

The volcano on the island of Stromboli is in a state of eruption. Steamers passing the island report that instead of the usual thin vapor which arises from the crater there is a constant column of flame. The deck of the steamer Duchess of Sutherland, while passing the island on her way to Naples, was covered with ashes. Clouds of dust surround the mountain for a distance of ten miles.

King Ja-Ja, of West Africa, is fifty-two years of age, and has only 200 wives. But for only one of his better halves, if such an expression can be allowed mathematically, has he any affection. She is the mother of his sons "Saturday" and "Sunday." "Saturday" is now at school in England. Ja-Ja is one of the best-natured chiefs on the Dark continent, and likes to entertain white men.

United States Shipping commissioner King, of Philadelphia, wants to find a seaman named John Francis Burrough, who was last heard of in Plymouth, Mass. He has been left a fortune of \$7000 by his grandmother. He was paid off in Boston from the Rebecca A Taulane in April, 1877. He shipped again at Plymouth and here all trace of him ends. Other moneys are also coming to him.

The large new silver vault in the treasury department is so damp that the canvas bags containing the silver stored there are rotting away. Measures are being taken to improve the ventilation of the vault, and arrangements are also being made to substitute small rough pine boxes for the canvas bags for holding the silver. These boxes will each hold 3000 dollars, and it is proposed to store 30,000 of them in the vault. The silver is still coming in at the rate of \$500,000 a day.

A laughable incident occurred during a campaign meeting in Pittsburg a few nights ago. While the chairman was patiently awaiting the arrival of a uniformed campaign club, the crowd that had gathered saw the glare of torches in the distance. Gheers filled the air and fireworks set off as the procession neared the speakers' stand. When it was discovered that the honors had been shown to Cleveland Club instead of the Republican organization, there was a number of ill looking Republican campaign workers.

Miner McCaffrey, of the Yellow Jacket mine, Virginia City, Nev., ignited the fuse of a blast and started to go to a safe place. As he turned the charge exploded, and McCaffrey's back, from his loins to the top of his head, was riddled with particles of sand and gravel, ranging in size from mustard seed to goose shot. Not a square inch of whole skin was left on his back. A doctor spent three hours picking out the largest fragments of rock. McCaffrey's injuries, though extremely painful, were not dangerous, but he must wait until he grows a new skin before he can work.

A foreign newspaper recently published as news the fact that somebody on the other side of the water has proposed an innovation to eliminate from French carrom billiards the possibility of rail play. This innovation was the use of only two balls on the table, the count being effected by a kiss after the first contact of the cue and object balls. Inquiry in New York billiard rooms revealed the fact that the two ball kiss game that the foreigners appear to think now has been known there for nine years, although it is played so seldom that nearly everybody who sees it for the first time thinks it is a new wrinkle in carroms. Ten points constitute a game, and, in order to make a counting stroke the one ball has to strike at least one cushion before effecting the kiss contact with the object ball.

The National Lighthouse Board and trustees of the Brooklyn bridge are at sword's points over the question of the lighting of the great bridge. Navigators have complained that the lights are dangerous and confusing, and the board suggested that the lights be changed so as to throw its rays upon the inside of the bridge only. This the trustees object to on the ground of decreasing the beauty of the bridge, and interminated that the board had nothing whatever to do with the matter. The board contends that the law gives it jurisdiction over lights on all bridges crossing navigable streams, in the interest of safe navigation. As the bridge trustees, however, refused to recognise its authority, the board has finally submitted the matter to the United States Attorney General for such action as may be deemed necessary.

RECLAIMING THE DESERT.

Possibilities of Irrigation in the Southwest—Opening the Ancient Canals.

