

The Kansas News.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1857.

Diamond-Washing and Diamond-Cutting.

The diamond possesses a much higher and more uniform value than any other article of commerce. The supply has never so far exceeded the demand as to make any change in the price of cut stones. In 1843, when the mines at Sincora, in Bahai, were discovered, fears were entertained that a permanent depreciation would take place; but the very high prices which required to be paid for all the necessities of life, and the unhealthy nature of the climate, speedily reduced the number of diamond-seekers, and the fall was scarcely felt in Europe.

The tract of country in which the Brazilian diamonds are found, extends from the village of Iambe, in Minas-Geraes, in Sincora, on the river Paragussa of Bahai, between 20 deg. 19 min. and 13 deg. of south latitude. They are chiefly obtained from the numerous streams which form the sources of the rivers Doce, Arrasquak, Jequitinhonha and San Francisco. It is also highly probable that the auriferous regions of Australia, like those of South America, contain diamonds; two from the river Macquarie having been sent to the exhibition which was lately held at Paris.

Diamonds consist of pure carbon, and are often found in the form of eight or twelve sided crystals, the latter being the less common figure.

Of their formation in the great laboratory of nature, nothing is known; but they are supposed to exist originally in the mountains, whence they are carried down into the valleys by the torrents which flow during the rainy seasons. The degradation of the rocks must be accomplished by the powerful agency of the tropic floods; and the precious gems which are thus excavated, must be deposited in the sedimentary debris which form the beds of the rivers before the search of man becomes successful. The parent stone, or matrix, is a mica schist, called Itacolunite, whose fragments mixed with earth form the cascalho, which is dug from the rivers, and in which the diamond-seeker finds his treasure. In South America, the alluvium of the rivers not only contains diamonds; but gold and platinum, though both these metals are generally so finely powdered as almost to defy collection by the ordinary process of washing. The river Jequitinhonha is one of the richest in Brazil, and the works on its banks have been carried on for a long period. When the dry season, which continues from April to the middle of October, has reduced the depth of water, the river is turned aside into a canal previously formed by making an embankment, with bags of sand, over the original channel. The water which remains is then pumped out, the mud dug to a depth varying from six to twenty feet, and removed to the place where the washing is afterwards to be performed. While the dry season continues, the labour of collecting the cascalho is carried on unremittingly, so as to have a sufficient quantity to occupy the negroes during the rainy months. The mud which is raised from some of the rivers contains diamonds so uniformly diffused, that a pretty correct approximation can be made to the number of carats which a given quantity will produce. It sometimes happens, however, that grooves are found containing large quantities of diamonds and gold.

When the rainy season puts a stop to the raising of the cascalho, the scene of operations is changed to the washing-shed, near which the result of the dry season's labors has been heaped up. The troughs, called canoes, are arranged side by side, and the overseer occupies an elevated seat in front, so as to observe every movement of the working negroes. Into each of the canoes, a small stream of water is introduced, to carry away the earthy part of the cascalho. Having placed half a hundred-weight of the cascalho in the canoe, the negro lets in the stream, and keeps up a constant motion till the mud has been all washed away and the water runs perfectly clear. The gravel is then taken out by the hand, and carefully examined for diamonds. When one is found, the negro stands upright, and claps his hands, as a signal to the overseer, who receives it from the finder, and places it in a bowl with water, which is hung in the midst of the shed. The day's work being finished, all the diamonds which have been found are delivered to the superintendent, who enters their weight in a book. Large diamonds are exceeding rare. It has been calculated that, on an average, out of 10,000 there are seldom more than one found which weighs twenty carats, while there are others of 8,000, each of which is less than one. At the works on the river Jequitinhonha, there have rarely been found more than two or three stones weighing from seventeen to twenty carats each in the washings of a year; in the whole diamond-mines of Brazil, not more than one is found, in two years, of thirty carats. In 1851, a stone of 120 3/8 carats was found at the source of the river Patrocinho, in Minas-Geraes; afterwards, one of 107 carats, on the Rio das Velhas; and another of 87 1/2 at Chapada. But the largest which has been obtained of late years is "The Star of the South," which previous to being cut, weighed 254 carats.

