



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA: THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 23, 1858.

The Atlantic Telegraph Experiment. The news which we published yesterday, gave an account of the failure, for the present, to lay the Atlantic Telegraph Cable.

This great enterprise was one which had the best wishes, doubtless, of the whole civilized world, and the disappointment which its failure must occasion, will be felt in both hemispheres. Still there is no reason to believe that it will one day be a *fait accompli*.

According to the N. York Post, Prof. Morse has never expected that the expedition which has just failed, would be successful, though he is quite sanguine that a cable can be laid and worked between the termini which the Company has selected.

The Philadelphia Ledger argues that the present failure to lay the cable must not be considered an entire abandonment of the effort to unite America with Europe by means of the telegraph.

"At a recent meeting of stockholders of various Telegraphic Companies, including the Magnetic Telegraph Company, extending from New York to Washington; the Union Companies of Boston, and eastward; and the Great Southern Seaboard Line from Washington to New Orleans, a resolution was adopted to assist in the project of uniting the United States and Europe by a telegraph line, via Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands, the required gear, having been made to T. P. Shafer, of Kentucky, for laying the cable, and its necessary connection over the Territories of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Russia, with a promise of all the materials and necessary aid for the same and certain communication to and from all nations. The route by land presents, it is said, no greater difficulties than the present Newfoundland route, and the greatest single stretch of sub-marine cable does not exceed six hundred miles, which is as long as any experiment has yet proved that a circuit of electricity can be transmitted through a conducting wire with intensity sufficient for practical telegraphic purposes.

The Union of yesterday says:—"We learn that the War Department has provided reinforcements for Col. Stepien, who were to sail from New York to-day. In addition to the troops to be sent, the department has purchased a large number of Sharpe's best rifles, and an abundant supply of ammunition. It is thought that if the force under the command of Col. Stepien had been equipped with this formidable weapon, the result of the fight would have been totally different."

A Convention of railroad agents, we learn from the Cincinnati Commercial, was held recently at Louisville, Ky., to make some improvement in the freight rates from that point. It was stated that flour was being carried from Louisville to New York for ninety (90) cents per bushel, and fourth-class freights at sixty-five (65) cents. Nothing was done in the premises.

Lady B. Lytton has recently been placed in a lunatic asylum near London. Her friends are about to take steps to endeavor to establish her sanity by an appeal to the law. The English papers say that Lady Bulwer Lytton has most shamefully treated her husband, and that he is an injured and persecuted man.

The Salt Lake mail of the 26th ult., has captured St. Joseph's. Gen. Johnston, with Capt. Marcy, had entered Salt Lake City.—The Mormons have been invited to return and resume their possessions and dwellings. Provo is still the Mormon rallying point. The express, with orders from the War Department to Gen. Harney, was passed six miles in rear of the General.

A correspondent, writing from Ohio Farm, Illinois, says:—"Timothy seed, which has been quite a staple in this part of the country, is being destroyed by a worm that much resembles the army worm, but of a lighter color. They climb the stalk and eat the seed out of the chaff. In some fields that I have examined, one-half the seed is already destroyed, and they are still at work."

The Washington States insists that there shall be an investigating Committee raised at the next session of Congress, to enquire into the transactions of John Appleton, Assistant Secretary of State, in connection with the public printing, advertising, binding, &c.

The Washington Star says that if the good people of Maine understand their true interest, they will allow as many of their present Representatives as they can well get rid of, to remain at home, and send other, better, more national and more rational gentlemen, to fill their places.

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An item of news in yesterday's Gazette, should have read that Gov. Denver has returned (not from Kansas,) having accomplished the object of his visit to Washington.

F. C. Ruffin, esq., who has so ably conducted the Southern Planter for the last eight years, retires, and will be succeeded by Dr. James E. Williams, of Henrico county, Va. matter altogether out of the depth of the usual calculation we please. If it is possible to measure out approximately the length of a wire by electrical experiments at one end, then we have nothing to do but wonder at the progress of science and art. But we wait for further information, particularly from the people on board the Agamemnon.

