

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

St. Augustine, Florida, claims to have had 1500 more visitors this year than last.

The statue of the late George D. Prentiss, erected in Louisville, will be unveiled on the 8th of May.

A shipment of twenty-five boxes of China tea boxes was recently made at San Francisco for China.

The Sheriff of Perginima county, N. C., weighs 410 pounds. When a prisoner is refractory he sits down on him.

The Methodist Conference at Lewiston, Me., has adopted a resolve declaring opposition to the use of the Bible in the schools a sin.

Now that Gov. Ames is out of the way, the State tax rate of Mississippi for this year shows a reduction from \$9.25 to \$6.50 per \$1000.

English capitalists are said to have lost about five hundred millions of dollars in twelve months in Turkish, Egyptian and Peruvian securities.

There are 14,000 tame ostriches at Cape Town, Africa, and during 1875 there were sold at Port Elizabeth alone \$600,000 worth of ostrich feathers.

A bricklayer recently died in London who was found to have the heaviest brain on record—it weighed sixty-five ounces. The man could neither read nor write.

One half the Chinese who land in San Francisco go back home alive and the other half dead. Both halves carry their money along with them to the Celestial realm.

Liverpool is to be supplied with water from Lake Windermere. The estimate of cost varies from £2,000,000 for a daily supply of ten million gallons, to £4,500,000 for forty millions.

The Italians have no special fancy for trees, like the English and Germans. The only tree cultivated in Italy is the mulberry, which has a great practical value as furnishing food for silkworms. Poplars are raised in Lombardy only.

In a Kansas suit the other day a man's nose was offered in evidence to prove him a drunkard. The evidence was there, but was not taken by the court. The party who suggested its introduction wears one of his eyes in a sling.

Miss Rye, of Canada, irreverently known as "Old Rye," is at work colonizing Canada with street children from England. On her last trip in the Sardinian the passengers presented her with \$1400 to aid her in her voluntary labors.

The London Lancet deprecates the spread of "morbida disease" in England and Germany. People are beginning to go far too often to druggists' shops to buy opium in some form or another, and the disease resulting from its use baills medical skill.

A paper company in Holyoke, Mass., has manufactured an immense ream of paper for the Centennial. The sheets are 6 by 18 feet, the ream weighs about a ton, the value of the 480 sheets is \$1500, and if cut into ordinary sheets of note paper they would make 500,000 sheets.

The consumption of eggs in the manufacture of calicoes is almost incredible. No albumen is equal to that contained in an egg—and it would consume the lay of 300,000 hens to supply one of the large calico manufacturers in France. Inferior dyes can be obtained from blood, etc.

Money in London is worth in the open market only one and three-eighths per cent per annum, and yet speculators are buying there and have prevailed there for half a century. Here is a chance for a sermon by the advocate of more greenbacks to show how a specie currency raises the rate of interest and oppresses borrowers.

Superintendent Cooper, of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, says that a locomotive drew a director's car nine and three-fourths miles on that line in seven and one-fourth minutes. The time was from a flying start to a dead stop, and it is calculated that the highest speed was at the rate of eighty-seven miles an hour. It was on a down grade.

"It does not speak well for the intelligence of the public," says the London Lancet, "that the stamp duty on patent medicines during the last year yielded an increase of £13,845 over the produce of the previous year. It is scarcely creditable that the passion for consuming unknown quantities of unknown drugs should be so strong as this thriving trade in nostrums indicates."

A French farmer, near Bordeaux, to protect his crops from the frost, recently placed four large heaps of wood and dried leaves, saturated with oil, in a four-acre lot and set fire to them. They produced a thick, black smoke, which hung over the ground like a mist, and the temperature became two or three degrees higher than in adjoining fields. The cost was estimated at seven cents an hour for each acre.

"Two of my neighbors," writes a correspondent in South Carolina, "are Col. R. G. Howard and Tony, formerly his slave, who now goes by the name of A. H. Howard. Both are members of our Legislature, where both are with perfect equality, making laws. The former, of course, is a Democrat, and the latter is a Radical. After adjournment, the Colonel superintends his farm, and Tony works for him as a carpenter, taking his meals in the kitchen with the cook."