Many precautions are used to prevent the negroes from concealing the stones they find; such as frequently causing them to remove at a given signal, from one trough to another. Encouragements are also offered to induce them to pursue the search with great care. The negro who finds a diamond of 17 1/2 carats is crowned with a wreath of flowers, and carried in procession to the administrator, who gives him his freedom, a suit of clothes, and permission to work on his own account. One who was present when a stone of 16 1/2 carats was found at Tejuco, says: "It was pleasing to see the anxious desire manifested by the officers that it might entitle the poor negro to his freedom; and when, on being delivered and weighed, it proved only a carat short of the requisite weight, all seemed to sympathize in his disappointment." A stone of eight or

ten carats entitles the finder to two new shirts, a suit of clothes, a hat and handsome knife. For smaller, but valuable stones, proportionate premiums are given. Brazil sends yearly into the trade about 30,000 carat-weight of uncut diamonds. During the two years after the discovery of the diamond-mine at Sincora, in Bahai, 600,000 carats were sent to Europe; but in 1852 the quantity had fallen to 130,000.

The labor expended in collecting that small bag of dull glassy stones is immense. One can easily lift with the hand the product of a year's digging and washing; yet, to bring them together, much sweat has flowed while the steaming negroes dug the clay under a burning tropic sun. The whip has many a time roused the flagging energies, or sharpened the search among the gravel in the washing-trough. Not a few have perished, and been laid by their companions under the dark green tree, from whose branches hang garlands of lovely orchidee. And to fill up the blanks which have been in the ranks of the toiling slaves of Brazil, many have been dragged from the coast of Africa, in spite of the efforts of this country to prevent the unholy traffic. The humanity of some, however, and the self-interest of others have led them to frame rules which mitigate slavery in connection with the diamond-mines of Brazil. The rewards which are offered, not only prove an incentive to careful search, but impart a spirit to the labor which must render it less irksome. But the lash is still in the hand of the overseer, and numbers of the human family are kept down to the level of beasts of burden.

The process of cutting brings out the inherent beauty of the diamond, and greatly enhances its value. Even after the stone has been cut, if unskillfully done, the sparkling beauty of the gem is wanting. No change of position which the commissioner tried could make the Koh-i-noor appear, at the London Exhibition, much superior to a piece of rock-crystal; but, after having been re-cut, it became one of the choicest brilliants. For a long period, the Jews of Amsterdam have almost exclusively monopolized that branch of industry. At the time when they were persecuted in all other nations of Europe, the liberal laws and flourishing trade of Amsterdam encouraged them to settle there in great numbers; and the diamond-mills were erected under the special protection which the States of Holland afforded to capital and enterprise. It is calculated that not fewer than 10,000, out of the 28,000 Jews who live in Amsterdam, depend directly and indirectly on the diamond trade.

The Diamond-Cutters' Company under the direction of Mr. Posno, have three factories, all worked by steam. The united capacity of the engines is ninety-five horsepower, driving 438 mills, and employing 925 workers. There are two other diamond-cutting factories in Amsterdam, the one belonging to the firm of B. L. M. Arons, conducted by Mr. Prins, having an engine of six horse-power, driving forty mills, and employing seventy people; the other is the property of Mr. Coster, with a steam-power of forty horses, driving seventy-two mills, and giving work to 150 hands. In the factories of the Diamond Cutters' Company, and that of Mr. Prins, the mills are let to those who are not shareholders, at a fixed rate, for the hour or day. Mr. Coster's mills on the other hand, are driven on his own account; and to him have been intrusted the two most valuable gems that have been cut in late years, the Koh-i-noor and Star of the South.

Having obtained an introduction, the visitor to this mill is treated with the greatest attention. He no sooner enters one of the flats, than the heads of a dozen persons are stretched forward, offering their service to explain the various steps in the process. The seats of the workmen are arranged along the side-walls of the building, and before each is a circular metal plate, revolving horizontally with great velocity. A short lever of iron rests with one extremity on the bench, and the other on the revolving plane. The diamond-polisher stops the motion, and, lifting the lever, shows the stranger that the end which rested on the mill has an amalgam placed upon it, in which the stone is fixed, so as to leave only the side exposed which is being ground. Handing the lever to an assistant, it is put into a small furnace, heated, and then returned to the polisher. The amalgam is now soft, and the diamond, having been picked out, is replaced with the part exposed which is next to undergo the action of the mill. A clever workman can keep two, or even three small diamonds on the mill at once; but the greatest care has to be taken that they are not exposed too long. The minute facets of diamonds, so small as to require from 1,500 to 2,000 for a single carat's weight, can be easily overcut, and the stone destroyed. In the Netherlands division of the exhibition at Paris, rose-diamonds were exhibited which required 1,500 to the carat; and that is not the limit to which the cutting can be carried.