A letter from Mr. Forsyth, the American Minister at Mexico, speaking of the recent Earthquake in Mexico says:—"It appears to have been more severe on the Pacific than the Atlantic slope, as we hear of several villages totally destroyed in that region. If Mexico had been built in the fragile style of an American city, it would now be a mass of ruins. With all its massive walls, it has had a narrow escape. The earthquake was unaccompanied by any noise except the cracking of beams and stone walls, and the banging of open doors and windows.—The heavy masonry of the Chapultepec queduct was broken and wasting the water in more than a hundred places within the space of a mile and a half. No living person remembers a movement of equal violence and duration. Houses which have stood a hundred years have opened their seams to the fury of this one."

The New York Herald gives full particulars of the latest developments in the Blount-Zouave case—under the "imposing" head of "Adventures of Miss Blount since her departure from Hoboken—she is taken from the Hotel Napoleon at the dead of night by Mr. Huncke and lawyer Mulford—their arrival in Elizabeth City—she is secreted at the house of the Postmaster of Gloucester City—sudden appearance of the Zouave, who has an interview with Miss Blount at four o'clock A. M.—her flight to Carpenter's Point—she becomes disgusted with the Zouave and determines to return to her father—her flight to Philadelphia, where she puts herself under the protection of the Police—she is overtaken by her pursuers—her final arrival at Dr. De Wees—the proceedings before the Court—John Huncke charged with perjury—lawyer Mulford also implicated—his letter to Miss Blount, etc., etc." Is there not enough of this stuff?

The bill to remove the disabilities under which the Jews now labor, relative to seats in the British Parliament, which has passed the House of Commons, and passed to a second reading in the House of Lords, will be amended in some particulars, and probably pass. The Earl of Derby said that he had no reason to suppose that if both Houses of Parliament passed the bill, her Majesty would interpose her prerogative to prevent its becoming a law. Some amendments he thought would be required in the bill.

Upon the recent retirement of Judge G. W. Summers from the Bench, the bar of Kanawha county unanimously passed resolutions approving of his whole judicial course. Judge Summers is once more a private citizen. But a man of his talents and capabilities belongs to his country, and we hope to see him, and such men as Wm. C. Rives, John Janney, and Robert E. Scott, again in public life, acting for the good of the public, and the best interests of the State and the Nation.

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The scheme for the improvement of the Mattaponi river is prosecuted, and \$8000 have been already subscribed to the work.

The Fredericksburg Recorder declares that "Senator Douglas and the Democratic party have taken a final leave of each other, an adieu necessitated by his unrepeated apostasy, and persistent hostility to its measures, its principles, and its Administration. Which can best sustain the loss of the other, it would be ridiculous to investigate."

Mrs. Masgrove, wife of Mr. Christopher Masgrove, residing near Shallow Ford, on Stanton River and about 20 miles south of Liberty, in Bedford County, Va., was most indignantly murdered on Saturday last. A negro woman has been arrested on suspicion of being the guilty party.

An accident involving the life of one person, and the smashing up of three passenger coaches, occurred on Saturday last near Jonesborough, on the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad.

Nearly one half of the total number of deaths in New York, last week, were of infants under one year of age. There were 10 fatal cases of cholera infantum.

Council of Sons of Malta. PHILADELPHIA, July 20.—Second Day.—The chairman of the business committee offered a report, which was adopted, for the formation of a consistory, consisting of two delegates from each lodge represented; after which, the council adjourned sine die.

The consistory subsequently met, and elected Dr. A. S. Jones, of New York, chairman. On motion, it was resolved, that this select body be hailed as a Supreme Grand Council of the Sons of Malta of the United States, Cuba, and Mexico, to act in concert with the supreme grand lodges of Europe.

