

Cheese as Food.

Cheese serves two purposes. It is food and it promotes the digestion of other food. As food it is the most nutritious of all alimentary substances. This is shown by the figures given by Dr. Frankland as the result of a long series of careful experiments with alimentary substances. Food is the material which produces force in an animal, or rather which enables the muscular system of an animal to exert force, and it is valuable and effective in proportion to the amount of force which it enables the muscles to exert. Dr. Frankland's experiments were conducted on the basis of the weight of a certain kind of food which would enable a man of 160 pounds weight to raise himself 10,000 feet. He found that 1.15 pound of cheese in this respect was equivalent to 1.28 of oatmeal, 1.31 of flour, 1.33 of pea meal, 2.34 of bread, 3.53 of lean beef, 5 pounds of potatoes and 8 pounds of milk. Thus cheese is the most useful of all these foods. Butter has the equivalent ratio of 0.693, but butter can hardly be considered as a food, because it is wholly deficient in nitrogen and is a carbohydrate only, and therefore wholly inadequate to repair the waste of muscular tissue. But although cheese varies in its composition, as skim, half-skim and full milk cheese, yet it varies but little in its food value, because when the fat is deficient there is an excess of casein or nitrogenous matter, which is directly available in the animal system for the production of heat or force, and even fat, as well as of muscular fiber. The following table gives the composition of some kinds of cheese in common use:

	Water	Casein	Fat	Sugar	Starch	Alb. acid
American factory	37.29	25.57	35.39	6.21	5.22	
English Cheddar	30.82	38.78	23.33	1.66	4.31	
English Cheshire	32.59	36.06	22.51	4.33	4.31	
English Wiltshire	39.22	34.22	19.28	2.28	5.02	
Common skim	39.43	30.37	17.08	2.22	3.95	
Camembert	40.63	31.99	14.01	1.29	2.00	
Gruyere	37.59	44.08	15.95	6.69	5.73	
Parmesan (skim)	31.94	18.99	21.05	4.40	4.71	
Cheddar	45.24	18.48	25.75	4.94	5.61	
Roquefort	54.55	35.82	25.14	1.74	5.67	

It is seen that they vary considerably, but yet that all kinds are very rich in nutritive elements, and make a nearly perfect food. In passing it may be noticed how the acid curd of the Cheddar is produced at the expenditure of the sugar of the milk, and how the skimmed milk cheese develop in the curd a considerable quantity of fat. This last-mentioned point is more closely connected with the secondary purpose of cheese as food than might be suspected. The rennet used in making the cheese conveys to it some of its own peculiar property of coagulating and digesting casein. Cheese itself may be used in making cheese, as do' will raise a new batch of do'. This digestive property is able to convert albuminoids (casein) into the elements of fat in the stomach, and so it does undoubtedly in the cheese. And the curd of a skim-milk cheese, skillfully conducted, enriches it in fat and brings it up in a very slightly inferior condition to that of a full milk cheese. This same digestive property is extensively developed by long curing, and exists more largely in the more highly flavored cheese; the flavor being produced by the decomposition which increases the digestive activity. Cheese of this kind is not used as food strictly, but as a condiment to aid digestion of other food. It is used as fruit, at the end of a meal, nominally as a relish, but really as a help to digestion. The production of this active agent of digestion by the curd of cheese is one of the skilled arts of the dairy. Without it cheese does not fulfill its complete use and purpose, and it may be, and no doubt is, a sufficient reason for the comparatively small domestic consumption of cheese and its general neglect as a staple article of food; that American cheese-makers do not know how to thoroughly cure and refine cheese and develop the exquisite flavors and the accompanying digestive properties for which foreign varieties of cheese are so highly estimated.—*The Dairy.*

California Sheep-Shearing.