The stone having been fixed in the amalgam, which is then hardened by cooling it in water, the workman shows the visitor a little box of fine powder, of which a minute quantity is put, with a few drops of oil, on the mill. This is the diamond-dust with which alone the polishing can be accomplished, and it possesses a value of about £60 sterling the ounce. It is chiefly obtained in the first process which the diamond undergoes after it has come from the artist, who, if it is a valuable stone, draws out a plan by which it may be cut with the smallest loss of weight. Leaving the mills, we ascend to this department, and find that the workman does everything without the aid of machinery. Having taken two small wooden levers or handles, he selects two diamonds, and fixes one in each. The rough form of the facets are then made smooth by rubbing the one diamond against the other over a little box, which receives the powder as it falls.

The Star of the South, a brilliant of the purest water, as seen at the Paris Exhibition, was cut in the factory of Mr. Coster; and the ablest artist of the establishment, Mr. Vorsanger, had the honor of successfully re-cutting the Koh-i-noor in the work-

shop of the crown jeweler in London. The medaille d'honneur, which the imperial commissioners at Paris assigned "pour les lapidaires diamantaires ne Hollandais; taille de diamants et roses livres au commerce," was well bestowed.

The Koh-i-noor, when presented to Her Majesty Queen Victoria by the East India Company was of an irregular egg-form, and the cutting had been so unskillfully executed that its appearance scarcely surpassed that of cut crystal. In the sides were grooves which had been cut for the purpose of fastening it in the former setting, and near the top was a small split. To remove these without greatly reducing the weight, presented considerable difficulties, but Mr. Coster was of opinion that these might be overcome in the hands of a skillful workman. Several models were presented to Her Majesty, out of which she selected the form it now bears, that of a regular brilliant. To accomplish the work of re-cutting, a small engine, of four horse-power was erected to drive the diamond mills. The cutting was commenced on the 16th of July 1852, and finished in thirty-eight working-days of twelve hours each. In removing one of the flaws, the speed of the revolving plane required to be increased to 3,000 revolutions per minute, and even then the object was attained slowly. The velocity with which the mill rotates, and pressure on the lever which rests the diamond upon the plane, alone give power to the workman. That pressure may either be applied by the hand, or weights proportioned to the size of the stone and nature of the work. In cutting the Koh-i-noor, it was regulated so as to be capable of being increased from one to fifteen Netherlands pounds.

The process reduced the Koh-i-noor from 186 1/6 carats to 106 1/16; considerably under the average loss, which is estimated at one-half or more. The Star of the South, when uncut, weighed 254 carats, and is now 125, the reduction being somewhat more than half. No large diamonds were ever before cut with so little diminution of their weight. The "Regent," which belongs to the crown-jewels of France, lost nearly two-thirds. But this is not the only circumstance which points out the great progress made in the art of diamond-cutting. The time required to perform the work has been very much shortened. The Regent occupied two years; while the Koh-i-noor, which is only thirty-seven carats lighter, was finished in less than six weeks; and the Star of the South, twelve carats smaller than the Regent, was cut in three months. Moreover, no one can look at the cabinet of models in Mr. Coster's room without recognizing the superiority of the Koh-i-noor and the Star of the South over any of the other gems which belong to the sovereigns of Europe.

The manner in which the value of cut diamonds is calculated, makes it of the greatest importance that the weight should be reduced as little as possible. A stone of one carat is valued at £8 sterling, while one twice the weight is worth £32; the rule being, "the square of the weight multiplied by the price of a stone weighing unity" gives the true value. According to this principle, the Koh-i-noor is worth £90,000, and the Star of the South £125,000. But the rule is never applied to stones of a very large size; these possess a value altogether arbitrary.