The following officers were then elected: Supreme Grand Commander, Howell Henry; Vice Grand Commander, Curtis Guild, of Mass.; Grand Chancellor, Daniel W. Boss, of Illinois; Grand Secretary, H. L. Peterson, of Pennsylvania; Grand Treasurer, James T. Fisher, of Ohio; Grand Comptroller, George W. Day, of New York. After the appointment of various committees the Supreme Council adjourned at 4 P. M., until the second Monday in October, to meet in New York city.

The visiting members from Havana, France, England, and Germany were admitted to the floor, and appeared greatly interested in the proceedings.

A universal Convention of all the lodges in the world is spoken of, and will probably take place in the year 1859.

Grubbing. The Washington States, though seeking for it through democratic spectacles, has not been able to find the authority by which Secretary Cobb has appropriated a government vessel for the private recreation of himself and his friends. "In imperial and monarchal government," it says, "it is the custom of Emperors, Kings, and Queens to appropriate vessels belonging to the State for their special household use. Notwithstanding they are disposed to adopt the manners of foreign nations, and even to attempt, in many ways, the show-even jim-crackery of royalty, we have firm faith in the popular sentiment that such inroads on our republican institutions cannot be productive of the amount of evil some persons think. It is well to know, however, by what law or authority the Secretary of the Treasury can detail a Government vessel for the mere purpose of a pleasure excursion." We would hold the old-fashioned Democracy of the days of Jackson and Polk say to such an abuse of authority, especially at a time when its use being directed otherwise would be productive of needful results.—Petersburg Int. [Some of the papers say, it was not a pleasure excursion, but a trial trip, to ascertain the capabilities of the steamer.]

Screw Propeller Striking a Whale. The Rev. B. Jenkins, writing from Shanghai, China, to the Southern Christian Advocate of Charleston, S. C., states that "A remarkable occurrence took place when H. M.'s screw steam gun-vessel Nimrod was proceeding, under steam, for the entrance of the river Min, on the 10th April. When about four miles outside Sharp Peak, a violent concussion was experienced by all on board, as if the ship had struck the ground, but knowing from the position she could not be the case, the real cause was evidenced on looking astern, on their discovering a large whale, severed nearly in two, blowing convulsively and bleeding so profusely as to reddon the water all around. The whale's head and neck were struck with much violence by the screw-propeller, and indeed the engines were brought to a momentary standstill by the shock. Unusual and unlikely as this may appear, it is, nevertheless, a fact."

Mr. Ten Brock in England. Mr. Ten Brock the champion of American horsemanship in England, now has in his stable a fine brood of five of them American bred, four of them purchased in England. The horse "Redwood," which he bought in England, and which won a recent race at Abingdon, was by the terms of the race to be claimed by any party who chose to purchase for eighty sovereigns, and was taken by Mr. Joseph Dawson. The first race in which the American horses appear will be the priously Goodwood, where Charleston and Priores are both nominated. Both horses are moderately weighed, 13 and 11½ pounds respectively, but as Charleston has been bought in England, and Priores is not, there is little probability that any horse will come to American horses from the contest.

Wife Pinching. The Hartford Free Press gives the following synopsis of a case which occurred at Bristol, Connecticut:—"A man—call him Smith—went to bed and wanted the bedroom door left open. His wife thought that was a bad habit, and she went to bed an hour after, but before the dispute was settled he pinched her.—They both went to sleep, and the next day she went home to her father. She complained to the grand juror, and Smith was fined \$6 and costs. Smith appealed to the superior court. His defence was that she threw her leg that way and hit a nail which he was suffering, and that he merely struck out to save himself. Two lawyers on each side were engaged."

