

CURRENT TOPICS.

The exports from Rio Janeiro to the United States for the fiscal year 1876-77 were eight times as much as the imports, while 70 per cent. of the imports have been drawn from four countries in Europe. The trade of this port was as follows: Imports \$46,979,330; exports \$50,650,340.

Russia has promised Persia to furnish the capital for the construction of a railway from Tiflis to Teheran. It is said also that the extension of the line from the Persian capital to Afghanistan is contemplated, and that this is the object of the mission of General Abramoff to the Emir of that country.

Among the notable incidents of the stagnation of the last three years is the fact that at Brussels not a single firm or company in the iron trade has failed. On the contrary, Belgium iron continues to be sold, and England is being undersold by Belgium in her own markets, and has even had contracts filled in that country in several instances.

There is a project for a new Atlantic cable, in opposition to the existing monopoly. It is said that a syndicate of French financiers, among whom is M. Poyner-Quertier, has coalesced with some enterprising and moneyed Americans, and that a large amount of the capital is already guaranteed. Of course, an appeal to the public at large will be made. So far, the idea has been favorably received.

The cereal crop of France is estimated by the Statistical Congress, which recently met at Paris, at 1,336,000,000 francs; the wine crop at 1,099,000,000 francs; the cattle and other meat products at 1,405,000,000 francs; industrial revenues are stated to be 4,800,000,000 francs. The augmentation of wealth in France since 1867 is estimated to be thirty-seven milliards of francs.

Mr. John Forest, conductor on a Metropolitan street car in Boston, has been presented with \$25 by Mr. Richards, President of the road, for courage in ejecting an Indian from his car recently. It seems that a half-breed Indian entered his car, and after sitting quietly a few moments, jumped up and began to flourish a large knife in real Indian style. Mr. Forest took the knife away from him and ejected him from the car, thereby relieving the passengers from the suspense in which they were being held.

Two vessels recently arrived at Manzanillo, Mexico, from Germany, with cargoes of flaming handkerchiefs, cheap wines, crockery, hardware, etc., but no improved machines or agricultural implements. The calico, the San Francisco Chronicle says, sold at twenty-five cents the vara; which is three inches less than one yard; the poorest and worst adulterated wine for \$9 a dozen; petroleum for \$7.50 a can; flour ten cents a pound; a pound of nails twenty-five cents; a felt hat \$6; the commonest piano \$600. Notwithstanding the high duties and port charges, these cargoes paid a handsome profit. Why should not American traders do as well, if not better?

A sad disappointment awaited Mr. John Bates of Paterson, New Jersey, recently, when he went to New York to meet his wife on an incoming steamer. He waited on the wharf as the passengers disembarked, expecting every minute to see her. But she failed to appear. There were joyful greetings on every side, and still Mr. Bates waited in vain. Thinking that his wife might have been detained on board, he sought the captain of the steamer, who, as gently as possible, broke the sad news that Mrs. Bates had been taken sick, and died when the steamer was only a short distance on her journey. She had been buried at sea. They had been married but a short time, and she went to England to receive a legacy left her by a relative.

Emigration from Europe seems to have set in again pretty largely for the Atlantic States. In the month of August, 9,495 persons left Liverpool as emigrants. This is the greatest number in any month during the present year, except in the month of May, when 9,880 sailed. Nearly the whole of last month's emigrants were for the United States, and more than half of the whole number were English. Formerly, for every one English, there were nineteen Irish emigrants. This is partly attributable to the gradual advance of wages, the increased demand for laborers, and the improved condition of small farmers under the Landlord-and-Tenant Act of 1869, one of Mr. Gladstone's measures of reform in Ireland which has turned out well. It was a very bold expedient and experiment.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

Counterfeiters of United States coin have been arrested at Towanda, Pa. A \$50,000 incendiary fire occurred at Parkhill, Ontario, a few days since. Henry Haocke, editor of the Volksfreund of Cincinnati has been arrested on a criminal charge of libel. J. B. Colder, cashier of the Grocers' and Producers' bank, Providence, R. I. is under arrest for embezzlement.

Henry Greenbaum, ex-president of the German savings bank, Chicago, has been put under arrest for alleged embezzlement.

Gov. Howard of Dakota Territory has offered a reward of \$1000 for the arrest of the parties who robbed the Cheyenne treasure coach two weeks ago.

It has recently come to light that free American negroes have been kidnapped in the Southern States, and reduced to slavery on plantations in Cuba.