By cutting, the peculiar brilliancy of the diamond is brought out, and its value fixed. Then the jeweler adds new beauty by tasteful setting. His skillful combination of various kinds of precious stones, so that the one may impart splendor to the other, makes the stary rays of the diamond sparkle with glory in the tiara, brooch or necklace. During the last twenty years, great progress has been made in the art of setting, of which splendid specimens were exhibited both at the London and Paris Exhibitions. Rubies, sapphires, emeralds, and diamonds are now formed into anemones, roses, carnations, tulips, convolvuli, lilies, and other flowers. Probably, the idea originated with the glory which is seen, early on a summer morning, when the rising sun shines on the dewy flowers.

The revolution in France, at the end of the last century, nearly ruined the jewelers of Paris, and for a time gave a check to improvement. Under the imperial government of Napoleon I., some progress was again made, but the art only began to flourish after the restoration. At first, they worked with stones of the second class, such as topazes, amethysts, and algaemarines, with which trinkets of more appearance than value could be made. Afterward, it was found that by imitating flowers, the number of precious stones, in proportion to the size of the jewel, could be reduced without injuring the effect; while diamonds of less purity, such as those of Bahai, could be more freely used. The practice of setting diamonds in silver, and rubies in gold, so as to impart an apparent increase of size to the one, and splendor of color to the other, became more general; and the most beautiful designs have been wrought out with the greatest neatness and taste. At no period in the history of the world have so fine specimens of the jeweler's art been produced as during the present century by the artists of London and Paris.—Chambers' Journal.

The Bird of the Tolling Bell. Among the highest woods and the deepest glens of Brazil, a sound is sometimes heard, so singular that the noise seems quite unnatural; it is like the distant and solemn tolling of a church bell struck at long intervals. This extraordinary noise proceeds from the Arapango. This bird sits on the top of the highest tree in the deepest forest, and though constantly heard in the most desert places, it is very rarely seen. It is impossible to conceive anything of a more solitary character than the profound silence of the woods broken only by the metallic and almost supernatural sound of this invisible bird, coming from the air, and seeming to follow wherever you go. The Arapango is white, with a circle of red around its eyes. Its size is about that of a small pigeon.

Punch on the Mammoth Steamship "Great Eastern."

Several incorrect statements having appeared in reference to the Great Eastern (now lying like a red whale in Mr. Scott Russell's yard at Millwall, and so frightening the people that they cut across the river and take refuge in the houses of Messrs. Heart and Quartermaine, who administer white bait and leech punch with the most humane promptitude.) Mr. Punch has been requested to publish the following information touching the arrangements on board the vessel.

Captain Harrison, the captain who has been selected in contravention of all rules observed in the public service, the proprietors of the ship having engaged him for the vulgar reason that he was notoriously the best captain of the best line of steamers in the world, will merely attend to the comparatively unimportant duty of taking care of the vessel. But, as there are to be six hundred first-class passengers, other captains will be administered to the domestic wants of the floating colony. There will be a dining captain with great dining powers, and a miraculous flow of after-dinner oratory; and there will be a flirtation captain, whose business it will be to render the brief voyage still briefer to the ladies. The former has been a Free Mason, who has eaten his way into all the honors of the craft, and who will hold lodges in the main-top, where the proximity of the fire from the chimneys will be highly convenient for heating the gridirons. The latter has been still more carefully selected, and is a gentleman whom his wife is about to divorce, under the new law, for the incompatibility of his red hair with her notions of elegance, and who under the same law, will be incapable of marrying again. He will, therefore, have been a family man which makes him respectable, while at the same time his attentions can mean nothing.

