afterwards, and a lady, who had looked in from a distance was so shocked that she became delirious, and raved for several days both sleeping and waking.

The number of the victims was subsequently stated officially to be 300; but a person told me that he counted with his own eyes 50 carts, each of which contained from 10 to 15 bodies. People who pretended to know from good authority, represented the number as so large that I dare not repeat it, lest others might think the amount too improbable.

The late Awful Gales.

The sacrifice of life and property at sea during the last six weeks has been, we regret to say, without parallel in the history of our mercantile affairs. On the coast of England 154 vessels were wrecked and 190 lives lost; on the coast of Ireland five vessels were lost, with 134 lives; on the coast of Scotland 17 vessels were wrecked, and 39 lives lost, and on the coast of France, four vessels and 100 lives lost. The value of the vessels and cargoes have been roughly estimated at £385,000, viz: the vessels at £205,000, and the cargoes at £180,000. On the three following days after the 18th numerous other wrecks occurred, to the extent of nearly 60, the losses of which were upwards of £240,000, this with the others, making a total of £825,000. To this is to be added the great loss of vessels that occurred in the course of the storm of Friday and Saturday last.

Important from St. Domingo.

The brig Woodstock, Capt. Baker, from Aux Cayes, arrived at Savannah, brings intelligence confirmatory of the reported insurrection in St. Domingo. A letter from the American Consul, dated Feb. 8, states that all the south part of the island is in a state of civil war, and the arondissement of Jeremie is in complete possession of the revolutionists. The insurgents are commanded by Col. Riviere, who is represented as a man of much resolution and energy. They declare their object to be the establishment of a constitution modelled after that of the United States. The Woodstock brought despatches from the American Consul to the Secretary of State, which were immediately forwarded to Washington.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Appalling Particulars of the late awful Earthquake in the Windward Islands.

ST. THOMAS, Feb. 29, 1843.

This morning a French schooner came in consigned to us. The news she brings is that the city of "Pointe a Petre" (Guadaloupe) is entirely devastated, and not a single building left standing in it. It is supposed that 6000 people have disappeared, some how or other no one can tell, and the bodies of 4000, which began to decompose and smell offensive, were dug out of the ruins by the sailors in the harbor and taken out to sea in boats as fast as they could, and thus get rid of them to prevent a pestilence. Out of 800 fine soldiers composing the regiment at Pointe a Petre, only 40 remained to tell the tale of woe! The massy fortifications, the guns, the barracks and all therein being crumbled into dust, while the mouth of the harbor which before the event was capable of admitting ships of the heaviest burthen, became completely choked up and forever rendered impassable by rocks being forced up from the bottom of the sea. The vessels which were at the time in port will, it is feared, never be got out; among them large ships from France, and other vessels from America, &c. The survivors were reduced to such an awful extremity for food that whole cart loads of canes were ordered in from the the country for them, and in the way to the town they rushed out and by main force intercepted the carts, and seized the canes as if mad from hunger.

The scene was terrific. It was breakfast hour with the inhabitants. Capt. Fisher of the Am. vessel, when the shock commenced, was sitting in the lower story of a store fronting the water, and sprang for his boat at the end of a short wharf. In an instant he was at the end of the wharf, but the wharf and the boat both rocked so fearfully that he hesitated.—Just then the ground opened beneath his feet, and with a leap he reached the boat and was saved.—Vessels were so much shaken as to be in great danger.

Mr. Ridgely, a comedian from Philadelphia, was on the lower floor of a hotel, and sprang into the street. On all sides he saw men throwing themselves upon their faces on the ground. In another instant the stone walls fell and buried all beneath them, except a few who were so fortunate as to find themselves above the ruins. When Mr. R. recovered himself, he was unharmed, though all the persons he had just seen were hopelessly buried. His little son, a lad of seven years of age, was the first object he saw, springing to embrace his father. How they came so near together Mr. Ridgely could not understand, as the lad was at the commencement of the shock, in the third story of a house four squares off. The boy says that all he remembers, is, that when he heard the cry—Earthquake! he jumped out of the window. The boy was sitting at breakfast with the family, and all the family perished except a small girl, who, after the shock, was standing by the side of young Ridgely. Mr. Ridgely found his trunk shattered to pieces, thirty yards from the hotel. His clothes were badly torn, and his hat gone, but he was not injured. The earth rocked so that a man could not keep his feet. It opened in several places and closed again swallowing up people and buildings, and in some instances, the water spouted up sixty and seventy feet. Many large openings remained. About two-thirds of the inhabitants perished. Of the garrison of eight hundred men, only seventy survived.