Hiram Smith, Contractor of the Utah Northern Railroad was arrested a few days ago for cutting timber on Fort Hall Indian reservation. He was taken to Malad, Idaho, and put in jail.

United States revenue officers in Tennessee, have had a fight with illicit distillers. There were numerous exchanges of shots on both sides, and four distillers are reported killed, and several wounded.

Information has been received at Washington from the United States commercial agent at Predras Negras, Mexico, of the murder of Walter Henry, a native of a Texas by Mexicans, near Sara Gossa.

Thos. Stewart and his sister, two old people living on a farm near Richmond, Ky., were shot by an unknown party a few nights since. Stewart, hearing a noise in the yard, got out of bed to ascertain the cause, when he was mortally wounded. His sister, coming to the door to his assistance, was also fired upon and instantly killed.

On Sunday, the 6th inst., while the congregation was worshipping in St Francis church, New York city, a man entered, and without a moment's warning plunged a knife into the body of Miss Mary Logan, who, being half drunk, he mistook her for his wife, from whom he had been separated. The scoundrel fled, but was pursued and arrested. Miss Logan was taken to the hospital and found to be suffering severely from a deep cut in the abdomen.

CASUALTIES.

The Sacramento, California, hospital has been destroyed by fire. Loss \$100,000. The inmates were all saved.

A cotton waste factory, at South Boston, Mass., has been burned up. Seventy-five men have been thrown out of employment.

By the late violent storm the damage done in the city of Chicago is estimated to amount to between three and four hundred thousand dollars.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

The King of Burmah is dead.

A Liverpool telegram says Capt. Charles H. Indkins, formerly a commander of Cunard steamship, is dead.

Emperor William of Germany is to issue a proclamation announcing the failure of negotiations between Germany and the Vatican.

Ex-Gov. Shepard, of Washington, is of the opinion that Gen. Grant will be unanimously nominated by the Republican party for President in 1880.

Sir Francis Grant, the famous portrait painter and President of the Royal Academy, died suddenly lately at his residence at Melton, Mowberry, England.

Gen. Gier has been removed from active duty, having attained the age of 62. His successor will not be appointed till Secretary of War, Thompson, returns to Washington.

A dispatch from Berlin reports that Field Marshal Count Von Moltke has tendered his resignation. The matter will be decided when the emperor resumes control of the government.

The President and family will remove into the White House from the Soldiers' Home, about the middle of October. The executive mansion is being prepared for their reception.

The rumor of the betrothal of Prince Louis Napoleon, son of the late Emperor, to Princess Thyron, daughter of the King of Denmark, is revived in the London correspondence of the provincial newspapers.

In the California constitutional convention, the legislative committee on federal relations reported House bill ten, prohibiting Chinamen from being employed on public works, favorably. An amendment that no Chinaman be allowed to be employed to work his tax was lost.

The Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise will sail for Canada the 14th of November, on the steamer Sarmation, which has been chartered to take the new governor general and royal consort. The Sarmation will be met at sea by the British North American squadron, now in port, and escorted to Halifax where it is arranged the marquis and princess will first set foot on Canada soil.

At the Republican convention, in Lowell, Massachusetts, of the Seventh Congressional district, Mr. Durgin, of Reading, offered a resolution denouncing Gen. Butler for proving false to the district and to the pledges made by him in 1876, and demanding his immediate resignation as a member of the Forty-sixth Congress. The resolution was adopted unanimously. Boutwell's name was withdrawn as a candidate.

The friends of Senator Thurman at Washington have received dispatches from Ohio which alarm them as to his condition. The report is he is threatened with paralysis, incipient symptoms of which have appeared. He was known to have been very much overworked during the campaign, his ambition for the Presidential nomination having induced him to undertake more than his strength will warrant.

The Fitz John Porter court-martial is in session at Governor's Island, N. Y. The Judge

advocate opened the case on the part of the Government in a long and exhaustive address. He reviewed the former trial and was very severe on Gen. Porter, saying that his defense had all been a series of afterthoughts. He also claimed that the witnesses he would bring forward would give a different view of Porter's conduct than has thus far been received through the evidence of accused, and that his conviction by the court martial was proper and the sentence merciful. The address occupied the greater part of the day's session.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The yellow fever ravages are extending into the interior towns of the South.

Waddington, minister of foreign affairs, has remitted 500 francs to Minister Noyes for yellow fever sufferers.