The spiritual welfare of the ten thousand inhabitants of the vessel will be duly cared for. A very handsome church is being built on the after-deck, and four chapels, for Methodists, Catholics, Baptists and Independents, are being erected forward. A pretty rectory house and garden will be placed near the wheel, but it is thought well that the voluntary system should provide for the dissenting teachers, though in case of sea-sickness during the services, the seaboards are ordered to attend everywhere with basins, without regard to distinction of religious faith or bringing up. Births and marriages will be amply provided for, the directors of the Great Eastern undertaking to be god-fathers to any addition made to the population during the voyage (a silver-smith goes out expressly to engrave the mugs), and berceuses may be had gratis, on application to the boatswain. The captain will act as father to any young (or other) lady who may succeed, by dint of moonlight and Lord Byron, in persuading a gentleman to pay her expenses for the rest of her life, and a large young officer is now growing whiskers and a brogue, in order to act as a brother, and demand intentions, on application from any mamma. Cottages for the honeymoon are being fitted up, larboard side, by Messrs. Jackson and Graham, and will have private telegraphs to the kitchen, nightingales, and Bells's Life.

Weather permitting, races will take place at stated periods, and the Great Eastern Derby will be a feature in the voyage. Once round the vessel being a third of a mile, the beats will be easily arranged. A movable Grand Strand is being constructed by Messrs. Edgington. The stabling in the vessel will afford accommodation for any number of horses, and one of the longboats (itself a large steamer) can be engaged for trial gallops, and be surrounded with awning and ordered to cruise at some distance, in order to insure privacy.

The Betting Act not applying to the high seas, an office where the odds will be given will be under the superintendence of the pursor. Other amusements will be provided, an American alley and a skittle ground being situated on the poop, and a spare boiler being fitted up as a Casino, into which boiling water will not be turned without such notice as may be practicable. A theater is in course of erection and an English dramatic outfit will be kept in the hold, with a safety-lamp, to translate any French piece that may be thrown down to him.

Two eminent Jew costumiers have contracted to supply dresses, and when not engaged in theatrical pursuits, will be happy to fill up their vacant evenings in being converted, on moderate terms, by any passenger who may be going out as a missionary and wish for practice in dealing with his benighted brethren. (Extra charge for reading of tract.) A club-room is also being arranged, and candidates for the Great Eastern Club had better send in their names. Trade, moustaches, political opinions, whistling, a short pipe, the habit of asking questions, Puseyism or a pug-nose will exclude. Cabstands will be placed at the most convenient parts of the ship, and tables of fare and distances affixed. Incivility or over-charge will consign the offender to the cat, but the flogging will be conducted in the backyard of the vessel, where the loudest throat-cut fellow may bawl without being heard by the public. Bath-chairs and perambulators will also be in waiting, and omnibuses will convey the humbler passengers to various parts of the vessel. Previously to the show of the electric light, every evening, a grand display of fireworks; and a balloon will ascend once a week with letters from any quarter to which the wind may be blowing. Further particulars will be published from time to time until the launch.

HIGH SALARIES.—Mr. Moran, the new President of the New York and Erie Railroad Company, is to receive a salary of twenty-five thousand dollars a year—exactly what is paid to the President of the United States, and more, probably, than is paid to any functionary in this country.

NOL THE HEAD MAN in Stuart's sugar-refining business, received for several years a salary of \$30,000; but he resigned his place for more profitable employment.—N. Y. Mirror.

Munificent Bequests.

Moses Sheppard, a thrifty Quaker merchant of New Orleans, was, a few days ago, "gathered to his fathers." His will bequeathed \$600,000 for the purpose of founding an Insane Asylum. Blessed be his memory. Honored be the fame of all men, who, when unable longer to retain their hold on their thousands or their millions, consecrate them to some benevolent institution or purpose.

And yet we would rather sound the praises of the living than the dead philanthropist. We had rather bless the name than remember the fame of our fellow-creator. We can not help admiring the living benefactor more than we can revere the dead one. It is true each carries out the Christian principle in a different way.—One seems to love his neighbor as himself; and the other provides first for his own household. The former, however, seems to be willing to incur the possibility of personal want for the good of others; while the latter is only desirous of having his vast possessions accrue to the benefit of mankind, when it becomes absolutely certain that they can no longer benefit himself.

But it is the practical rather than the theoretical view of this subject we wish to present. We believe that one hundred thousand dollars—be the same more or less—under the management or advisory direction of the living donor, will benefit the world more, as a general rule, than five times the sum in the hands of the slow, cumbersome, and expensive machinery of trustees, executors, administrators, etc.—We believe all historical data will sustain us in this assertion.