A Promising Young Man. Master Stewart, a lad of seventeen years, was discovered on board the steamer Arabia, as she was proceeding down the harbor, he having secreted himself with a view to complete his education by foreign travel! He was put on board a pilot-boat, from which he was transferred to the care of a fishing party, in a pleasure yacht. He was well taken care of, and Mr. Jas. Cochran, of Charlottesville, one of the company, took him home to give him a supper and a night's lodging. While at Mr. C.'s house, the young gentleman stole a valuable watch, and left the premises, without expressing his thanks for the entertainment he had received.—Boston Jour.

The Healthiest Months. At a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society in Boston, an interesting paper was read by Dr. B. Cutter on "Zymosis." It was illustrated by a diagram showing the experiments which were made in 1857. The healthiest months were April, May and June. There was more sickness in September than in any other month in the year, although that month was the driest. By this it was inferred that a humid atmosphere is more conducive to health than a dry one.

News of the Day.

Up the James river some eighty miles, and down about the same distance, and across the country from Scottsville to Charlottesville, and then down the Central road to Richmond, the wheat is inferior in quality, and scarcely half a crop. On some plantations, where there has been a large outlay for fertilizers, there is a very large growth of straw, but of grain not as much as is usual in a good season without any guano. The oats are being badly rusted, and in some places there are hundreds of acres not worth cutting. Tobacco and corn, on the other hand, present a very promising appearance.

A duel took place in Illinois, on Tuesday, between John C. Moore, esq., and Mr. L. Bouvier, both of St. Louis. Mr. Bouvier designated as his choice of weapons, duelling pistols; distance twelve paces; Mr. Menard acting for Mr. Bouvier, and Mr. C. L. Richards for Mr. Moore. On arriving at the ground, the distance being measured, articles read, and the principals placed in their positions, the word was given by Mr. Menard, who had won both the giving of the word and the choice of position, and a fire was had without effect. A second fire was declined by Mr. Menard, on the score of conscience, when the parties left the ground.

The store of Messrs. Vernon, Baker & Co., Burgh Hill, Trumbull county, Ohio, was blown up on Wednesday afternoon, by the explosion of two kegs of powder; and two boys, one a son of Mr. Vernon, the other named Albert Fowler, so seriously injured that they died shortly after. The powder was in the second story of the building, and the boys, while at play, were taking a train on the floor, which, upon being fired, communicated to the keg. The explosion was tremendous. The building was shattered to pieces, and the stock of goods was somewhat damaged.

Robert Brown, the greatest British, and greatest of European botanists—*botanicorum facile princeps*, as Humboldt justly termed him—died at London on the 10th ult., in his 85th year. He distinguished himself by a number of those monographs which scientists often resort to of attracting popular attention, so that many will bear of his name for the first time with the announcement of his decease, though wherever science is cultivated, his name and influence have long been felt as a power.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Frank Leslie, in New York, on a charge of libel, preferred against him by Alderman Reed. The charge is based upon a wood cut in the last number of Frank Leslie's paper, which represented several Aldermen busily engaged in whitewashing a swill-milk stable, while the proprietor is filling their pockets with bags filled with \$5,000. An officer is in search of Leslie.

A mixed-up blunder occurred the other day, which is worth telling. Mr. Cullamer, Superintendent of the Central Road, at Niagara Falls, sent a dispatch to a subordinate in Buffalo, requesting him to send down four hoes for his wife, who had a swollen foot. The operator mistook the word hoes, and made it cohes, whereupon they came at the tail of the next passenger train!

Davy's well known safety lamp has met with a formidable competitor in that of M. Mueseler, a mining engineer of Belgium.—Thousands of these lamps are said to be in use. In this lamp a part of the metallic covering, which surrounds the flame, and forms the chimney, is replaced by glass. This modification insures a much stronger light than that given by the Davy lamp.

While some of the club boats were practicing on the Connecticut river at Springfield, on Saturday evening, preparatory to the regatta of the 23d, a collision occurred between a light four-oared boat of the Yale Navy, and a Springfield club-boat, by which the former was wrecked, and one of her crew, named Geo. E. Jones, a junior of Yale College, was drowned.