Though it has long been known that the tribes of aborigines who once existed in the states and territories of the southwest had a system of agriculture which permitted them to subsist in towns of considerable size, we have not realized until recently the extent of their resources and the ability they displayed as engineers. The Hemenway expedition has examined ancient lines of canals in southwestern Arizona in the valley of the Gila and its chief tributary the Salado, rivers which pour their waters finally into the Gulf of California, like their northerly neighbor, the Colorado. Between the Salado and the Gila, where there is now only a growth of such plants as endure a torrid climate, without rain for the greater part of the year, the ancient people had their towns and cities. Some of the communal houses were several hundred feet square and three or four stories high. One city was traced for three or four miles, and contained between forty and fifty of these large structures, which were irregularly placed after the fashion of Indian towns. Each large house is supposed by Mr. Cushing, the ethnologist of the party, who has made the Pueblo Indians a life long study, to have held the members of one clan. The walls were sometimes of adobe bricks, and sometimes they were strengthened with posts and wattles. Each town has a separate larger ruin surrounded by a strong wall so as to form a yard. Here Mr. Cushing locates the abode of the chief ruler or priest, the stores of the town and the citadel in case of an attack. It is estimated that the two valleys of the Gila and Salado supported at one period no less than 200,000 souls.

This could only have been accomplished by irrigation. It appears that the water from the Salado was run across the flat land between it and the Gila for a distance of from fifteen to twenty miles. The new settlers have already begun to use the ditches conveyed by the extinct population. The canals were dug in terrace outline, filled with brush and then burned out in order to solidify the bottom and sides. "Mr. Cushing," says The American Naturalist, "is of the opinion that they used rafts made of reeds for navigating these canals, and this seems more probable from the heavy materials that have been brought from a distance. It seems certain that they floated the pine timber used in their building operations down the Salt and Gila rivers from the distant mountains."

These people burned their dead as a general rule, collecting the ashes into an urn, which was commonly broken, in sign of death; but the expedition found so many skeletons buried within the larger buildings mentioned, just beneath the floor, that it appears to have been the custom to bury chiefs and priests. A food vessel and highly decorated water jar were buried with the corpse, and sometimes arrow and spear heads. In one grave a large stone knife and turquoise ornaments were found. Tools and weapons are generally of stone, and there are a few copper ornaments, shell carvings, inlaid with turquoise, and other decorations common to semi-savage tribes. The pottery is of many colors and carries a fine glaze. They had smelting furnaces in the mountains, and appear to have stood upon much the same plane of cultivation as those of Zunis to whom Mr. Cushing is guide, philosopher and friend.

The opening up of these old canals is the first step to cause the deserts now covered with mesquite to support a fair population. With modern appliances it is not impossible that the Colorado, rushing along the bottom of an enormous cleft in the earth, down which Maj. Powell made his venturesome trip years ago, should spread its fertilizing waters over portions of the Yuma and Mohave deserts instead of losing them in the salt waves of the Gulf. The climate is adverse to irrigation in some respects, because the more you separate the streams and fills the more you expose the water body to surface evaporation. In lands like Arizona and New Mexico the Persian system of underground streams, broken at intervals by wells, ought to be tried. A system of covered canals would be the best in a climate like that of New Mexico, for the evaporation upward would be at a minimum. Whether this country will ever be reclaimed to do the work it can under a thorough system of irrigation is a question. Perhaps it were best left to individual or municipal, to corporate or state enterprise. National schemes of the kind are too prolific of jobbery and corruption. It is a matter, however, that will repay the study of those having large amounts to invest for slow but sure returns, dependent for success on the financial prudence and sound engineering which have caused Holland to become the richest country of its size in the world.—New York Times.

Senator Douglas' Lifelike Remains.

