# THE WEEKLY SUN.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 4, 1865.


### The Reaction in the South.

The Southern news published in another part of to-day's Sun, is highly significant and important. It establishes the fact that the South is no longer united, and that a revulsion of feeling has set in against the further prosecution of the war, which is more suspicious to our cause than a great victory. The discontent is not confined to any locality. It extends over the entire South. Even Charleston is impressed with the hopelessness of the war, and obeys the terrible admonitions of the Federal cannon that have been so long thundering day and night within range of that city. The indications now are that when Charleston falls into the hands of General Sherman the inhabitants will follow the example of Savannah, and "accept the position." If these signs are exhibited in Charleston what must be the state of feeling in Richmond, Augusta, Mobile and other cities that have been reluctantly dragged into the rebellion? The inference is plain that it only requires an equal combination of energy and skill in the field and sagacity and true patriotism in the Cabinet at Washington to accomplish a complete revolution in Southern sentiment. The Southern statesmen are proverbially shrewd and far-seeing. They already discern the signs of the times, and the tone of the Richmond press, and the debates in the rebel Congress, show that they are already balancing the advantages of a frank return to the Union, and a prolongation of the war, with the fading chances, to which they still clung, of ultimate aid and protection from France and England. It is to their credit that rebellion has not stamped out of them all the finer impulses of American nationality, and they console themselves, under the inevitable prospect of the success of the North, with dazzling dreams of foreign conquest by the armies of the United North and South. These favorable developments should be encouraged and stimulated. The better sense of the North and South should be permitted to resume its accustomed sway and crush the extremists of both sections, who would prolong a contest that can only end in one way—the triumph of the Union and Constitution of the United States.

### Canada Making Reparation.

The action of the Canadian Executive and Parliament in reference to the recent outrage committed against us, exhibits a satisfactory desire to afford reparation for the past, and security against future wrongs. The Governor-General in his speech at the opening of Parliament, plainly expressed the opinion that the United States Government had good reason to complain of the immunity and protection extended to the authors of the St. Albans outrage. He has since sent a message recommending an appropriation of ninety thousand dollars in gold, to replace the sum given up by the Montreal Court to the liberated raiders. No opposition was expressed, and it is probable that the appropriation will be granted and the stolen money refunded. The suspension of Judge Coursol for his conduct in liberating the prisoners has been confirmed, and a commission is to be sent to Montreal to enquire into the cause of the failure of justice. It is also understood that a bill will be immediately passed for the more effectual prevention of future raids. This action is all the more satisfactory in view of the decision of the Recorder of Toronto in relation to the extradition case for the surrender of BURLEY, one of the Lake Erie pirates. The point raised was, whether the act of which BURLEY was accused was legitimate of war. The Judge decided that it was not, and that he had committed an offence for which he was liable to be punished by Canadian law. The commission of JEFF. DAVIS to BURLEY was not regarded as authorizing the seizure of the vessels, and as the case now stands BURLEY and his associates are regarded as criminals and outlaws in Canada. This decision is most important. If affirmed by the Superior Court, it will establish as a principle of Canadian law the position of our Government, that the Canadians are bound to prevent their country from being made the base of petty piratical warfare by rebels and rebel sympathizers. It is, however, to be regretted that the course of Canadian justice has been so tardy. If our provincial neighbors had exhibited at an earlier period a disposition to preserve an honest neutrality, their present course would be free from the suspicion of having been induced by the fear of retaliatory measures. Both sides would have been spared a world of hard feeling, and there would have been no motive for the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty, which has conferred so many benefits upon the people on either side of the St. Lawrence.