The Cleveland Review facetiously remarks of the balloon ascension at Cleveland, on the 5th:—"As the balloon arose above the trees, M. Godard performed the arduous and pleasing feat of emptying a bag of sand down into the upturned eyes and mouths of the gaping chimney, which was replaced by glass. This modification insures a much stronger light than that given by the Davy lamp."

Nearly twelve hundred thousand copies of Webster's Spelling-books were sold by one firm in Boston last year, and it is estimated that more than ten times as many are sold of Webster's Dictionaries as of any other series in this country. Four-fifths of all the school books published in the United States are said to own Webster as their standard.

The Appleton announce the forthcoming appearance of a sparkling society poem, by Wm. Allen Butler, esq., the author of "Nothing to Wear," and all literary and gossiping people in Gotham are consequently on the qui vive for something especially sparkling and piquant, Butler being the raciest writer in his walk, of the times.

The Cumberland Civilian records the death of Vernon Hebb, esq., a well known citizen of that town; and announces that the trustees of the Mineral Bank propose paying to the creditors of that institution a second dividend, of about 25 per cent, on the 1st of October.

The steam-propeller Brooklyn, built under contract by Jacob A. Westervelt, of the Westervelt ship-yard, New York, will be launched on the morning of the 27th inst., exactly seven months from the date of the laying of the keel; a degree of despatch not often witnessed with vessels.

Alderman Murray, of New York, died on Monday. He has been unwell since his return from the Monroe obsequies at Richmond. He was at first attacked with diarrhoea, which is said to have resulted in a violent case of cholera. He was only 28 years of age.

The report of Dr. Walker's resignation of the Presidency of Harvard College is wholly without foundation. He has not resigned "to take effect at commencement," nor has he any thought of retiring from the station which he fills.

Mr. James F. Whaling has resigned the office of General Freight Agent, at the Depot of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.—Thomas Jellis, esq., has been appointed his successor, and is now engaged in the discharge of his duties.

The bodies of four of the girls from the House of Mercy, near New York, who were drowned on Friday night, have been found, and search is still kept up for the fifth.

Celebration of 4th of July in London.

The Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, was celebrated in London, by the American residents in that city. The American Minister at the Court of St. James, was present, and delivered the following speech:—"Mr. Chairman and Fellow-Citizens: I had promised myself, in consequence of continued ill-health for some time past, to abstain from anything so exciting as public speaking; but it is unfortunately the 4th of July (laughter and cheers), and I find it impossible to remain silent on such a day after you have received the mention of my humble name so kindly and so cordially. A few years ago it would have been thought discourteous and intrusive had one or more American citizens ventured upon the celebration of the 4th of July, 1776, in the great city of London.—The old wounds were still fresh, old feelings still survived, and the passions of the United States were here had the good taste as well as the forbearance not to do that which might have been misinterpreted, so as to be disagreeable to those among whom they were residing.

But now, gentlemen, we feel much more at ease. The principles of the American Revolution have gone on conquering and to conquer. (Cheers.) They have received the approbation, cordially, but certainly, of all the wise and good in England as well as in the United States. They have become perfectly understood—they have been admitted, and the impressions of hostility which, being misinterpreted, they originally created. The principles of the American Revolution are acceptable here as they are at home. (Cheers.) The men of our heroic days—our Washingtons, our Jeffersons, our Madisons, and our heroes in the battle-field, are known now in England almost as well as they are in the United States, and are honored as much here as there. (Cheers.) The progress, then, of the principles of the Revolution of the United States has been striking, and has produced that to which I have already adverted—the propriety of our meeting to celebrate the origin of those principles in London as well as elsewhere. (Hear, hear.)