"It is not generally known," said Stephen A. Douglas, "that the remains of my father, reposing there in that vault at the base of the Douglas monument, are as well preserved today as ever. He died in 1861, just a month before the first battle of Bull Run. His body was embalmed at that time, put in an air-tight casket, which was again inclosed in an iron coffin. When the monument was erected in his honor in 1866 the iron case on top of the glass cover over his face was removed and his features were as lifelike and unchanged as ever. In 1880, nineteen years after his death, the air-tight casket was inclosed in a zinc coffin, which in turn was put into a marble sarcophagus, in which it still rests. On that occasion again the face was exposed to view. It had not changed a particle. There was not the slightest indication of decay, and a physician residing in the neighborhood of the monument tells me that the body, if not unduly disturbed, will remain as it is for many, many years to come."—Chicago Herald.

The Workman's "Lock."

English shoemakers always cut a V in the bench leather for lock. Swedish carpenters mark a cross on their tools for the same purpose, and many painters mark a cross and triangle on a high scaffolding before they feel comfortable upon it.—New York Graphic.

UTILITY OF TOADSTOOLS.

Africans Worship Them and Asiatics Get Drunk on Them.

The Ostiaks, the Kamtchadales and other inhabitants of Asiatic Russia find in one of the gird bearing family—the manita muscaria—the exhilaration and madness that more civilized nations demand and receive of alcohol, and enjoy a narcotism from its extracts as seductive as that of opium.

The Fiji Islanders are indebted to toadstools strung on a string for girdles, which alone prevent them from being classed among "the poor and naked," and their sole aesthetic occupation, lies in ornamenting their limited wardrobe. The Fiji fishermen, especially, value them highly because they are water-proof!

Cerdier tells us that the negroes of the west of Africa exult a certain kind of boletus to the sacredness of a god and bow down in worship before it. For this reason Afzelius has named this variety boletus sacer.

A French chemist has extracted wax from the milk giving kind, but has not stated the price of candles made from it. Others of the delving fraternity have shown that toadstools may be used in the manufacture of Prussian blue instead of blood, for like certain animal matter, they furnish prussic acid. As fungi, after the manner of all animal life, breathe oxygen and throw off carbonic acid gas, their flesh partakes of animal rather than vegetable nature.

In their decomposition they are capital fertilizers of surrounding plants, and in seasons when they are plentiful it will repay the agriculturist to make use of them as manure.

According to Linnaeus, the Laps delighted in the perfume of some species and carried them upon their persons so that they might be the more attractive. Linnaeus exclaims: "O, Venust thou that scarcely sufficest thyself in other countries with jewels, diamonds, precious stones, gold, purple, music and spectacle, are here satisfied with a simple toadstool!"

A variety of boletus—a tube bearing species—is powdered and used as a protector of clothing against insects. The agaricus muscarius constitutes a well known poison to the common housefly. It intoxicates them to such a degree that they can be swept up and destroyed.

Certain polypores—those large, dry, corky growths found upon logs and trees—when properly seasoned, sliced and beaten, engage large manufactories in producing from them the punk of commerce, used by the surgeon for the arrest of hemorrhage, the artist for his shading stump, and the 4th of July urchin for his pyrotechnic purposes.

A species of polyporus is used in Italy as scrubbing brushes. In countries where fire producing is unknown or laborious and the luxury of lucifers denied, the dried fungus enables the transportation of fire from one place to another over great distances. The inhabitants of Franconia use them in hammered slices instead of chamois skin for underclothing.

Another polyporus takes its place among manufactures as the highly necessary razor stop. Northern nations make bottle stoppers of them, as their corky nature suggests. The polyporus of the birch tree (polyporus betulinus) increases the delight of smokers by its delicate flavor when mixed with tobacco.—Lippincott's Magazine.

Coollest Town in the World.