### Paying our Debts.

Some of our radical cotemporaries are very much exercised because a majority of the members of Congress are indisposed to pass sundry bills imposing excessive taxation upon the people. These journals call upon our Senators and Representatives to pile on the "agony of taxation" until it reaches the acme of endurance, declaring that the people are patriotic, and will patiently bear every load the government requires them to shoulder. We do not doubt the patriotism of our people, and have no idea that they will ever refuse to bear whatever burdens are necessary to enable our armies and navy to triumph over the rebellion, but we submit that a policy of excessive taxation will defeat the end sought for by the radicals and increase the difficulties that surround the question of being able eventually to liquidate the debt incurred by the prosecution of the war. So far as the people of the present generation are concerned, they are willing to be taxed just enough to cover one-fifth of the annual expenses, besides paying the interest on the public debt. Beyond this let future generations provide the "ways and means." We see no great reason for being frightened at the large debt that is accumulating, and cannot therefore agree with our cotemporaries who assert that the "loyal people are holding up both hands and praying to be taxed." The loyal people are doing no such thing. They will pay their proportion, and object to being called upon for anything more. When the radical policy is more fully developed, its advocates will perceive its folly by the effect upon the people. Our members of Congress, who are sufficiently enlightened, constantly oppose any taxation having for its object the extinction of the public debt within the next generation, wisely believing that after the war, our national resources will be more rapidly developed than they have been in the past.

The energies of a young nation having been put forth to crush a gigantic rebellion, will next be directed to the grander conquest of a continent, the richest in mineral and agricultural productions of any on the face of the globe. The investigations of scientific travelers are constantly revealing the wealth of our western territories, which need only a working population to make their resources available. After this "fratricidal war is over," the tide of immigration will set westward until the hills and valleys, now inhabited by Indians and wild beasts, are made to yield their proportion of the debt incurred during this war. In view of this prospect that is before us, we deprecate any legislation having for its object the payment by taxation of the debt we have contracted. We have done the fighting for our posterity, let the larger share of the expenses be paid by those who will reap the benefit thereof.

### The Enlistment of Naval Apprentices.

*New Paltz Landing, Jan. 30, 1865.*—ED. SUN: I am a constant patron, and on that ground assume to address you in behalf of myself and others who are "in pursuit of knowledge under difficulties." We learn from your paper of a Naval School at New York, and have also learned the mode of getting in, but we are at a loss to know what it will prove after we are in. We would be glad to know the origin, nature and prospects of the Institution; how, and by whom it is established; what is its character as compared with the Naval Academy, and the standing and position an "apprentice" acquires in the U. S. Navy; how long it is likely to last; what course of treatment and policy is pursued towards apprentices who enter; what pay, and when do they commence drawing. The thing is so obscure that great distrust is felt. If it be simply a herd yard for vagabond boys from which to draw supplies as powder-monkeys, coal-heavers, deck-sweepers, etc., it should be known. If it be an institution founded by law, fitting boys for honorable positions and advancement in the United States Navy, and from which a boy could graduate with the regular honors and privileges of a Naval Academy, then it should be known. I have a boy for the position named, but would not place him in a place like the first.

J. V. V. E.

As the above letter embodies the substance of perhaps a score of communications that we have received within the last three or four days, we select it as the subject of a reply which, we trust, will furnish the information sought also by other correspondents.