Do not for a moment suppose that I am availing myself of a detached part of the toast just given in order to draw the conclusion that the recognition of those principles has been brought about in any degree by the diplomacy of the United States. (Hear and a laugh.) The truth is—and you are, perhaps, not aware of the fact—that we have no American diplomacy. (A laugh.) In England and on the continent, diplomacy is a thing of course. With us it is nothing of the kind. American diplomacy, compared to European diplomacy, may be likened to the militia as contrasted with the regular army. (Laughter.) To be sure, in the United States, from the outset, we have always had a territoriality for the militia. (Hear, hear.) Our first military achievements were gained by an arm among whom were some of the bravest possible militia. (Hear, and a laugh.) And it has so happened, probably by accident, that our militia has over and over again equaled to the best regulars of Europe. (Cheers.)

It is in that way, perhaps, that the diplomacy of the United States has been able to do something towards giving expansion and popularity to the principles of the American Revolution. Although our Ministers abroad have been drawn from the ranks of private and professional life, on very many occasions at the most distinguished Courts of Europe and throughout the world, in conflict, or in the exercise of our diplomatic relations with any country, those ministers of diplomacy have achieved remarkable success. (Hear, hear.) I might refer, if I were disposed to empty upon you the arches of the American Legion here or elsewhere (a laugh), to many striking instances of this kind; and as I propose to conclude my remarks by suggesting a particular name to your approbation, it may be proper to say that the list of our American diplomatists, beginning with Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and William Whitney, includes a long array of illustrious "ambassadors diplomatis," who have left behind them a record of the most glowing and gratifying character. (Cheers.)

At this very hour some of my predecessors may be compared to the very best of the drilled cohorts of European diplomacy.—There is one little word, which is to a certain extent connected with American diplomacy, on which I will say a word. You know that we have recently had some difficulties on the coast of the United States, and in the West Indian Seas (hear)—a matter with which as one of the militiamen in the diplomacy of the United States, I was lately charged. Now, without referring to that question more closely, it is a point which is essentially connected with one of the fundamental principles of the American Revolution—that principle being the necessity of maintaining on behalf of the great American people, as a great community, the independence of their flag. (Cheers.) Well I am not going to argue the question as to visit and search. It has been over and over again, for years back, argued and reargued. But I should like to see the 4th of July to announce to my fellow countrymen that visit and search in regard to American vessels on the high seas in time of peace is frankly and finally ended. (Tremendous cheering, the whole company rising and manifesting the liveliest interest.)

While, gentlemen, I am able to announce this gratifying fact, I think it ought also to be accompanied by the assurance that the termination of that for which we have struggled for nearly half a century has been brought about with a degree of honorable candor and fair dealing on the part of the British Government which is worthy of every acknowledgment on our part. (Loud cheers.) With a view to draw these remarks to a close, I beg leave to offer you as a toast the name of one of the earliest representatives alike of the principles of the American Revolution and of the constitution of the United States, and of the author of the Declaration of Independence. (Loud cheers.)

The toast was drunk in solemn silence.

Working his Passage. There is a story about town, that a man on board the Empire State, Monday night, went into one of the wheel-houses while the boat was at the wharf in New York, and lying down on one of the benches composed himself to sleep. He did not awake until the boat was under way. Of course, there was no getting off, but though he made good use of his hands in order for assistance, and he was compelled to make the trip to Newport in this no means comfortable "state room." "Pitney his phelinks," as the water dashed over him, while he was obliged to hold on for dear life. Arriving at Newport, he managed to make himself heard, and was released from his perilous position. We have not heard that any extra charge was made for the "state room" in this instance.—Newport News.

PORT PLAIN SEMINARY.—W. H. BAIN, NESTER, A. M., Principal, a first class Seminary. Perfectly arranged, beautifully located, and with an able corps of Teachers. Term of 14 weeks in common English per term of 14 weeks \$25 if paid in advance.

Full term opens August 23d—Winter term opens December 14th. For further particulars address the Principal.