In the Berlin Meteorologische Zeitschrift for June, Dr. Hann gives an interesting account of Werchojansk (Siberia), deduced from several years' observations. The town, which lies in the valley of the Jana, about nine feet above the level of the river, in latitude 67 degs. 34 min. N., longitude 133 degs. 51 min. E., and at a height of about 350 feet above the sea, has the greatest winter cold that is known to exist upon the globe. Monthly means of —58 degs. F. occur even in December, a mean temperature which has been observed nowhere else in the polar regions; and minima of —76 degs. are usual for the three winter months (December-February). In the year 1886 March also had a minimum —77 degs., and during that year December and January never had a minimum above —76 degs., while in January, 1886, the temperature of —85 degs. was recorded. These extreme readings are hardly credible, yet the thermometers have been verified at the St. Petersburg observatory. To add to the misery of the inhabitants, at some seasons the houses are inundated by the overflow of the river. The yearly range of cloud is characteristic of the climate; in the winter season the mean only amounts to about three-tenths in each month.—Nature.

The Petroleum Producing Strata.

Oil producing strata do not always belong to the same geological period. In Kentucky and Tennessee the petroleum is furnished by the lower silurian; that is, by the most ancient stratified rocks. In Upper Canada it is found in the lower Devonian, and in Pennsylvania in the upper Devonian. The springs of western Virginia flow from the upper carboniferous strata. In Connecticut and North Carolina coal oil is found in the trias, in Colorado and Utah in the lignites of the cretaceous formation, while the oil producing regions of California belong to the tertiary period. It is a remarkable fact that most of the deposits of the ancient world exist in comparatively recent tertiary formations, as for instance those of the oil impregnated sands of Alsace, of the south of France, and of Abruzzia and Emilia in Italy. There are numerous deposits in Galicia and the Danubian provinces similarly placed, while the strata that contain those of the Crimea, the Caucasus and the island of Taman are of nearly the same geological epoch. It is a fact to be noted that the oils coming from the greatest depth are of the best quality, those produced from nearer the surface of the earth seeming to have lost some of their volatile elements.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A Nut for Vegetarians.

Here is a nut for vegetarians to crack. An Indian runner lives almost entirely on dried meat and he can stand more fatigue than any other man in the world. The Blackfoot runners do 300 miles over the roughest country in four days and in the race the horse stands no chance against them.—Detroit Free Press.

The Waco Furniture Company.

Waco Furniture Co.

WE NEVER FORGET

OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

Are in order that they may realize the fact we will offer for the next

40 DAYS

For cash some of the greatest bargains ever offered in the Lone Star State.

- 100 bed room suits, prices from \$15.00 to \$500.00.
- 60 parlor suits from \$30 to \$350.
- 40 bookcases from \$10 to \$75.
- 25 sideboards from \$12.50 to \$250.00.
- 100 wardrobes from \$8 to \$150.
- 100 bedsteads from \$2 to \$25.
- 100 reed and rattan chairs from \$2.50 to \$15.00.
- 150 leather and plush chairs at prices to suit the buyer.
- 25 folding beds from \$18 to \$150.
- 100 sofa lounges from \$6 to \$50.
- 25 hall racks from \$7 to \$50.

500 fancy and plain tables of every description, and in fact a full line of everything that is carried in a first-class furniture store, too numerous to mention.

LARGE STOCK OF DINING ROOM AND KITCHEN FURNITURE.

We also Carry a Full Line of Pictures, Picture Frames and Moulding. Frames Made to Order

IN ADDITION TO THIS WE HAVE

An Extensive Mattress Factory,

Where we make all kinds of Mattresses and do Upholstering in the best of style. Our Upholsterer has Twenty Years Experience and stands Second to None.

ABOVE INDUCEMENTS

We offer for the next forty days to make room for our

Mammoth Fall Stock.

Which our Mr. Peck has Just Purchased in the Eastern Markets.



UNDERTAKERS DEPARTMENT

We Carry a Full Line of Coffins from the Cheapest to the Best.

Also a line of cloth covered caskets. Metallic cases, and a full line of robes for gents, ladies and children.

Arterial Embalming a Specialty.

Prices to Suit Everybody.

Waco Furniture Co.

EVENING NEWS Published - Every - Day - Except - Sunday. PRICE 50 CENTS PER MONTH.