The sheep ranches of California are usually desolate places, and the herders lead a lonely life. Insanity, it is said, occurs frequently among them. Sometimes a herder leads only a few months of this life of loneliness and then goes suddenly mad. But during the sheep-shearing season, the life is one of excitement, owing to the presence of gangs of Mexicans. The work they do and how they do it is described in the following paragraphs:

A shed sixty feet long by twenty-five wide, sides open; small pens full of sheep surrounding it on three sides; eighty men bent over at every possible angle, eighty sheep being tightly held in every possible position, eighty shears flashing, glancing, clipping; bright Mexican eyes shining, laughing Mexican voices jesting. At first, it seemed only a confused scene of phantasmagoria. As our eyes became familiarized, the confusion disentangled itself, and we could note the splendid forms of the men and their marvelous dexterity in using the shears. Less than five minutes it took from the time a sheep was grasped, dragged in, thrown down, seized by the shearer's knees, till it was set free, clean shorn, and its three-pound fleeces tossed on a table outside.

A good shearer shears seventy or eighty sheep in a day; men of extra dexterity shear a hundred. The Indians are famous for skill at shearing, and in all their large villages are organized shearing bands, with captains, that go from ranch to ranch in the shearing season.

A pay-clerk stood in the center of the shed with a leather wallet full of five-cent pieces. As soon as the man had sheared his sheep, he ran to the clerk, fleeced in hand, threw down the fleeces, and received his five-cent piece. In one corner was a barrel of beer, which was retailed at five cents a glass; and far too many of the five-cent pieces changed hands again the next minute at the beer-barrel.

As fast as the fleeces were tossed out from the shed, they were thrown up to a man standing on the top of the roof. This man flung them into an enormous bale-sack, swinging wide-mouthed from a derrick; in the sack stood another man, who jumped on the wood to pack it down tight.

AN EXECUTION IN CUBA.

THE EXPEDITIOUS MANNER OF GARRETING MURDERERS.

A Peculiar Instrument of Justice, and How it is Worked—Trying the Executioner.

A letter from Havana to the Philadelphia Record says: Those who have sailed by daylight into the beautiful harbor of Havana will, perhaps, recall a dark and low stone building upon the right shore, almost directly opposite Moro Castle, which is perched on the other side of the bay. This building is the prison in which criminals are confined who have been sentenced to death. Attached to it is a chapel, where many a poor wretch has received the last consolations of religion, and the worn stone sill of the door bears witness to the many feet that have passed out to return on earth never any more.

In the month of May, 1866, General Dulce being captain-general of the Island of Cuba, one Ramon Torres, a private in a Spanish infantry regiment, stationed at Havana, for some cause or other, in a moment of passion drove a knife to the hilt in the bosom of his superior officer, killing him on the spot. The culprit was, of course, immediately arrested and sent to prison, where he was at once tried and condemned to die by the garrote. Spanish law sometimes renders swift justice, and in this case but a few days intervened between the murder and its expiation.

When the death sentence is passed upon a criminal, the Juzgado, or court of justice, proceed to the prison, and, calling the criminal out of his cell, the judge reads the sentence to him. After doing so he generally makes him an address exhorting him to prepare for the awful change that is coming upon him. The prisoner is then taken in irons to the chapel where he remains until he goes out to his execution. There is a bed in the chapel where he can rest, and a priest is always with him. During the period he is here no reasonable request is denied him, and everything that can contribute to his comfort is readily furnished.

On the day of the execution of the subject of this sketch about five thousand troops were paraded outside the prison walls, almost as many people of the city and surrounding country were also on the ground. Suddenly there came a chorus of voices from the building, singing in unison a funeral dirge. It was the farewell of the doomed man's fellow prisoners, a ceremony never omitted by them. The sun was gleaming brightly over the still, smooth water, the dark green foliage scarcely stirring in the gentle breeze, and amid all the quietness and beauty of nature, the wail awoke in the heart thoughts so sad as never to be forgotten to one's dying day.

All at once the prison doors were flung wide open, and the criminal, a man of small stature, came forth with a priest and soldier on either side, the former holding in his hands a crucifix, while he occasionally leaned down and encouraged the doomed man. Immediately following came the verdago (executioner), wearing a dark dress, having upon each of its sleeves an embroidered ladder, the insignia of his office. Two drummers followed beating the funeral march. It being a Spanish custom on such occasion to loosen the drum snare, the peculiar rattle they produced was far less agreeable than the muffled drum we are accustomed to hear.