Fort Plain, N. Y., July 17—603*

BORSE SPRING WAGON.—Best article, for sale by ISAAC PAUL, 19-1w corner of King and Water-sts.

The late Gen. Quitman.

He was the leader of the Secession party in Mississippi, and was unsuccessful as their candidate for Governor; afterwards recovered his popularity, and was elected a Representative in Congress; was complimented with the chairmanship of the Military Committee by a Black Republican Speaker; was arrested, tried and acquitted upon a charge of organizing an expedition for the invasion of Cuba; was subsequently supported for the Vice Presidency in two Democratic Conventions at Cincinnati; opposed the nomination of Fill for the presidency of Kansas, and was the predestinated leader of a Southern Rights organization in 1850,—that Gen. Quitman's life was distinguished by these interesting passages, is sufficiently well known. One event, however, in General Quitman's history demands a more satisfactory elucidation. We allude to his connection with the expedition against Cuba. If we were at liberty, we might adduce the evidence of authentic papers, which were exhibited to the writer in the confidence of friendly intercourse with the deceased soldier, to prove that he acted in the matter from the highest motives of patriotism and with the most scrupulous regard to the laws of the country. Documents in the possession of Gen. Quitman's family will reveal, moreover, the slight circumstance by which he lost the glory of annexing Cuba to the American Confederacy, when the event appeared to be absolutely assured by imminent and organized insurrection in the island, and by adequate preparation for an irresistible attack from this country.—Rich. South.

The Excitement in California. Letters and papers received by the last mails, give graphic accounts of the excitement which pervades California. Those who have lately travelled through the mountains, say that the principal roads in the interior present an appearance similar to the retreat of a routed army. Stages, express wagons, and vehicles of every character are called into requisition for the immediate removal of the population, while whole battalions are pressing forward on horse or mule back, and on foot, to the points of shipment of merchandise from San Francisco are very large, to keep pace with this almost instantaneous emigration of thousands to a region totally unprovided with the commodities necessary for their use and sustenance.

A letter to the New York Times says:—"San Francisco looks like a mining city—just as she seemed ten years ago. Her streets are alive with red, blue and grey shoddy men—rough, stalwart fellows ranging about in squads, with picks, shovels, pans, blankets, and primitive tin rockers of one sort or another. Although we have passed since such scenes were witnessed here. Shopkeepers are over-run with customers they never dreamed of seeing at their counters.—This is the grand purchasing point of all sorts of miners' supplies, for the vast hordes of people congregating here from every part of California, bound for Puge's Sound. To complete their outfit a Colt's revolver, generally a pair of them, is deemed indispensable.

Fungus Flower from a Boy's Leg. It appears that a certain child of this place, at two years of age, became afflicted with the hip disease, and lingered on and grew, having attained to the age of fourteen years at the period of his death, a few weeks since. During a period of nine months previous to his death numerous abscesses were formed, and the lad was nearly reduced to a skeleton. A day or two previous to his death during the night, a double stem and two flowers grew from the calf of one of his legs, a little below the knee joint, the limb being apparently much swollen.—The writer states that "hundreds of seeds were found in the room after the boy's death, similar to those of the passion flower," and that "all say the flower resembles the passion rose."

The attending physician, Dr. Hayley, deemed it so wonderful as to require other witnesses to testify to the fact, and he accordingly called in Dr. Stevens, the Rev. Mr. Walker, and others.

This flower (fungus) grew in one night to the height of three and a half inches, and has since been sent to New York, where it is undergoing a thorough investigation, and will no doubt be lithographed and described by those having a literary opportunity to enter into the minutiae.—Laweater (Pa.) Times.