The naval apprenticeship system is not a new institution. It was established by an act of Congress passed in 1837, but in consequence of the peaceful condition of the country and the meagre needs of the naval service, but little attention was paid to the subject, and the system was eventually suspended. Lately, however, it has been resuscitated by Secretary Welles, who has issued a schedule of regulations which fully explains the aim of the system and furnishes all useful information regarding it. From these regulations it appears that the qualifications required for acceptance as a naval apprentice are, that the boy shall be between fourteen and eighteen years of age, that he shall be entirely free from any personal defect or disease, or manifest tendency toward disease which would impair his efficiency as a seaman. No boy will be received who has been convicted of any infamous crime or moral delinquency. After the passage of a satisfactory examination upon these points, it is essential that the consent of a parent or guardian of the boy shall be given, by signature to the shipping articles, and also by an acknowledgment of such consent made in duplicate in the presence of, and certified by, a magistrate, one copy of which shall be filed in the Department at Washington, and the other transferred, with the pay account of the boy, to the vessel in which he is to serve. Two school-ships, properly fitted out and equipped for the instruction of the apprentices, will be stationed at convenient places (which are not yet officially designated). These vessels will be fully officered and sufficiently manned, and are to be ready for service, to run out to sea occasionally, and, if necessary, to go from one port to another. Schoolmasters will be assigned to each school-ship to teach the rudiments of education, including navigation; and a proper allowance of books, stationery, and necessary instruments, will be furnished by the Government. The officers of the school ships will be constantly on the vessels, and the boys will be required to keep themselves scrupulously clean and tidy; and their bedding, hammocks and mess appurtenances must be kept in perfect order. Upon his reception on board the school-ship a boy will be furnished with such articles of clothing, of navy pattern, as may be specified by the department, which articles will be charged to him and deducted from his pay. He will also receive, free of charge, the same allowance of outfit, hammock, etc., that enlisted men in the Navy receive. A Board, consisting of officers of the school-ships, will examine boys, as they are received, and classify them according to their degree of advancement. The apprentices are to be carefully and systematically instructed, under the direction of the commanding officer, in the various duties pertaining to a seaman on board a man-of-war—in rigging and unrigging masts and yards, bending and unbending sails, knotting, strapping and splicing blocks, heaving the lead, steering, making signals, shipping, pointing, grating, weaving mats, making gaskets, reefing, furling, using muskets, pistols and cutlasses, exercising great guns, target firing, pulling oars, etc. The commander of the vessel will make up and transmit to the Navy Department a quarterly report showing the names and classes of the boys, their aptitude and deportment; and also the number of times they have been reported for misconduct, together with all punishments inflicted. At intervals, of not more than three or four months, the Department will order a board of naval officers of appropriate rank to rigidly inspect the condition of the school ships, and closely examine the course pursued toward the boys, and make a report of the same. At the time of their enlistment as apprentices, the boys will be rated and classified according to ability, and will afterward be rated according to the degree of advancement. The pay of the boys, as at present provided, will be as follows: For those of the first class, ten dollars a month; second class, nine dollars a month; third class, eight dollars a month. One-tenth part of the monthly pay will be withheld until the expiration of the term of enlistment, which will be when the apprentice has reached the age of twenty-one years. The remainder of his pay (which will commence with the date of his acceptance) will be expended in clothing and other necessaries for his use; and under the especial approval of the commanding officer, occasional payments in money will be made. The boys will be encouraged and assisted in remitting to parents that portion of their pay that is not expended for necessaries. Apprentices will be transferred to vessels in active service upon the recommendation of the Board, and with the approval of the commanding officer. The boys will not be allowed to act as servants or waiters for officers, nor will they be employed, without urgent necessity, in other services not conducive to the objects of their enlistment. On the termination of a regular cruise, commanding officers of sea-going vessels will report to the Department the names of apprentice boys who have been deserving, and the Department, if expedient, will then grant them leave of absence not exceeding six weeks. At the end of his term of enlistment, a boy will receive all the money due him, and if he has been deserving, he will receive from the department a certificate on parchment, expressing its approval of his conduct. He will then be considered as having a prior claim in all applications for promotion or appointment. These rules embody the new regulations issued by Secretary Welles. The manner of making application has already been noticed in the Sun, and parents and guardians can, therefore, draw their own conclusions regarding the advantages of the apprenticeship system.

Some of the pupils in a school in Detroit are residents of Windsor, C. W. They have been stopped at the ferry, with their teacher, under the recent passport order. An application being made to Secretary Seward, through Alfred Russell, Esq., United States District Attorney, it has been decided that "Mrs. James and her young misses, pupils, are not 'travellers' in the meaning of the passport regulations, and need not be required to provide themselves with passports." So that our government does not lay any obstacles in the way of Canadian girls coming over and obtaining an education in American schools.

## Petroleum.

### Its Discovery, Development, Commercial Importance, etc.

*(Special Correspondence of The Sun.)*

OIL CITY, Jan. 26, 1865.

To compress the whole subject of Petroleum into a newspaper article would be a feat more difficult of accomplishment than any yet performed by literary prestidigitateurs. However, I will give you, as succinct a form as possible, the more interesting features of the petroleum subject, leaving my personal experience during a two months' tour in the classic regions of modern Grease to a subsequent article.

WHAT PETROLEUM IS.