The garrote was erected near, and directly north of the prison walls, at a place called La Punta, "the Point." It was with difficulty the poor wretch could walk to the spot, and he seemed frequently on the point of sinking to the earth. The instrument of death stood upon a wooden platform and was composed of an upright piece of scantling with the iron collar and lever attached, while below was a rude seat.

Arriving at the foot of the platform the death sentence was again read, and the alguacil de corte—corresponding to our sheriff—asked the prisoner if he had anything to say to the people. He merely shook his head, by way of reply, and was at once seated, his legs tied and his arms pinioned, with the hands crossed on his breast and the collar fixed about his neck. At this point of the proceedings the verdago pulled from his person a long bright knife, and handed it to the police who were present. A black cap was then drawn over the prisoner's face and the priests began to recite the credo. When they came to the words "His only son," the verdago, by a swift and dexterous turn of the lever, launched the soul of the poor wretch into eternity. There was but a momentary quiver of the limbs and a straightening of the form, then all was still, for the man was stone dead. The mode of punishment is far more merciful than the hideous and bungling performances frequently gone through with at our gibbets.

The troops then wheeled into column and marched away to the beat of drums, and now came the strange sequel to this dismal spectacle.

As soon as the ground was cleared one of the police went forward and, seizing the verdago, arrested him for murder, hurrying him to the prison, where the juzgado were still assembled. Placing him in their midst he accused him of having killed a man, and denounced him as a murderer. The judge asked him what he had to say in answer to the charge.

"It is true," replied the verdago, "that I killed the prisoner, but I deny being a murderer, for, although I committed the act charged—displaying his arms with the badge—I did it in the cause of justice, and in presence of the law, all of which I am compelled to do by virtue of my office."

"The accused is innocent, and is discharged," answered the court, and thus the formula of Spanish law was satisfied.

The statistics of the universal postal union for 1881 show that the United States ranks first in the number of post-offices with 44,512; Great Britain takes second place with 14,918, Germany has 11,088 and France 6,158. Japan, with 5,094 offices is far in advance of Russia, British India, Austria, Italy and Spain. Switzerland has one postoffice to every 985 inhabitants, and the United States one to every 1,126.

Blushing Monkeys.

Mr. Darwin remarks the fact noticed by Mr. Sutton, that the face of the macacus rhesus when much enraged grows red. Mr. Darwin himself saw the face of this monkey redden when attacked by another monkey, and he also adds that the "seat pads" also seemed to redden under the influence of anger, although he could not "positively assert that this was the case." My monkey, Jenny, blushed more distinctly. A red hue shot over and obscured the normal yellow tint of the skin of the face, and I noticed that the "seat pads" occasionally also grew redder. Another curious fact concerning this monkey's behavior when enraged consisted in the variations she exhibited when she was irritated by myself and by another person. If irritated by another person, she shook the cage and chattered, while her face flushed like that of a human being in anger. If, on the other hand, I had occasion to reproach her, she darted down to the bottom of the cage, lay down, and, as often as not concealing her face in the straw. The analogy between that ineffective or suppressed rage in a human being, which is shown by the person throwing himself down on the ground—a feature seen familiarly in some children—and the behavior of Jenny under my reproach, appears to me to be too exact to escape notice. Paddy, the Capuchin, on the contrary, when enraged or frightened, used to retire to a corner of the cage and stand on his head, uttering, meanwhile, the most plaintive cries in the well-known shrill and musical voice of his race. On one occasion, when a servant had allowed Paddy to imbibe nearly half a glassful of champagne, he showed his alcoholic dissipation by standing on his head and vainly endeavoring to emit his familiar cry. Dr. Darwin mentions the case of a young female chimpanzee who, when enraged, "presented a curious example to a child in the same state. She screamed loudly with widely open mouth, the lips being retracted so that the teeth were fully exposed. She threw her arms wildly about, sometimes clasping them over her head. She rolled on the ground, sometimes on her back, sometimes on her stomach, and bit everything within her reach."—*Gentleman's Magazine.*