The Teviotdale district of Scotland is at present suffering from a most extraordinary scourge of mice. It is supposed that the indiscriminate slaughter of hawks and other birds of prey has disturbed the balance of nature, and allowed the mice to multiply to an overwhelming extent that the consequences to the farmers are likely to be serious. The Duke of Buccleuch's head keeper has given orders that the hawks, etc., are hereafter to be preserved—a remedy that will take effect in time, but cannot recompense the farmers for present loss.

The condition of the Apache Indians in Arizona affords a forcible commentary on the management of Indian affairs under Grant's Administration. These Indians, having exhausted their supplies, have been compelled to leave their reservation, which is against the regulations, to escape absolute starvation, and Gen. Hatch has telegraphed to Washington that as matters now stand it is an alternative whether they shall be starved or killed. That is, unless they obey the Government authorities and remain on their reservation with death by starvation as the inevitable result, it will be necessary to kill them for disobeying orders. This state of affairs has come to pass under an Administration which has spent twice as much money under the pretence of supporting the war as Lincoln and his predecessors used for that purpose in the same length of time. But the Indian Ring has grown wealthy in the mean time, and has contributed large sums of money to Republican campaign funds.

The two countries of the world, leaving Central Africa out of account, about which least is known to outsiders, are Thibet and Corea, both of them populous, and both ruled by despots of the old Oriental type. The numerous attempts made to open them up to travel and commerce have heretofore proved failures, and they remain in a state of all the ignominies of our form of civilization. But mankind will presently gain entrance into Corea. By the treaty through which war has been averted, and the long-standing quarrel closed between Japan and Corea, two of the Korean ports will next year be opened to commerce with the enterprising Japanese. This is a signal triumph of Japanese diplomacy. It has gained that which all the menaces and all the negotiations of British and other European agents have failed in gaining. Other Governments, including our own, will now of course demand that Corea shall put them upon an equal footing with the Japanese.

Stability of Commercial Houses in Europe.

In England and on the Continent of Europe there are mercantile and banking houses in active operation to-day which celebrated their centennial festivals long before the foundations of the American Union were laid. Only the other day, and as a consequence of the frantic and dishonest speculations engendered in Germany by the sudden flow into that country of the French milliards, a banking-house suspended payments in Lubeck which had existed and done business in that picturesque old Hanse town for more than three hundred years under the same firm name. This is believed to have been the very oldest business house in Europe. But there are firms in Amsterdam and in Bordeaux of an antiquity hardly less imposing. The publishing-house of Firmin Didot in Paris, as all the world knows, has been notable among men from the early years of the eighteenth century; and there are hotels in France as well in Germany which have been kept up and have prospered under one ensign from the time of the Thirty Years' War. Over the doorway, indeed, of one such inn, the *Maison Rouge*, at Rheims, an inscription reads that within its walls the father and mother of the Maid of Orleans found shelter and good fare with the heroic Maid herself, during the triumphant coronation of Charles V. of France. The most striking instance of this commercial longevity in England perhaps is that of the famous banking house of Childs, at Temple Bar Within, the books and papers of which filled up for many years the minutest rooms of Temple Bar itself. Among these records are to be found such papers as the accounts of Alderman Blackwell, then a member of the firm, for the sale of Dunkirk to the French for six millions of livres by that "merry monarch" Charles II. 1662, only four years after it had been hardly won from the Spaniards by the "iron sides" and iron will of Cromwell. "Francis Child at the Marygold in Fleet street, goldsmith," kept a running cash" throughout the reign of Charles II., and founded the house. The Marygold is still its sign, and though the chief proprietor now wears the coronet of a British earl, the old firm-name and symbol are still its proudest distinctions. In most of these cases, it is true, the perpetuity of a business enterprise has been linked with that of a particular family; but this is by no means an essential conjunction.

Peculiarity of English Journalism.

There is a peculiarity about English journalism which distinguishes it more than anything else from the press of other countries. The editor of an English paper, notwithstanding the unlimited power he possesses in conducting his journal, is very little known to the public at large. In other countries the name of the editor is either printed on the paper or is known by all its readers, even if it is not daily inserted right under the title of the paper. In America, as well as on the Continent of Europe, the public always wish to know who is the man conducting the organ which they select as their advisor and purveyor of daily news. In England on the contrary, nine men of ten do not know even as much as the name of the editor of their daily paper.