The Missouri State Agricultural Society, which had been in progress in St. Louis four weeks, closed on Saturday the 5th inst.

About 250 men employed in the New Boston coal mines, near Mahony City, Pa. are on a strike for 10 per cent. increase of wages.

There seems to be as yet no real abatement in the prevalence and violence of the yellow fever in the Southern cities and country towns.

Dispatches from New York indicate the probabilities of another serious, perhaps general railroad strike. There is a clamor for increased wages.

The Passaic, New Jersey, rolling mills have been destroyed by fire. Loss \$50,000. Four hundred and fifty men have been thrown out of employment.

The Paris *Le Temps* makes an appeal for sufferers by yellow fever in New Orleans, recalls the fact that Louisiana sent large sums of money to France in 1871 and '75.

After deducting various legacies amounting to about \$100,000 the entire estate of the late William Niblo, of New York City, falls to the young Men's Christian Association of New York.

The great failure of the Bank of the City of Glasgow, has caused numerous others, and some very large failures, and that of Smith, Fleming & Co., East India merchant's for \$10,000,000.

Disaffected Red Cloud Indians are making trouble and are being tampered with and excited to hostility by hostile Cheyenne. Dr. James Irwin, agent of the Red Cloud Indians has gone to Washington to consult the government.

The government has received intelligence that Taad Gelden Pasha, on announcing that he had received orders to surrender Pedorizza to the Montenegrins, was killed by the Albanians, and 156 officers and men under his command massacred.

The City of Glasgow (Scotland) bank has closed its doors, its liabilities are \$50,000,000. The liability of the share holders is unlimited. The bank was established in 1839, and has some 60 branches. The failure is regarded a national disaster.

A statement from one of its ministers show that the Colored Cumberland Presbyterian church, not generally known to exist until recently, has two synods and twelve presbyteries, with 104 ministers, 82 licentiates, 170 candidates, and 30,000 communicants.

Acting Postmaster General Tyner has ordered that no fines be imposed upon mail contractors or deductions made from their pay because of failure or irregularity in service in Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas, on account of quarantine regulations.

At the second day's session of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Milwaukee, eloquent addresses were made by Prof. Chapin, William E. Dodge, Rev. Dr. Goodwin and others. Five hundred thousand dollars is the amount wanted for the ensuing year.

A general order just issued from the war department calls the attention of officers of the army to the section in the army appropriation bill passed at the last session of Congress, prohibiting the use of the army as a posse comitatus except in such cases as may be expressly authorized by the constitution or act of Congress.

A Madrid dispatch says: Considerable alarm has been caused in that capital by the appearance of twenty cases of what was supposed to be typhus fever in the most populous quarter of the city, three sufferers having been admitted to the hospital. The doctor to day declares that their symptoms are those of yellow fever, and that the infection was brought from Cuba by soldiers.

The single scull race at Silver Lake, Mass., between Reagan, of Boston, and Davis, of Portland, four miles, purse \$300 took place in the presence of 3,000 to 4,000 persons, and was won by Davis, beating Reagan nine lengths. Time 28 minutes 6 1/2 seconds. Reagan is reported to have been fatally injured by the rail accident on the excursion train returning from the race.

A courier from Spotted Tail reports that a band of Indians crossed Wounded Knee creek going in the direction of the new Red Cloud agency. From information gathered from couriers, etc., no less than four parties of hostile Cheyennes are said to have crossed between Camn Robinson and Wounded Knee going north, and the belief is these Indians been aided in evading troops by ruanians from Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies.

The St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association opened on Monday the 7th inst. As usual, it was children's day and all the public schools were closed for the occasion. The crowd of youngsters was immense, not less than 30,000 children and 10,000 to 15,000 adults were on the grounds. The display of live stock at the fair, particularly horses and cattle, was very large and unusually fine, and all the other departments were well filled and very attractive.

A coroner in Arkansas, after empanelling his jury, said, "Now, gentlemen you are to determine whether the deceased came to his death by accident, by incidence, or incendiary." The verdict was that "The deceased came to his death by accident in the shape of a bowie-knife."

HOUSE AND FARM.

Recipes.

**Filling for Cracked Ceiling.**—Whiting mixed with glue water, or calcined plaster and water makes a good putty for filling cracks in plastered ceilings.

Here is a receipt for a nutritious drink for either invalids or giants: Beat up a new-laid egg, pour on it half a pint of boiling milk, sweeten to taste, and flavor with lemon-peel, nutmeg, or vanilla. Serve cold in a glass.