Canes.
The manufacture of canes is by no means the simple process of cutting the sticks in the woods, peeling off the bark, whittling down the knots, sandpapering the rough surface and adding a touch of varnish, a curiously carved handle or head and tipping the end with a ferrule. In the sand flats of New Jersey whole families support themselves by gathering maneberry sticks, which they gather in the swamps, straightening with an old vice, steam over an old kettle and perhaps scrape down or whittle into size. These are packed in large bundles to New York city and sold to the cane factories. Many imported sticks, however, have to go through a process of straightening by mechanical means, which are a mystery to the uninitiated. They are buried in hot sand until they become pliable. In front of the heap of hot sand in which the sticks are plunged is a stout board from five to six feet long, fixed at an angle inclined to the workmen and having two or more notches cut in the edge. When the stick has become perfectly pliable the workman places it on one of the notches, and bending it in the opposite direction to which it is naturally bent, straightens it. This sticks apparently crooked, bent, warped and worthless are by this simple process straightened; but the most curious part of the work is observed in the formation of the crook or curl for the handles which are not naturally supplied with a hook or knob. The workman places one end of the cane firmly in a vice and pours a continuous stream of fire from a gas-pipe on the part which is to be bent. When sufficient heat has been applied the cane is pulled slowly and gradually round until the hook is completely formed and then secured with a string. An additional application of heat serves to bake and permanently fix the curl. The underpart of the handle is frequently charred by the action of the gas, and this is rubbed down with sandpaper until the requisite degree of smoothness is attained.—*American Merchant.*

A Remarkable Cave.
An article in the *Century* is a description of Devonshire, entitled "The Fairest County in England," by Francis George Heath. Of Kent's cavern, in the vicinity of Torquay, a remarkable cave, consisting of a great excavation in the Devonian limestone, the writer says: It is entered by a narrow passage some seven feet wide and only five feet in height. The central cavern, which is almost 600 feet long, has a number of smaller caverns or corridors leading out from it. Its farther extremity is terminated by a deep pool of water. In the bed of this cavern modern research has been rewarded by some deeply interesting discoveries. Over the original earth-bottom of the cave is a bed or layer of considerable thickness, in which are contained strange mixtures of human bones with the bones of the elephant and the rhinoceros, the hyena, the bear and the wolf, intermingled with stone and flint tools, arrow and spear heads, and fragments of coarse pottery. The animal remains testify to the presence in the ancient forests of Britain of beasts of prey which long since have become extinct. Speculation may be exhausted in the endeavor to account for the curious intermingling in this cavern of the remains of human beings and of wild animals. The place may have been used for shelter successively by man and by the lords of the forest; or, as the presence of the rude weapons of man might seem to indicate, the beasts of the field may have been brought into this natural recess as trophies of the chase, and their flesh and skins used for purposes of food and clothing. Nothing less than the most persevering and enthusiastic search could have discovered the interesting remains which, for a vast period of time, had been buried in this retreat; for the fossils were covered by a thick floor of stalagmite which had been formed, there can be no doubt, by great blocks of limestone which had fallen from time to time, extending over a very lengthened period, from the roof of the cavern, and had become cemented into one mass by the perpetual percolations of lime-water from above.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Eastern and Middle States.

A NEW gas well, recently opened in Westmoreland county, Penn., was lit the flame shot upward 150 feet, and illuminated the country. Its heat was terrific, and could be heard for three miles. By its intense action hoards were shaken within the radius of a mile. The well was pronounced by experts to be the largest ever developed.

A. H. ROWLAND, clerk of the county court at Pittsburg, Pa., was arrested upon the charge of having embezzled nearly \$47,000 during two terms of office.

TWENTY-NINE horses were burned to death in a Philadelphia stable.

THE schooner James Wade is reported to have gone down in Lake Erie with her crew of seven men.

A MARRIAGE in high life is reported from Pittsburg, Pa., where Patrick O'Brien, professionally known as the Irish giant, has been united to Miss Christine Duerz, the German giantess. Both are on exhibition in a Pittsburg museum.

A NEW YORK court has decided that the trustees of the Erie bridge are not personally liable for the disaster on that structure, resulting from a panic by which several lives were lost last Decoration day.

COMMODORE JOHN M. BERRIEN, a retired officer of the United States navy, died the other day in Philadelphia. He was a midshipman on the frigate Constellation, over fifty-eight years ago.

WILLIAM MCWILLIAMS, a Waterford (Penn.) octogenarian, awoke the other night and found the cold arms of his dead wife clasped around his neck.