One of the consequences of this state of affairs is that you frequently see a Radical conducting a Conservative paper or writing for it, and a staunch Tory supplying leading articles for an ultra Liberal paper. The individuality of a journalist is thus completely effaced and all responsibility for inconsistency of political opinions is taken off of the journalist's shoulders.

To judge by the London Times the English public rather like this readiness of the English journalist to change his views at any given moment. At all events, the organ of the city of London is, politically speaking, probably the most inconsistent paper in the world, yet it is the most prosperous and the most influential. Its staff is composed of men of all political colors; but none of them would ever think of expressing his personal views. They have to write in the tone prescribed by Dr. Delane; and Delane gets his keynote from the mass of letters which daily reach him from every part of England. An Englishman would think himself quite wanting in his duty as a patriot, if he had not written at least four or five times a year a letter to the editor of the Times on some subjects he might be interested in or familiar with. Hundreds of these letters daily reach the office in Printing Square without ever being printed, but all of them are read and serve Dr. Delane as a basis for his opinion of public sentiment. He has frequently said that he did not know of a better political and social indicator than that which forms itself from the conflicting views expressed by unknown persons of all stations of life and of all parts of the country.

Eighteen Hundred Years After Death.

A correspondent of *Appleton's Journal*, writing of excavations at Pompeii, says:

"Among the most interesting of the objects found recently are two skeletons, one of a somewhat elderly man, the owner of a woman. They were found in the Via Stabia among the ashes of the last eruption, evidently overtaken in their flight and buried in the sand. According to the usual method employed to preserve the external appearance of objects, liquid plaster was poured into the cavity which served as a mould, a fac simile of the forms was obtained; and this perfectly preserved, the statue like bodies were placed in glass cases in the Pompeii museum. While appreciating all the horrors of such a death and the suffering endured, as shown by the position, I cannot but imagine what would have been the astonishment of that man or woman had some prophet informed them that eighteen hundred years after their death their forms, and even as much of their garments as were not consumed in the eruption, would be placed in a museum for inspection by a multitude of sight-seers, some from lands, the existence of which they had never dreamed of."

The poor woman is lying on her face, and even the form of her hair, put up behind, is seen. One arm shields her forehead, and she is supported by the other. Her stony limbs are well formed, and traces of a garment are seen passing in folds around her. The man, although placed on his back in the exhibition, when found was turned on his side. One arm rests on his hip, the other is uplifted. The face is somewhat distorted, but massive and smoothly shaven. Even the form of the fastenings of the sandals around the ankle, and of the long button higher up on the leg to hold them, is clearly seen. The limbs are partly drawn up. The skeleton of a tolerably large dog, also recently found, is in the Museum of Pompeii, his whole form preserved, in plaster, in the same manner as those just mentioned. He is lying on his back, writhing in suffering, biting his hind leg. The rings and collar are plainly seen."

How A CHROMO IS MADE.—First we must have the drawing or picture to be copied in chromo. It is placed on a level surface and over it is spread a sheet of transparent oiled paper, through which every line of the drawing can be distinctly seen. The artist now goes to work, and with great care makes a perfect trace of the drawing upon the transparent paper. Having completed it, he reverses it upon the smooth surface of a lithograph stone, and subjects it to a heavy pressure which transfers the trace to the stone much after the manner that the copy of a letter is made in the copy book with a copying press.

The next step is to compare the original with the trace now appearing on the stone, and to correct any defects that may appear and fill out to perfection any places that are found imperfect or may have been traced in mere outline.

In this way he makes parts of the drawing on just as many stones as there are to be colors in the chromo. For instance, one stone has on it the red parts of the picture, another the green, another the black, and so on to the end of the list.

All being complete the stones are placed into a galvanic bath, which acts upon them, cutting away such portions as are not protected by the chemicals used in the drawings, thus doing the work of an engraver, but doing it as no engraver could possibly do it—true to a hair, and finer, if necessary, than the naked eye can trace.

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Table with columns of numbers and letters, likely a lottery or financial table.

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MRS. K. C. LOAN

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For the better accommodation of his numerous customers has opened at No. 159 Canal street a branch of his store No. 361 Dryades street.

THE HON. MRS. NORTON.