**To Whiten Knife Handles.**—The ivory handles of knives sometimes become yellow from being allowed to remain in dish water. Rub them with sandpaper till white. If the blades have become rusty from careless usage, rub them also with sandpaper, and they will look as nice as new.

**Fruit Cake.**—Four eggs, two cupfuls of sugar, one cupful of molasses, one-half pint of sweet milk, one and one-half cupfuls of butter, one large teaspoonful of soda, one-half round of stoned raisins, and five cupfuls of flour. Season with cinnamon and nutmeg to suit your taste. This is enough for two loaves.

**Crumb Pudding.**—Old bits of stale cake can be made into a most appetizing dish in the following way: Over a quart of crumbs turn a pint of scalding milk, and let them soak; then add three eggs, well beaten, and half a pint of milk; half a teacup of desiccated coconut. Bake twenty minutes. Flavoring may be added to suit the taste, and raisins and currants if desired.

**French Toast.**—For a family of five, take five slices of bread—the longer the bread has been baked the better—and have ready a bowl of water into which a pinch of salt has been dropped. Take a piece of butter the size of a walnut, and thoroughly grease the bottom of a frying-pan, then beat five eggs to a froth; dip each slice of bread into the water then into the egg, and place it flat on the bottom of the frying-pan; pour over the remaining egg which was left in the bowl; set the frying-pan over the fire carefully turning the bread over when it becomes a light brown. Pepper and salt to taste.

**Work Baskets.**—Take wrapping twine or carpet warp, and commence at the centre of the bottom and crochet round and round, thick and close, in a short, double crochet stitch, keeping it widened so it is flat, and when you get it as large as you want it, make the sides in shell work. Starch it very stiff, and dry it in the oven, with the door open. Dry it over a flower-pot, vegetable dish, or anything you like. They are very convenient to set on a sewing machine and hold a thimble and thread. If wanted very elaborate, varnish with black varnish and trim with scarlet worsted or ribbon. Anyone familiar with a crochet-needle can readily make one from the above description.

Soap.

Dissolve three pounds sal-soda in two gallons of warm water; slack in a firkin three pounds of good quick lime; add to it the soda solution; stir the whole thoroughly with a stick, and add two gallons of boiling water; stir again and let it settle; pour off the clean liquor in a clean iron boiler placed on the fire, and stir in to it six pounds of clarified grease and one pound of powdered borax; let it boil slowly until it gets roppy, about ten minutes' boiling, and pour it into a tub or tight box; this makes a good hard soap for family use; after drying a month or so in a dry room, and cut into bars, it is fit for use.

Selecting Meats.

In selecting beef to roast, if it be a small family, the rib is by far the best and most tender cut; have some of the bone removed, then make your butcher skewer the beef. The best beefsteak for broiling is porter-house. The best beef for a *la mode* is the round; have the bones removed and trim off all the gristle. For corned beef the round is also the best. For a mutton roast choose the shoulder, the saddle, or the loin and haunch. The leg should be boiled. Small rib chops are best for broiling; those cut from the leg are generally tough. Mutton cutlets to bake are taken from the neck. For roast veal, the loin, breast or shoulder is good. Veal chops are best for frying; cutlets are more apt to be tough.

In selecting beef take that which has a loose grain, easily yielding to pressure of dark red color, smooth, with whitish fat; if the lean is purplish and the fat yellow, it is poor beef. Grass fed is the lightest, ox the best, and next the heifer.

Perhaps the nicest mutton roast is a small leg, the bone taken out, and the cavity stuffed with forced meat. The best beef roast is (for three) about two and a half or three pounds of porter-house. Sirloin ranks next. A rump roast is very nice. Two to three pounds is a very great plenty for three. In chops, we think that from the hind leg of mutton best, unless you can get a "meaty" sirloin. The same in pork, about one and a quarter to one and a half pounds is sufficient; beefsteak about the same quantity. Porter-house steak is cheaper than sirloin, having less bone. Rump steak and round, if well pounded to make them tender, have the best flavor.

Hogs—A Look Ahead.