JOHN CRITCHFIELD was hanged at Newark, N. J., for the murder five months ago of his wife, whose life he had often threatened, and who was living apart from him.

JOHN MCKEON, New York's district attorney, ex-member of Congress and for many years one of the most prominent Democrats in the city, died suddenly the other day, aged seventy-eight years.

A MEETING in the interest of free trade, held at the Cooper Institute, New York, was presided over by Henry Ward Beecher and addressed by Henry Watkinson and others.

THE Railway (N. J.) national bank, was compelled by a heavy rain to suspend. The trouble is said to be only temporary.

South and West.
SAMUEL HENRY, of Swanton, Ohio, shot and killed his wife, and tried to kill his daughter, Mrs. Liba. He then shot himself dead. They had been married about a year, she being the widow of a Mr. Stevens when Henry married her.

FOURTY masked and armed men took possession of the mine at Marshall, Ga., on the 14th, and made the workmen quit after shooting and killing one.

A STATEMENT of the recent gales on the great lakes shows a loss of fifty-five lives and sixty vessels. Twenty-six vessels, representing a value of \$490,000, are total losses.

THE Mississippi Valley bank, of Vicksburg, Miss., has suspended.

GENERAL AUGUSTUS C. DODGE, formerly United States Senator and minister to Spain for eight years, died in Burlington, Iowa, a few days since, aged seventy-two years.

EX-SENATOR GEORGE E. SPENCER, of Alabama, was arrested at Austin, Tex., by order of the general prosecutor for contempt of court in not appearing as a witness in the star route cases. Spencer denied eluding the officers. He left Austin with two deputy marshals for Washington.

DURING a severe rain storm a dozen houses at Piedmont, Mo., were swept away by the rushing waters of a creek, and two women and three children were drowned.

THE propeller Manitowish, from Duluth, Minn., bound for Ontonagon, founded in Lake Superior during the recent heavy gales, and twenty-five persons on board are supposed to have been lost.

EDWARD PAYNE, cashier of the First National bank at Rushville, Ind., was shot dead by a burglar, who had entered his house for the evident purpose of robbery.

JACOB CROUCH, his daughter and her husband, and a guest from Texas, were found murdered in the former's farmhouse near Jackson, Mich. Robbery was the motive of the crime.

A NUMBER of people were drowned and great destruction of property has been caused by heavy floods resulting from long-continued rains in various parts of Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

Washington.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL GRESHAM has forbidden postmasters to aid session attorneys by furnishing them with lists of soldiers and other persons entitled to pensions.

THE annual report of the register of the treasury shows that the total tonnage of the country exhibits an increase of 64,554 tons.

CHIEF BROOKS, of the United States Secret Service, reports that during the past fiscal year his division made 376 arrests, obtained ninety-one convictions, and the imposture of counterfeit money was \$14,929. The total expenditure was \$26,415. Only one really dangerous counterfeit coin appeared, that of the standard dollar being almost identical with the genuine in weight, ring and appearance, yet having only about 30 per cent. of silver.

A SUIT for \$20,000,000 has been brought at San Francisco against the Quicksilver Mining company of New Almaden, by the heirs of Gray, one of the original proprietors of the mine. The action is based upon the alleged fraudulent administration of the property by Robert J. Walker, who had been a partner of Gray, and was until recently the chief representative of the company.

THE attention of the United States government has been invited to the International Forestry exhibition to be held in Edinburgh in the summer of 1884. The exhibition will be open to contributors from all countries, and is designed to include everything connected with or illustrative of the forest products of the world.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, United States minister to England, was elected rector of St. Andrew's university, an honor usually conferred upon some prominent Englishman. He received 109 votes to eighty-two for Mr. Gibson, member of parliament for Dublin university.

Foreign.

THE Amer of Afghanistan has caused to be executed a number of persons suspected of favoring the projects of Aboob Khan, and has expelled a number of others from the country.

A SCHOOLMASTER and a peasant have been shot in Serbia for leading the revolt.

SHIEK OREIDULLAH, the noted Kurdish chief, has died of cholera at Mecca.