A furious fire broke out immediately after the earthquake, which raged for some days, adding greatly to the horrors of the scene. Some persons, after having been almost extricated from the rubbish, were necessarily abandoned to their fate, on account of the approach of the fire. The cries of people buried under the ruins were heard for several days, and a large number were dug out in a mutilated and suffering condition. Some it was hoped would survive, but others died after their deliverance. The stench from sulphur at first, and from the decaying bodies after two days, was intolerable.

Among the killed is the American Consul. He was taken from under the ruins with both legs broken, and put on board an American vessel in the harbor, but died the next day.

In St. Barts the Church and several massy buildings were thrown down, and the earth opened in the centre of the street, for a space of 600 yards—one foot wide!

At Antigua the shock was very severe, though only ten lives were lost. Almost every windmill, steam engine, sugar works, &c. were destroyed, the churches, chapels, custom-houses, jails and other public buildings were almost ruined, and the loss of property is supposed to amount to several millions of pounds. The canes in the fields must be sacrificed for want of mills to grind them, and there is said to be scarcely a building on the island uninjured. The catastrophe was preceded by a rise of the tide to a height of four feet above its usual flow.

At St. Bart's the church and several other buildings were thrown down, and the earth opened in the middle of a street to the width of a foot, the fissure extending 600 yards in length. At St. Eustatia the damage was confined mainly to buildings, some being very badly injured. At St. Christopher's several of the public buildings were utterly destroyed. Only one person lost her life, but some others were badly hurt. At Nevis and St. Bartholomew's the earth opened and water with a sulphurous smell issued from the crevices. Nothing farther had been heard from Montserat. When last seen the Island was enveloped in a dense cloud of smoke or dust. The sea around was violently agitated. At St. Vincent the shock was felt but slightly.

GUADALOUPE, (Pointe a Petre.)—As far as we have been able to ascertain, the severest portion of this most fearful calamity has befallen this town; from 4 to 10,000 persons are said to have perished and have been crushed under th ir dwellings; the whole town being involved in a mass of ruin. The shock was sudden, no warning sound preceded the blow, the wretched inhabitants surprised in their houses perished there, the terrific violence of the shock spreading ruin and desolation every where; the scene baffles description; my informant who witnessed the shock, relates that the people were shaken to the ground amidst the frantic shrieks and screams of the wounded, and cries of despair of the survivors; and to render the scene more appalling, the wrecks of buildings took fire, caused either by some volcanic agency, or what is more probable from the fire from the many kitchens, and it is horrid to relate, that many who would perhaps have been extricated from the fragments of ruins alive and uninjured, were either consumed or shrunk into a shapeless mass by the action of the fire. Of 500 men belonging to the garrison, only 50 escaped; the structure appropriated as a barrack giving away and hurling into eternity the unfortunate victims.

The authorities had hastened to the spot—all the seamen belonging to the vessels of war on the station were employed in clearing the ruins, with a view of removing the wounded, as well as the remains of the dead; these were carried on board of barges appointed for the purpose, and carried out of the harbor to be cast in the ocean; this step was rendered necessary as a preservation against the infection which would otherwise follow. A detail of the scenes witnessed during this afflicting event baffles description, the recital of which chills the blood with a feeling of horror, nor could I describe with sufficient force the impression of those who have been the melancholy spectators. The wounded were taken charge of on board of the men of war and carried to Basseterre.

BASSETERRE.—The shock was severe, but of short duration—the injury sustained consists of some walls, a few building and sugar works.

ST. VINCENT.—The report received from this island states that the shock was experienced in a slight degree, consequently no injury of any importance.