The rapid development of the oil-producing territory, and the immense quantity of petroleum that is now annually consumed in the United States, has made it so familiar to the public that an elaborate analysis of its properties is unnecessary. It is a natural oil, deposited in the earth usually at a depth of from one hundred to six hundred feet; has a rancid, disagreeable odor, and is valuable for burning, lubricating and medicinal purposes. Although its properties, and a knowledge of the extent of its deposit, have but recently been known in this country, petroleum has in reality been known and used to some extent in every age, running back almost to the diluvian period.

ITS ANTIQUITY.

In Egypt petroleum was used for medicinal purposes nearly four thousand years ago, and oil springs are still in existence in that country. In the latter part of the last century, two ship cargoes of the crude oil were transported to England to be sold, but the process of refining not being understood, the traffic was abandoned. Under the name of Sicilian oil, the people of Agrigentum used what is now known as petroleum for purposes of illumination, and in Parma there is a spring of naptha which the people apply to a like use at the present day. In Asia Minor the oil has been known to exist, and has been used to a limited extent for ages; and in Persia a large quantity has been annually consumed, during several hundred years. Even in this country petroleum is by no means a new discovery. It was well known to the Indians before America was discovered, and was used for medicinal purposes. The early settlers of Western Pennsylvania, and other districts where oil springs now exist, used Rock Oil, as they called it, for various purposes, collecting it by skimming the oil deposit on the top of the water as it accumulated from the springs. In the memoranda of his visit to *Fort du Quesne* (now Pittsburgh), during the French and Indian war with the Colonies, General Washington mentions the existence of oil springs in localities where wells are now in operation. But neither the Indians nor the early white settlers knew anything of the vast deposits in the bed of the earth.

WHAT PRODUCES PETROLEUM.

Geologists, like doctors, do not always agree, and with regard to the formation of petroleum—the natural causes which produce it—there is considerable diversity of opinion. The most rational theory, however, and the one entertained by the most eminent geologists, is this: The formation of the North American continent, the great upheaval which threw off the water and discovered the land, deposited vast fields of marshy salt grass and seaweed in the beds where petroleum is now found. This vegetable deposit, in the transformation, became covered with successive layers of sand, shutting up the vegetation in its salt water beds. The action of the internal heat of the earth upon this vegetation and salt water could not consume the vegetable matter, nor could it drive off the salt water in vapor, for the hardening of the sand into rock cut off all means of escape. As a result, the heat distilled the vegetation, extracting the carbon and hydrogen comprising them—hence the formation of the hydro-carbonic compound known as petroleum. The same natural heat which performed the work of distillation would naturally crack the rock above, to some extent—hence the fissures through which the oil has been forced up in some localities, producing the oil springs. Upon this theory the fact that the oil is found, when near the surface, in narrow crevices or fissures, is easily explained—the petroleum being forced into these cracks from the beds below.

HOW THE PETROLEUM BEDS WERE DISCOVERED.

The region in which the oil is now found in Western Pennsylvania has almost for a century been known as a great salt district, and salt wells have been in operation there ever since the early settlement of the country. In boring salt wells the greatest difficulty was found in selecting localities where the water was not impregnated with a substance which the salt-men characterized as "a nasty, greasy substance," and which we of the present day call petroleum. Nearly forty years ago a Mr. Packer, while boring for salt water on Dear Creek, in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, "struck oil" at the depth of four hundred feet. The "greasy water," as he termed it, spurted up with great force, overflowed the land thereabouts, ruined his salt machinery, saturated the land with grease; and Mr. Packer, profoundly disgusted with the result of his efforts to obtain salt, left the country in a miff, little dreaming that he was running away from an El Dorado richer than the gold mines of California—more remunerative than the diamond mines of Brazil.

ORIGIN OF THE PETROLEUM EXCITEMENT.