IN France decrees have been issued appointing Prime Minister Ferry minister of foreign affairs, in place of M. Challemel-Lacour, resigned on account of ill health, and M. Falloux, minister of public instruction in succession to M. Ferry.

GREAT loss of life and shipping occurred during the recent severe gale off the coasts of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. The coasts were strewn with wreckage, and many bodies were washed ashore. At Green Island a Norwegian bark was driven on the rocks, and of twelve men on board ten were drowned.

DR. CHARLES W. SIEMENS, the celebrated German scientist, engineer and electrician, died a few days since in London from the effects of a fall.

EIGHTEEN workmen were drowned while crossing the river at Donarnez, France.

FIFTY persons in Thorn, West Prussia, have been attacked by trichinosis.

JOSEPH POOLE, the Fenian, was convicted in Dublin, of the murder of Joseph Kenny, an informer, and sentenced to death.

THE Prussian diet is in session.

SCATTERED bands of Chinese pirates, supposed to be "Black Flags," have been committing outrages in Tonquin. Four villages were destroyed by them.

FURTHER PARTICULARS FROM ST. JOHN'S, N. F., REGARDING THE RECENT DISASTROUS STORM.

THE brigantine Bonnie Lassie was lost at Cape St. Francis. Captain Hogan, first officer Frang and Steward Toney perished with her. The bark Helois, the brigantine Greole, the schooner Western Packet, and the brigantine Guelph were also lost during the gale. Their crews were saved.

A CYCLOPE destroyed every house in Atlanta, Mexico. Several persons were killed or wounded.

BANDITS are committing great depredations in Cuba.

MOONEY and Sankey, the evangelists, are holding largely attended meetings in Wadsworth, England.

THE Chinese government is reported to have issued a call for 100,000 troops, in anticipation of a war with France.

THE American ship Thomas Dana arrived at Fuzhou having on board twenty-one men who had formed part of the passengers and crew of the French brig Bonaparte, sunk by a collision. The remainder of the passengers and crew, numbering eighty-eight, perished.

JAMES DAVIS, secretary of the London and San Francisco bank, absconded from London with \$250,000 of the bank's funds.

SPANISH Republicans threaten a revolt if universal suffrage is not granted at the next session of the Cortes.

JOHN SHARPLES, Sons & Co., lumber merchants of Quebec, have failed for about \$700,000.

THE duke of Castlemonte, who was recently captured near Tripoli, Sicily, by brigands, has been ransomed for \$5,000.

A ROME dispatch states that the pope has created Mr. F. W. Dawson, editor of the *News and Courier*, of Charleston, S. C., a knight of the order of St. George for the stand he has taken in his paper against dueling.

MR. ROYSTON, the British superintendent of the Nicobar Islands, in the Indian ocean, while riding with his wife on the island of Camorta, was shot and killed by a Sepoy officer whom he had punished. After killing the superintendent the murderer committed suicide.

THE German crown prince met with an enthusiastic greeting upon his landing at Valencia, Spain, whence he proceeded to Madrid. The unusually hearty reception, accorded to the future emperor of Germany by the Spanish people, was a return for the many attentions paid to the king of Spain during his recent visit to Berlin. It will be remembered that for accepting the compliment of an appointment as honorary colonel of a German regiment the Spanish king was booed by the populace in Paris.

AN ARMY CUT TO PIECES.

Egyptian Troops Annihilated by the False Prophet.

Only One Soldier Out of 10,000 Succeeded in Escaping.

A special dispatch from Khartoum, says Most trustworthy sheiks in the service of the government, who arrived at Douen yesterday, report that Hicks Pasha, the governor general, and his entire army, were annihilated in a defile at Kashgate, whither they were led by a treacherous guide. The guide led them to a rocky, wooded defile, which was without water, and where an ambuscade had been prepared by the rebels, under Mahdi, the False Prophet, who were armed with rifles and artillery. Hicks Pasha was unable to see his guns, for they were all buried, worn out by thirst, he died of it, but on the fourth day it was annihilated to a man. Viciously. Arsen and fifty soldiers, who were outside, came in and were taken to the rebels, who were then ordered to march. The rebels captured thirty-two Krupp, Nordenfild and mountain guns, all the flags, the munitions of war and the camels. With Hicks Pasha, besides those before mentioned, was Surgeon-General George Eley, Captain Anstey, Major Brady, Major-General Nordenfild, and certain pashas and boys, in all about 12,000 officers. Korfolan is ritually lost. Colonel Costogon was at Douen when the sheiks arrived there. He at once proceeded to Khartoum, which he is arranging to defend. He is also arranging to suppress an expected revolt by calling in all the outlying garrisons. Colonel Costogon and your correspondents were the only surviving Englishmen in the Sudan. The entire Sudan is in a-b-a-v. The army will retreat to Berya if possible. It cannot muster 4,000 regulars, all told.