An American vessel on her voyage to this, at a distance of 500 miles, experienced the shock in a severe manner, as if the vessel had struck on some shoals, or run against a wreck; these statements prove the wide and extensive range of country embraced within this fearful event.

This latest intelligence received from Pointe Petre states that up to Friday the fire was raging, that it originated from the kitchens, ovens and smith shops in different quarters of the town; the number of victims taken up from the ruins and buried already amounted to 1500; the laborers showing a reluctance to continue in this melancholy work, it was apprehended, that to preserve the place from infection the remainder would be destroyed by fire. The French steamer Gomer had arrived there from Martinique, the officers of which, assisted by all the surgeons attached to the squadron, were actively employed in assisting the unfortunates, either amputating their limbs or dressing their horrid wounds.

Since the above was in type, which we copied from West India papers, we have been favored with the following interesting letter from a friend at Point Petre:—

POINT AU PETRE, Guadaloupe, February 17, 1843.

You will probably hear of the dreadful calamity which has befallen our city, before this reaches you; nevertheless I will give you a brief account of one of the most destructive earthquakes which we have on record.

It commenced on the morning of the 9th, ten minutes before eleven, with a tremendous rattling noise; in a few seconds the earth began to rock to and fro, having at the same time an upward and downward motion; then followed the tumbling of the buildings, all over the city, coming down with a mighty crash, resembling no noise I ever heard; in about thirty seconds the city was in ruins.

A few hours after, fire broke out in various parts of the city, and before the morning of another day, had swept entirely over it, destroying what remained after the earthquake. So that nothing is to be seen but the broken walls and a few old wooden buildings in the outskirts of the town. It was called by many the handsomest city in the West India Islands. It contained a population of 18,000 and the buildings were of stone, three and four stories high.

But the most awful thing to be described is the loss of human lives, and the poor human creatures who were taken from the ruins, mutilated in every possible shape, which I will not attempt. About 2 000 were killed and 1,500 wounded, 300 of the latter suffering amputation of one or more of their limbs. The public square was literally filled with the dying; every vessel in the harbor has more or less of them on board.

The contents of the apothecaries' shops were destroyed, and the physicians lost most of their instruments in their houses, so that it was many days before some could be reached for amputation. The Governor-General from Basseterre arrived here next day, took up a French ship, put as many of the wounded on board as could be moved, and sent them to the hospital at Basseterre.

He ordered at once that no vessel should leave port without his permission, and the next day put a price upon all the necessaries of life, that he who attempted to sell above that price should be imprisoned. He despatched at once messengers to Basseterre and Martinique, and before three days a supply of provisions came. Every vessel in the harbor was continually surrounded with persons begging for bread. The port is now open.

I cannot learn how long this order is to last, but no charges on cargo or vessel are now made; since which but too vessels have arrived, the brig Eclipse, of Bath, and a brig from Sandwich, which with the lumber in the yards is sufficient for immediate supplies. On the 15th two French frigates, two brigs of war, two schooners and a steamboat from Martinique, arrived with men, who at once set themselves at work digging out the dead, and pulling down the broken walls which remained standing. There are no banks here, and no particular place for the deposit of money, each merchant having his iron safe. The circulation here is doubloons, dollars and francs. A large amount of specie lies buried under the rubbish, and the first night, while the fire was raging, no order was taken to protect it, consequently large amounts were stolen.

One lady lost from her safe one thousand doubloons and a number lost less amounts; but the next morning a strong military guard surrounded the city, since which no theft has occurred. The store-houses and shops were well filled with merchandise, no part of which was saved, so that the loss of property, independent of buildings, is very great. It is said there is not a single instance where insurance was effected, and this has continued as a practice for many years. The Moule, a small place fifteen miles from this, was laid in ruins and many lives were lost. Basseterre suffered somewhat, but lost no lives. The probability is that Antigua, Montserat, St. Kitts and Nevis have suffered, as the earthquake took a N. W. direction.

☞ LOCO FOCO ROWDYISM.—Of the late election in Concord, Hill's Patriot speaks as follows. By Radicals the Patriot means the Hubbard party.

RADICALISM, RUM AND RUIN.—The Radical party owes from fifty to one hundred votes