As a natural consequence of the increase in the quantity of oil that found its way to the surface from abandoned salt wells, the people living in localities where it appeared gradually discovered that it contained some valuable properties. The reader will perhaps remember that only a few years ago a substance of horrid odor and taste was sold throughout the country as a sovereign remedy for nearly all the ills of the flesh, and bearing the names successively, of Seneca Oil, Genesee Oil, and Rock Oil. It was "warranted to cure" everything from toothache to hereditary consumption, and was a perfect annihilator of such simple ailments as rheumatism and asthma—being equally efficacious in external and internal applications. This miraculous stuff was simply crude petroleum, and that it was calculated to "either kill or cure," when taken internally, nobody will now deny. The apparently inexhaustible supply of the oil at length attracted the attention of scientific men, and in 1858, its properties and uses became more generally understood. A few barrels of the crude oil were exported to England, where it was partially refined, and its commercial importance began to be understood. Yankee enterprise having been attracted to the subject, the natural result followed. A method of refining was invented, the illuminating and lubricating uses of petroleum were discovered, and the reign of Petrolia commenced.

THE SELECTION OF BORING PLACES.

The existence of oil beds having been determined and Yankee enterprise having been attracted thereto, the next question that naturally arose was, how to determine where to sink a well; for it was soon discovered that there was something of a lottery in striking oil. Geologists and other scientific men, who embarked in the oil trade, carried out their theories in this respect, but were not always successful. The larger class who flocked to the Oil Dorado, however, had no faith in geology, and accordingly "bored" at random. The superstitious class, who are generally the majority, relied, and still rely upon the miraculous "witch hazel" men. These men profess to tell precisely where deposits of water, salt or oil may be found, by means of a little stick, in this manner: They cut a triangular twig of hazel, hold two of the prongs tightly in the hands, and in this manner walk slowly about in the vicinity of where it is desired to sink the well. When they come directly over the proper spot for boring, the "witch hazel" turns in their hands, despite their power to hold it, and the third prong points downward toward the spot for boring. The old settlers of this country almost invariably employed "witch hazel" men to determine good localities for digging water wells "that wouldn't go dry." It may be remarked, however, that as all signs are said to fail in dry weather, the prophecies of the "witch hazel" men fail when they don't find oil. The more sensible manner of choosing localities for oil wells is to bore where the geological formation is like that where good wells have been found. At best, sinking oil wells is a lottery—if a man stands one chance in twenty of drawing a prize, he is lucky.

HOW OIL WELLS ARE BORED.

The process of boring an oil well is very simple. A derrick, consisting of four upright timbers placed ten or twelve feet apart and fastened together by cross pieces, is erected directly over the spot selected for boring. This derrick is usually from forty to sixty feet high, and is made very stable in order to support the boring machinery. A steam engine of six or eight horse power is now used for the work of drilling, although many wells of not very great depth have been bored by hand. An iron pipe, about six inches in diameter, is first driven down to the first stratum of rock. Where this is found at a considerable distance from the surface, the pipe is inserted in sections; that is, a piece is first driven down, then another section is fastened firmly to it at the top; this is in turn driven down, and so on until the rock is reached. The drill is then introduced into this tube, reaching down to the rock—the iron rod suspending it being lengthened by the fastening of additional pieces at the top as the drill works its way through the rock. The drill is about two and a half inches in diameter, and is worked up and down by means of the engine above. The progress of drilling is of course slow, and depends upon the hardness of the stratum. An average day's work of drilling is from six to eight feet, but sometimes ten or twelve feet is accomplished. The first stratum through which the drill passes is slate or soap-stone, then comes a stratum of sand stone, which is usually not more than ten or twelve feet in thickness; next is another layer of slate of bluish appearance, about twenty feet in thickness, after which the second stratum of sand stone is reached. When this is accomplished—the depth reached ranging from two hundred to six hundred, and in some instances, a thousand feet—the oil is struck, *provided* the borer is lucky. A new process of drilling has lately been invented, however, which bids fair to greatly facilitate the sinking of oil wells. It is this: The drill is a slender tube, the end of which is set with a species of diamond. This drill is connected with machinery at the surface, by means of which it revolves with great velocity, cutting out the rock in a core, which is removed in pieces, by clamps let down in the hole. By this method a well of five hundred feet in depth may be bored in two weeks, which, by the old process, would require two months. As soon as the drill passes through the last stratum, and reaches the reservoir below, there comes rushing up to the surface a combustible gas, followed by a mixture of salt water and petroleum—the oil is invariably accompanied by the salt water, and they are separated as will be hereafter explained. This is the realization of "great expectations," the finding of the El Dorado, the acme of petroleum ambition, for every spurt from the well is a greenback. If the borer has been lucky enough to strike a flowing well, he has nothing now to do but to stand still and see himself grow fabulously rich; that is, he has only to secure the oil and send it to market. But flowing wells are a great rarity, and the most sanguine disciple of Petrolia, does not expect such boundless good fortune. The flow of salt water and petroleum to the surface, therefore is, excepting in flowing wells, of very short duration, and the next work to be done is the preparation for pumping. The bore of the well is next enlarged by what is termed a "trimmer," and an iron tube, fastened together in sections of ten or twelve feet, is run down to the oil deposit. A flax seed bag, which expands when wet, is fixed at a certain distance from the surface within the tube, in order to prevent the surface-water from rushing down. A plunger or valved piston is next inserted in the tube, and this being attached to the engine, the work of pumping commences.