Abandoning of a Banker. We are more pained than surprised, says the Rochester Union, to learn that an accomplished banker, for some years in charge of a Bank at Peoria, Ill., but formerly of this city, has abandoned, leaving the Bank minus a large sum on his account. The sum is stated at \$25,000. In his last account, some time since, he gave his family to understand that he was going away on business, as he was accustomed to do. But it would seem that he went to New Orleans, where he was heard of, following the vice of gambling, which has proved his ruin. Thence he went to New York, and thence back to Charleston—whence it is supposed he took a steamer to some West India port. This man was in a Bank here for some time; but was compelled to leave because of his addiction to gambling and its usual concomitants. He went hence to Peoria, where his superior business qualifications immediately won for him a very high position. His fall is a sad one, and we can only have secured, in an honorable way, all the money he will ever need. But now he has lost it all; for it is supposed that the largest portion of the \$25,000 was gambled away before he abandoned. He left a wife and three children, quite destitute, and they have just returned to this city, where their friends reside.

A How Up. Mr. Rogers, of the Central Enquirer, published at Centerville, Bibb county, Alabama, was recently in Selma, and informed the editor of the Sentinel of a destructive blow in the former town. The Sentinel of the 9th says:—"On last Friday about dark, while Mr. Jacob D. Kersh was striking a match across the counter, in his grocery, preparatory to lighting a candle, a piece of the match dropped in a keg of powder which was standing open under the counter. As a matter of course, a tremendous explosion ensued, blowing one end of the house literally into fragments, setting Mr. Kersh's clothes on fire, and burning him in a most shocking manner, so badly that it is feared that he will not recover. Mr. Carson was in the grocery at the time, and was blown out of the house, but was in no way hurt. The upper story of the building was occupied by our friend Rogers, with his printing office. He says his types were scattered to the four winds of the earth, his cases split open, his press broken, and in fact making perfect pit of the whole office. Mr. Rogers and one or two of his hands had just left the office to go to supper, not more than five minutes before."

Cheerfulness in Age. As often as I hear the robin redbreast chant as cheerfully in September, the beginning of winter, as in March, the approach of summer, why should not we (think I) give cheerful entertainment to the hoary, frosty hairs of our age's winter as to the primroses of our youth's spring? Why not bow to the declining sun in adversity (as like Persius to the rising sun in prosperity)? I am sensible to the loss of youth, and I am sensible to learn innocence, to the extent to learn wisdom, and why not to this bird to learn equanimity and patience, and to keep the same tenor of my mind's quietness as well as the approach of calamity's winter as of the spring of happiness?—Warwick.

Long Vacations.

The Gazette of yesterday contained the complaint of "A Parent" with respect to the length of vacations. In the main, I agree with him; but if he will take the trouble to enquire into the cause of the abridgement school sessions, he will find that the fault lies not in the teachers, but in parents themselves.

A teacher requires a certain amount of money for his support, whether he carries on in nine, ten, or eleven months, is generally a matter of indifference to him, but his situation is similar to that of the students, because not engaged in other employment during the vacation, therefore, he must be paid for the entire year.

Now there are many persons who will keep their children at school in summer, as if a school is kept open, it must be with a view to the entire derangement of the attempts at classing, as well as to the pecuniary detriment of the proprietor, for the teacher who is paid for three quarters, won't pay for a fourth of course.

To illustrate this, a certain school in Alexandria which has perhaps as regular a punctual set of students as are to be found anywhere, was opened last September by thirty-four, and did not increase to fifty, a full number, until the 25th of October, six weeks after the expiration of a new vacation. After granting a little absence throughout the session, it fell on the 1st of June, to forty-three, and an average attendance during that month was not quite thirty-five (less than that had been in November to May, and this, when the teachers were required to pay as though they had been present.

An enquiry into the condition of schools would show as bad, if not a worse state of affairs, and while parents thus permit their children to be absent, when the school is, it is idle to expect teachers to finish their profits, by increasing their labor. Why, in the public free school in this place, of an average attendance of fifty, the Guardians have been told that the number would have been on the 1st of August, if not for the vacation, but for the month of November to May, and this, when the teachers were required to pay as though they had been present.

In conclusion,