The Girard College, of Philadelphia, the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington, and the Astor Library, of New York, are noble benefactions to humanity. They will serve as enduring monuments to preserve the memories of their wealthy founders from forgetfulness. But the donor of the Cooper Institute, who still sojourns among us in the flesh, with a prospect of many years of earthly enjoyment and usefulness, will not only be honored by the existing generation, and live in history, but will have the satisfaction of assuring and witnessing the realization of his plan of benevolence.

Mr. Peabody, the eminent English banker, now on a visit to his native country, has just made a donation of half a million of dollars to found an Institute in Baltimore, comprehending a library, picture gallery, lecture hall, musical department, etc. Gen. Peabody has done well in following in the footsteps of Peter Cooper. If the example should become contagious with our rich men, we can imagine no one, unless they have lazy and dissipated relatives, who will be sorry.

Yet after all, these gigantic bequests and these magnificent temples of science, art, or charity, are mainly adapted to the few. They do not precisely meet the public want; nor are they the best means for securing the "greatest good to the greatest number." They are very like some of our richly-endowed and gaily-adorned churches—excellent accommodations for the saints, but no place for sinners.

The development of humanity and the redemption of society—the solution of the great problems of sociology—requires scientific and charitable institutions on a smaller scale, and correspondingly more numerous. Nearly all of our mammoth institutions, except almshouses, asylums, and penitentiaries, whether endowed by public or private munificence, benefit mainly the upper and middle classes, those who are best able to help themselves. The poor, and ignorant, and vicious, who most need correction, protection, and assistance, are left to the meagre aid afforded by associations for the poor, and the chance charity of the passer-by, whose pitiful bounty merely contemplates raising the wretched object of it above the danger of immediate starvation or freezing.

In behalf of these, we recommend to those who have been successful in business, not to wait to become millionaires—for riches always will have wings—but to plant at once, with the fertilizing dust of ten, twenty, or even fifty thousand dollars, the seed of some tree of knowledge and beneficence, which, in their lifetime, they can nurture and direct, whose branches shall be for the healing of the nations, and whose example shall mark the era of a new dispensation.—Life Illustrated.

Napoleon and Josephine.

The dying hours lingered slowly away; during which inarticulate murmurs were occasionally heard from the lips of the illustrious sufferer. "Twice I thought," says Montholon, "that I distinguished the unconnected words, 'France—army—head of the army—Josephine.' This was at six o'clock in the morning. During the rest of the day until six o'clock in the evening, he was lying upon his back, with his right hand out of the bed, and his eyes fixed, seemingly absorbed in deep meditation, and without any appearance of suffering. A pleasant and placid expression was spread over his features as if he were sweetly sleeping.

A dark and tempestuous night succeeded the stormy day. The gale, with its increasing fury swept the ocean and the beach, and wailed as mournful a dirge as could fall on mortal ears. The very island seemed to shake before the gigantic billows hurled against its craggy cliffs by the spirit of the storm. In the midnight darkness of the terrible elemental war, the spirit of Napoleon passed the earthly veil, and entered the dread unknown.

"Isle of Elba—Napoleon," were the last words of the gentle and loving Josephine.—"France—the army—Josephine," were the last images which lingered in the heart, and the last words which trembled upon the lips of the dying Emperor.—John C. Abbott.

SUICIDE OF SENATOR RUSK.—Senator Rusk, of Texas, committed suicide, on the 29th ult., by shooting himself with a rifle. No cause assigned.

An exchange in speaking of a celebrated singer says: "Her voice is delicious—pure as the moonlight, and as tender as a three shilling shirt."

Drawing Inferences.

McDiarmid, in his "Pictures of Dumfries," tells the well-known traditional story of "The Professor of Signs." The Dutch Ambassador was lamenting, one day, before James I., the want of a professor of signs, when the King, who was an oddity, observed to him that there was one at the College of Aberdeen. The Dutchman expressed his determination to see him, as he contemplated a visit to Scotland. The King, who found he had committed himself, sent word to the University stating the case and desiring the Professors to put him off as well as they could. The Dutchman, upon his arrival, was received with marked attention, and, in the course of his visit, desired to see the 'Professor of Signs.' Now there was Gregory, the butcher, blind of an eye, and a droll fellow, who had been duly tutored for the occasion; he was gowned and wigged, and waited the visit of the Ambassador alone. The Dutchman upon being ushered into the room where Gregory was, held up one of his fingers; Gregory held up two; the Dutchman held up three; Gregory clenched his fist.