The London News' Cairo correspondent says: Hicks Pasha had divided his army, sending half to El Obeid to demand the surrender of that place. He awaited the arrival of the other half of Hicks Pasha's army advancing to El Obeid and attacked it. Bearing the brunt, Hicks Pasha came up with his whole force and formed a square. The Mahdi brought up fresh regulars who, it is supposed, were the soldiers who were captured when El Obeid fell and who agreed to take service under the Mahdi. These numbered 3,000. The square of Hicks Pasha's men was then broken and his army was annihilated. The English officers, with the Egyptian army fought gallantly. The European who escaped is thought to be Mr. O'Donovan, or Frank Vazetly, of the London *Graphic*. Hicks Pasha had 10,000 soldiers and 2,000 camp followers. The Arab numbered 300,000.

Another report of the fight says the Mahdi sent the dervishes to treat with Hicks Pasha's native officers, saying to the Egyptians: "We, like you, are Muslims. Why fight? The dervishes were repulsed by a volley and then the battle commenced.

In a proclamation issued by two prominent sheiks under El Mahdi, in September, it was claimed that his forces numbered 300,000, that they had taken 100,000 camels and 100,000 horses, which they had taken from the Turks, but that El Mahdi had forbidden their use, as only spears and swords would be used by fighting men. The news has caused a profound sensation in all circles in London. In an interview with a correspondent, a high official stated that the government would modify its plans, and that the idea of withdrawing British troops from Egypt would be abandoned. The utter uncertainty of the Egyptian troops, even when offered by capable foreign generals, was not only apparent, but presented a serious menace to English interests in Egypt, especially at this time when it seemed likely that the success of the false prophet might arouse unbridled fanaticism among the followers of his faith in Eastern countries.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

Twenty-seven States Represented at the Annual Convention.

The annual convention of the National Grange was opened in Washington, D. C., twenty-seven States being represented by masters of State granges. William Saunders of the agricultural department, who was the first master of the national grange, delivered an address of welcome to the delegates. Speeches were made by ex-Governor Robie, of Maine, J. K. Thompson, of this city, and Mr. Harrison, of Alabama. They discussed the question of the strength and influence of the agricultural class, its want of representation in the executive branch of the government, and the organization of a national grange organization. Worty Master J. J. Woodman, of Michigan, delivered his annual address, reviewing the progress of the order. He asserts that the grange organization is in a more prosperous condition now than it has been for many years, and that its ranks are rapidly filling up.

While trying to creep under a barbed wire fence with a gun in his hand, Noah Harmon, of Mount Joy, Penn., was fatally shot.

LATER NEWS.

A FOREST fire nine miles in extent and covering several thousand acres of valuable timber land has been raging in the vicinity of Huntington, Penn. About 5,000 cords of wood and as many cords of bark were consumed.

DEVELOPMENTS show that the late A. B. Johnson, the prominent Utica (N. Y.) lawyer who shot himself, was a defaulter in the sum of \$300,000, the money misappropriated belonging to the McDowell estate, of Rochester. Mrs. McDowell is a sister of Johnson, and he had entire charge of the estate.

MARY O'CONNOR, a young operative, jumped out of the burning mill of Samuel G. Kosey, a Philadelphia manufacturer, last December, and sustained injuries which crippled her for life. She sued Kosey, and the jury have just awarded her \$10,000 in damages.

Mrs. HENSTON, a farmer's wife, and her two children, were burned to death in their home near Unionville, Mo.

THE liabilities of the suspended Mississippi Valley bank, of Vicksburg, will probably reach \$1,000,000.