THE PROCESS OF PUMPING OIL.

The old method of pumping oil is on the same general principle of ordinary water pumping, and requires no explanation; but Yankee ingenuity has lately invented a new process, which will probably soon be generally adopted. Two tubes are inserted in the well, and by a powerful force-pump the air is forced down one of them, and the oil, in consequence of the pressure of the air, is forced up the other tube in a steady stream. The flow, by this method, is much more steady and of greater volume than by the pumping process, and it has been successfully applied to many wells that had failed to yield oil in the old manner. The petroleum, as before remarked, is invariably accompanied by salt water. As it reaches the surface, this mixture is carried by conduits into large wooden tanks, in which the oil rises to the surface of the water and is drawn off into barrels, when we have crude petroleum—the oil before undergoing the refining process.

EXPLOSIONS AND BURNING WELLS.

When the oil is "struck" great care is necessary to prevent accidents. The gas, which is the first indication that the reservoir has been reached, rushes up with great force, and being highly combustible, it is dangerous to have fire anywhere near the well; even a pipe or segar has in some cases caused the explosion of the gas causing the destruction of life and property. In a few instances the gas has become ignited, and burned for weeks, the mouth of the well being converted into a mighty gas burner, from which a flame rises many feet in height. Only a few days ago, a gentleman by the name of JACOB CROWL was sinking a well on George's Creek, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and when the drill struck the oil deposit, a powerful volume of hydrogen gas ascended to the surface, filled the atmosphere, and coming in contact with a stove in a shanty some distance from the well, a terrific explosion ensued, and the flames darted into the air sixty feet high. Fortunately no one was injured, and the flames were finally subdued; but experienced borers never permit fire anywhere near the well upon which they are working.

EXPECTATION OF OIL WELLS.

As before mentioned, there is not one chance in a dozen that the borer will strike oil, and the proportion of wells that give a permanent flow, even when successful for a while, may safely be estimated in a like manner. There are hundreds of wells along Oil Creek that at first gave an abundant yield of petroleum, yet to-day they are dry as a powder-horn. And in the Mecca oil region of Ohio, which three or four years ago was the centre of attraction, there is not at the present time a single well that is much more than paying expenses, and not one in a hundred of those that at one time gave great promise, is now pumping. Within the last year, however, a number of apparently "played out" wells—to use the expressive term in use hereabouts—have been recuperated by ingenious processes and patient labor, and are now abundantly repaying the work expended upon them. As an instance of what may be accomplished in this way, as well as to show the persistency and determination of oil seekers, the following circumstance may be mentioned:—Mitchell & Allen, a Philadelphia oil firm, obtained the leases known as the Comet Wells, on the Buchanan farm. This well had already been tried and abandoned by several practical oil-searchers, and was pronounced worthless. The Philadelphians, however, thought differently, and went to work with a will to demonstrate their theory. They labored six months in efforts to resuscitate the Comet, but, like other comets, nothing tangible could be found in it. At last, after having re-tubed the well twenty-seven times, they succeeded in starting the oil, and from that time they have had a permanent flow of about fifty barrels a day. As another instance of the pertinacity which is given to a man by the hope of gaining a good well, the following is related: Mr. P. Haines was boring a well, also on the Buchanan farm, and had every prospect of a lucky strike. Unfortunately, when going through the last stratum of rock, his drill became detached, stuck in the rock seven hundred feet from the surface, and man was never more completely in a "fix" than he—as was the drill. But he was plentifully endowed with pure Yankee perseverance and industry, and went to work to remove the drill—a seemingly hopeless task. For *fifteen months* Mr. Haines labored assiduously with this object, and his patience and industry were at last rewarded by success—his troubles were healed by the gentle soothing of "a hundred barrels a day."