The Dutchman exhibited an orange; Gregory saw barely bread from his pocket. The Ambassador, upon retiring, was met by the Professors, to whom he expressed himself highly pleased. "I held up one," he said "denoting that there was one God; I held up two for the Father and the Son; I held up three, signifying the Trinity, and I clenched his fist, meaning these three are one. I then took out an orange, to express the goodness of God to his creatures: when the wonderful man presented a piece of bread, showing that it was the staff of life, and preferable to every luxury." Upon the departure of the Ambassador Gregory gave his version of the interview. "He first held up but one finger, pointing to my eye; I held up two, meaning that my one was as good as both of his; then he held up three, to show that there was but three eyes between us, when I doubled my fist at him. He then showed me an orange, as much as to say your beggarly country cannot produce that which I pulled out a bannock, to show that I didn't care a baw-bee for him nor his trash."

How People take Cold.

The time for taking cold is after your exercise; the place is in your own house, or office, or counting-room. It is not the act of exercise which gives the cold, but it is the getting cool too quick after exercising. After any kind of exercise, do not stand a moment at a street corner for anybody or anything; nor at an open door or window. Among the severest colds known, were those resulting from sitting down to a meal in a cool room after a walk; or being engaged in writing and having let the fire go out, their first admonition of it was that creeping chilliness, which is the ordinary forerunner of severe cold. Sleeping in rooms long unused, has destroyed the life of many a visitor and friend; our splendid parlors, and our nice "spare rooms," help to enrich many a doctor. Cold, sepulchral parlors bring diseases, not only to visitors, but to the visited. But how to cure a cold promptly? that is a question of life and death to multitudes. There are two methods of universal application; first obtain a bottle of cough mixture or a lot of cough candy—any kind will do; in a day or two you will feel better; and in high spirits; you will be charmed with the promptness of the medicine; make a mule of yourself by giving a certificate of the valuable remedy; and, in due course of time, you may depend upon another certificate being made out for your admission into "the Cemetery." The other remedy is, consult a respectable physician.

What Causes the Gulf Stream.

Mr. S. Shonles, an experienced navigator, gives it as his opinion that the waters of the Gulf stream are nothing but the waters of the Amazon. He says this mighty stream is added a thousand miles immediately under the Equator, and all its tributary streams are constantly pouring their hot water into this mighty reservoir. As these waters gathered in under the burning sun of the Equator, it is extremely warm; far more so than the waters of the Atlantic into which it flows. The Amazon is sixty miles wide at its mouth, and shoots its heated waters far more than a hundred miles into the Atlantic with irresistible force, in the face of the eternal trade winds, and then curves off to the left, and sends off with great force a long the Northern coast of South America, to the leeward of the West India Islands, leaves the shore to Cuba and proceeds along the shore of Florida, the capes of Virginia, and the coast of North America, ends among the icebergs which float out of the Northern Ocean. He says seamen can always tell when they are in or out of this stream by dipping their hands in the water, which is always warm, and no storm, from what direction it may blow, can change its irresistible power and course. He also thinks that but for this body of warm water, and the force of its current, it would not be long before the North Atlantic would be filled with floating icebergs, dangerous to navigation.

A SPIRITUAL PICTURE.—An ambrotype copy of a colored crayon, said to have been drawn by a spiritual medium in a trance state, has been laid on our table. It purports to be a representation of a lady who has been thirty-three years in the spheres. A letter from the lady's brother states that the portrait resembles her, according to the best of his recollection. The only thing peculiar about it is the fact that the medium who painted it in crayon has not the least artistic knowledge. The dress of the lady is elegant, and it must be pleasant for those women who believe in the spiritual part of the affair to know that they shall be allowed to occupy themselves with ornamental trifles in the great hereafter.—Springfield Republican.

Henry Abbey and his father, of Bennington Co., have each been recently sentenced to the Vermont State Prison for bigamy; the old gentleman having six wives, and the young one two.