A NEW island, created by volcanic action, has been discovered off the coast of Alaska.

ANDREW TAYLOR, the last of the three notorious Taylor brothers, who murdered Sheriff W. T. Cate and his deputy, J. J. Conway, in the fall of 1882, was hanged at London, Tenn. On the day previous to his execution, while being conveyed to London from Knoxville, he jerked a pistol out of the pocket of one of his guards, and was about to shoot another sheriff, but was knocked down and the weapon secured before he could do further harm. On the gallows he appeared unmoved, and died with curses on his lips.

THE President has appointed Surgeon Robert Murray, now on duty in New York, as the chief medical officer at Major-General Hancock's headquarters, vice the late General Charles H. Crane.

His financial report Mr. Knox, controller of the currency, says that the total number of national banks in operation on November 1, was 2,722, the largest number that has been in operation at any one time. During the year 22 national banks were organized, with an aggregate capital of \$28,543,320. Forty banks, with aggregate capital of \$7,736,000 and circulation of \$1,137,636, have voluntarily discontinued business during the year. From November 1, 1882, to November 1, 1883, the production of gold by the mines of the United States is estimated to have been \$22,000,000. The total amount of silver coined during the year has been, after deducting the recoinage, \$29,031,141, of which \$28,291,000 were standard silver dollars. The following is the amount of coin and currency in the country on November 1, 1883: Gold coin and bullion, \$581,970,234; silver coin, \$242,791,932; legal tender notes, \$346,681,019; national bank notes, \$329,913,787; total, \$1,501,395,989.

The trustees of the Exhibition hall in Cork refused to permit Mr. Parnell, the Irish home-rule leader, to use it for the purpose of making an address to his constituents.

Two infernal machines, of sufficient power to demolish any building, were discovered by the London police at the residence of a socialist named Wolff, who was arrested.

COUNT FREDERIC DE LAGRANGE, a French politician, and a prominent patron of the turf, died in Paris a few days ago, aged sixty-seven. His horses captured the Derby in 1865 and 1866.

TWENTY passengers were drowned by a collision between two steamers on Lake Geneva, Switzerland.

Santa Claus.

The history of Santa Claus—a curious mixture of truth and fable—goes far back into the ancient time. Centuries ago a child was born in Asia Minor who received the name of Nicholas. His parents were wealthy and of high rank, and desiring to express their gratitude to God for the birth of their son, they resolved to educate him for the Christian priesthood. The child was sober and thoughtful, and while yet young both his parents died, and he inherited their great wealth. He considered the richer a sacred trust; he fed the hungry, he clothed the destitute and performed all kinds of good deeds as secretly as possible. As a priest he was greatly beloved; as a bishop he continued his benevolence; after his death the church canonized him, and he became one of the greatest of patron saints, being revered as the helper of the poor, the protector of the weak, and as the special patron saint of little children, who were taught to believe that their good gifts came from him. Saint Nicholas was the name given him by the monks, and this was familiarly changed to Santa Claus, and finally clipped down to Santa Claus, who is still represented as retaining his old habits of secret benevolence and coming down the chimney at night, laden with Christmas presents for children. A pleasant fiction it is to them, under the cover of which that charming secrecy concerning the donors of gifts is kept up, though little eyes and ears and minds are keen, and Santa Claus is usually very well known to them as a much more modern personage than old St. Nicholas. But the children enjoy the harmless pretense, the mysterious filling of stockings and the heavily laden Christmas tree.

A Great Goose Market.

Poultry-rearing for export appears to be largely on the increase in Germany, and Rummelsburg, near Berlin, boasts of the largest goose market probably in the world. There arrive daily at that station on an average forty cars with geese and ducks. Every car contains about 1,500, thus making about 400,000 birds shipped every week, or an annual total of 20,000,000. The largest portion of these birds are reared and fattened in the surrounding provinces, and thence despatched to all parts of Germany, England, Belgium, France, Switzerland and other European cities.—*Live Stock Journal.*

Lace for Dress Garniture.

Lace for dress garniture comes this season in four widths to match, and a favorite kind is the escurial lace, which is exceedingly effective when velvet is employed in its designs.