WHERE PETROLEUM IS FOUND.

Since the great commercial importance of petroleum became known, the discoveries of oil have been wonderful. Western Pennsylvania was the first, and still is the greatest oil producing region, but the oleaginous compound has since been found to exist in nearly half the States and Territories now within the Union, and probably will also be found in those now under rebel dominion, when Jeff. Davis and his clan are made to see the folly of chasing the *ignis fatuus* of independence, and go to boring for tangible petroleum. The Oil Creek region is the favorite with practical oil men, for the reason that the chances of success in boring here are better than in any other locality yet discovered. But throughout all Western Pennsylvania the petroleum excitement has reached fever heat. Wells are being bored, land bought up at fabulous prices, and the people, who for years have been content to plod along as frugal and industrious farmers, are dazzled by the prospect of fabulous wealth. In Clarion and Fayette Counties rich wells have been obtained, and in Washington, Lawrence, Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Green, Indiana, Clearfield and Elk counties, oil has already been obtained, or the sinking of wells is in progress. In these counties the farmers have all put extravagant prices upon their land, and even then are careful to stipulate that a certain percentage of the prospective oil is to go into their pockets. Doubtless nine-tenths of them will be able to literally put all they get in their pockets. Western Virginia, next to Western Pennsylvania, is the admiration of oil men. The war and the oil fever broke out simultaneously in this region; but notwithstanding the greasy appearance of the rebels generally, there seems to be but little affinity between rebellion and petroleum, and the rebels have a disagreeable way of making periodical raids into the Western Virginia oil regions, thereby suddenly suspending oleaginous research. It is thought, however, that when "this cruel war is over"—to use a strictly original expression—the oil regions of Western Virginia will be found to be at least equal in richness to those of Pennsylvania. In Ohio the oil seems to "fly around loose," and it is said, with undoubted truthfulness that farmers almost fear to go to sleep at night lest before morning the petroleum beds which they know to exist under their farms shall burst their earthy bounds and inundate the surface with an oleaginous flood. The Mecca excitement, as previously stated, proved a decided humbug, but more stable wells have been struck in other parts of the State. In south-eastern Ohio there is every indication of boundless petroleum deposits. In Washington county, also, the borings have proven highly successful, and in the vicinity of Zanesville, Marietta, New Lisbon, and Waynesburgh, oil has already been found. Columbiana, Preble, Muskingum and many other counties have also reached the height of oil fever, and the bowels of the earth are being effectually stirred up. The contagion of oil excitement has also broken out in Indiana and the "Hoosiers" are industriously trying to bore themselves rich, with apparently good success. But to particularize the oil localities would take too much space. Suffice it to say that petroleum has already been discovered, in addition to the above mentioned localities, in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Kansas, California, Colorado, New York and elsewhere in this country, and yet its discoveries are apparently only in their infancy. In foreign countries, too, the old oil wells which have existed for ages have been hunted up in many instances by Yankees, and petroleum (the word, not the substance) is in the mouth of the whole world. As a case in point, one of the Russian papers states that Col. Gowan, of that city (the Yankee who took the contract to raise the sunken vessels in the harbor of Sebastopol, if I mistake not) was lately *en route* from St. Petersburg, Russia, through Georgia and Circassia. In the neighborhood of the Sea of Azof, he stumbled upon