From the National Live Stock Journal. Last month the Journal cautioned its readers against a hasty abandonment of the business of raising corn and making pork, on the ground that, taking one year with another, no business was certainly more remunerative. We now desire to call attention to a new aspect of the question. It is certain that nothing has exerted so powerful an influence in sustaining the prices and stimulating the production of beef in this country, for the past year or two, as the foreign demand

brought about by the improved methods of transportation, that have enabled us to place our fresh meats in the English markets in good condition. Hitherto this trade has been confined mainly to beef, but lately it has extended largely to pork; and, by a paragraph which we publish elsewhere, it will be noticed that in a single week, early in June, 2,300 live hogs were received in Liverpool from America.

We believe that there can be no possible difficulty in the way of transportation of live hogs to England from this country in large quantities. They bear transportation much better, and with less shrinkage than any other kind of live stock, and there is scarcely a limit to the extent to which the trade may be extended.

We do not know how extensive the demand for fresh pork may be in England, but we understand that in some sections it is enormous; and if this be true, we should not be surprised to see the shipment of live hogs from this country carried on to such an extent as to have a material effect upon such prices at home. At all events we shall watch the further development of the trade with interest.

Washing Blankets.

Seeing an inquiry for the best way to wash blankets, some time since, I wanted to see if some one would not give a way which I read a long time ago, I have tried it and know it is good:

Put a boiler of soft water to heat; dissolve and add to it a half bar of Kirk's soap—either the white or blue. Put your blankets in a washtub, laying them in somewhat like a coil of rope, so they can be easily handled. Heat the suds scalding hot; pour it over the blankets; punch them down, and cover with a quilt or some heavy material to keep the steam from escaping. Let them remain till morning; then squeeze and rub lightly with the hands; on no account use washboards for blankets. Then have a soft clean rinse water, but not more than blood warm; put the blankets into this, but not wring them, either with your hands or a clothes-wringer; but run them from asuds into a basket, and let them drain, so as to carry as little of the dirty suds as possible into the rinse water. Get them as free from the suds as you can, and then drain them as before, and put them through a second tub of clean soft water. Put them into your basket, without wringing them; let them drain, and they are then ready for the line. Hang them lengthwise by the extreme outer edge, not through the middle, and put the clothes-pins near together, not more than a finger's length apart. When the blankets are about half dry reverse the edges, and let the edge hang down that was pinned to the line.

The Mysterious Masked Lady.

At the masked ball, lately given by Frances, Countess Waldegrave, a lady of distinguished appearance, dressed in black and wearing a domino, observed two gentlemen who were conversing, unmasked in an alley of the beautiful gardens at Strawberry Hill. She approached them with easy grace, and opened conversation in a light and bantering tone. The elder of her male interlocutors was assured, by what "the Antiquary" would have called "his fair enemy," that she knew all about him, and could, and she would, tell him many queer stories about himself. Well able to defend himself in tongue encounters, the gentleman, whose wit and whose *persiflage* were once the delight of the House of Commons, in which he is now a much-missed absentee, replied that if she knew even a tittle of the mischief he had done in life she would compel him to borrow her domino. Carrying the war into the enemy's country, he proceeded jestingly to impugn her assertion that she was a married woman, and accused her of having escaped from boarding school to take part in the Strawberry Hill gaieties. His younger male companion, being scarcely inferior in *h'dinage*, asked permission to touch her marriage ring, and, accepting the gloved hand which she promptly extended, remarked, after slightly himself as to the correctness of her claim, that so fair a gage was worthy of more respectful salutation, and was permitted to raise her black gloves to her lips. After a diversified conversation, which lasted about a quarter of an hour, the lady glided gracefully away, leaving her companions in puzzled mystery as to her identity. Their guesses were more ingenious than described when an hour later he was laughingly informed by the lady of the most exalted rank in the assembly (the Princess of Wales) that she herself was the escaped boarding-school miss, and that the domino which she had removed from her face was at his service—to hide his blushes.

Prince and Sovereign.

Dr. Rupperer, the well-known German American, and President of the Goethe Club, of New York, was the hero of an adventure in Paris recently that attracted much attention from those who saw it. He had hailed a cab, and as he was about to step in he was surprised to see another man entering at the opposite side. Dr. Rupperer demanded of the driver which of the two had hailed him first, and the driver decided in favor of the New Yorker. He then politely requested the stranger to descend, but the stranger answered:

"I am Prince—," giving a known name. Dr. Rupperer replied: "You are a prince, but I am a sovereign—a citizen of the United States;" and without much more ado he gently took the prince by the collar of his coat and set him down quietly upon the sidewalk. The prince went in search of another carriage, and the "sovereign" rode off in triumph.

Egypt is the place for juvenile excursions. A boy can always find his "mummy" there.