Caroline Elizabeth Sarah Norton is the second daughter of Thomas and granddaughter of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, of whom it has often been said that he made the best speech, wrote the best tragedy and the best comedy in the English language; that he ranked high as a wit, may also be borne in mind, while we speak of his gifted and very beautiful granddaughters, popularly known as the "Three Graces," and even still better admired as distinct types of loveliness, "The Pale, Brown and Dark Sherry," immortalized by Kitty in his painting of "The Judgment of Paris."

The literary fame of the Hon. Mrs. Norton is mainly due to the careful teachings of her father, so much so, that before she was twelve years of age, in connection with her accomplished sister, who wrote "The Irish Emigrant," they produced two volumes of poems which manifested strong evidence of the genius they have since exhibited.

THE MOTHER'S HEART.

When first thou camest, gentle, shy and fond, My eldest born, frat hope and dearest treasure, My heart received thee with joy beyond All that it yet hath felt of earthly pleasure; Nor thought that any love could be so deep and strong as mine for thee to be.

Faithful and fond, with sense beyond thy years, And natural piety that led to heaven; Wrang by a harsh word suddenly to tears, Yet patient of rebuke when justly given; Obedient—easy to be reconciled; And meekly cheerful—such wert thou, my child! Not willingly to be left, still by my side, Haunting my walks, while summer-day was dying; Nor leaving in thy turn, but pleased to go idly through the lanes, with thy spirit's flying. Or by the couch of pain a sister meek, Watch the dim eye and kiss the feverish cheek.

Oh boy, of such as thou are oftentimes made Earth's fragile idols; like a tender flower, Nurtured in all thy freshness, prone to fade,— And bending weakly to the thunder shower! Still, 'round the loved, thy heart found force to bind, And cling, like wondrous balm, in the wind!

Then thou, my merry love, bled in thy gloe, Under the bow or by the bright dancing, With thy sweet teeth, and thy spirit's free, Dusted come, as restless as a bird's wing glancing, Full of a wild and irresolute mirth, Like a young sunbeam to the gladden'd earth!

This was the shout! the song! the burst of joy! With such sweet from childhood's days resounded; These was the eager spirit's glad cry, And the glad heart from which all grief rebounded, And many a mortal jest and merry word, Lurked in the laughter of thy dark blue eye!

And thou was to me an art to win and lose, The cold and stern to joy and fondness warning; The coaxing smile—the frequent soft exclaim;— The earnest fearful prayer all wrath disarming! Again my heart in a new direction sped, But thought that love with thee had reached its head!

At length thou comest; then, the last and least, Nicknamed "the Empress" by thy laughing brothers, Because a haughty spirit swell'd thy breast, And then thou dost seek to rile and vex the others; Mingling with every playful infant wit, A mimic majesty that made us smile.—

And O! most like a regal child wert thou! An eye of resolute and successful scheming; Fair shoulders, curling lip and dainty brow,— Fit for the world as a wife, not for poet's dreaming; And proud the lifting of thy stately head, And the firm bearing of thy conscious tread.

Different from both! Yet each succeeding claim, I, that all other love had been forswearing, Forthwith admitted, equal to the same, Nor injured either by this love's comparing; Nor stole a fraction for the newer call,— But in the mother's heart found room for all!

The French having just given up as impracticable their project of turning the Sahara into an inland sea, an American engineer now warns the Russians that they have no time to lose if they desire to prevent their great inland sea, the Caspian, from turning itself into Sahara. This gentleman, Mr. Spalding, has just submitted to the Russian Government a remarkable report on the Caspian and the Black sea, in which he maintains that the Caspian is drying up and will slowly become a desert, while the diminution of rain fall will destroy the surrounding territories. This, he says, has already occurred in historic times, whole countries having been desolated by the shrinkage of the Caspian. He recommends that a deep and broad cutting should be made from the Caspian westward, to a point where it would be five metres below the level of the Black Sea, and a smaller cutting from that point to the Black Sea. The water of the latter, which is fifteen metres higher than that of the Caspian, would then cut a deep and broad channel for itself, and fill the Caspian to its old level, giving, in fifty years, straight ocean communication between the Mediterranean and Persia. The distance between the Black Sea and the Caspian is 160 miles. The period required for refilling might be reduced one-half by a cut connecting the Don and the Volga, so that the waters of both rivers, instead of those of the Volga only, might fall into the Caspian. Mr. Spalding calculates that the two cuttings might be finished in six years, but says nothing of the expense, which might, however, be reduced by the employment of convicts and the penal regiments in the army.