

SAN MARCOS FREE PRESS.

I. H. JULIAN, Publisher.

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

TEXAS TOPICS.

—The Texas & New Orleans railroad has issued bonds for the purpose of acquiring the Sabine and east Texas road.

—Colorado County renders for assessment 7,800 horses and mules, 44,066 cattle, 1,408 sheep and 1,402 hogs.

—Elles County pays taxes on 13,875 horses and mules; 31,023 cattle, 60 jacks, 2,183 sheep, 8,280 hogs and 101 goats.

—The Texas & Pacific railroad has contracted with one firm in Texas to move one million bushels of corn during September and October.

—Heavy and protracted rains have prevailed throughout Western Texas during the past few weeks, resulting in unprecedented floods and great damage to property, live stock and growing crops. The Concho and Colorado rivers and tributaries have been higher than ever before known. The town of Ben Ficklin, in Tom Green County, was entirely swept away by the flood, and about forty persons known to have been drowned.

—Dallas Times: It is said that Jay Gould has secured the control of the coal trade in Texas, having bought or leased the mines in the Indian Territory, which have heretofore supplied us with fuel. We do not know that he has purchased or leased, but it is highly probable. Such being the case, God help the poor! The people once suffered under the price of a dollar per barrel, but if Jay has his claws on the mines we will, next winter, be thankful if we can get coal at one dollar a quart.

—Dallas Herald. "Chronic grumblers have exhausted all means of killing the cotton crop," remarked a prominent farmer of this county to a Herald reporter yesterday. "First they said that the crop would be ruined by the drouth if there was not rain. The rain came in due time, and then they said there was too much and that the crop was ruined sure. Then they talked and fretted about the boll-worm. When this turned out to be a great bugaboo they said that the weeds had taken the crop. Now they are complaining that there is so much cotton that it is actually breaking the strong plants down, and the next cry you hear from the croakers will be that the crop will go to waste because enough labor cannot be got to pick it."

Educated Men.

In the great city of New York, many men of fine education find it bitterly hard to keep themselves in bread and butter. While a skillful workman can always command good wages, those who are "willing to do anything"—which means they know how to do little or nothing—have no chance at all; there are a hundred applicants for every vacancy. "No small number of the searchers for places," says a reporter who has examined the subject, "are native Americans. With neither trade nor profession, they are forced to take whatever offers—and nothing offers. Many of them are educated men, who can conjugate a Greek verb without difficulty. But Greek verbs, however ornamental, are poor stock in trade. A thorough, classical education, however desirable it may be, is of little use in the employment market unless backed by some useful, practical knowledge. College graduates are standing on every corner looking for work. If any person should desire to ride up Broadway in a coach drawn by a score of accomplished collegians, he would have no trouble in employing them, even if he offered them no more than their board." A man who "had pawned his clothes to pay for this advertisement," advertises that he wants work of any kind where he can earn his board. What a sad story the pathetic appeal tells of that hope deferred which maketh the heart sick.

Cattle Millionaires.

With the present high prices of beef, and the cow literally jumping over the moon, Wyoming cattle men are reaping a rich harvest, and many of them will make almost independent fortunes this summer. The rise has been so rapid and the transfers are made so easily that large transactions are made every day in which the buyer does not see a

hoof of his purchase and very likely does not actually use more than one-half of the purchase money in the trade before he has sold and made an enormous margin in the deal.

A year ago a Laramie plains cattle man was offered a large Utah herd and ranch for \$70,000, which offer was accepted at the moment but later rejected. Since that the Utah man sold \$45,000 worth of the herd, then sold the ranch for \$4,500, afterward put \$9,000 more into the bunch and last week sold it for \$140,000. In other words, the Utah man is to-day ahead over \$110,000 because his last year's offer was not accepted.

Several years ago one of the most prominent cattle men in Wyoming, who can to-day easily command \$1,000,000 for a cattle trade without impairing his business went to Boston to negotiate a loan with Massachusetts capitalists. He met an old man who knew more about per cent. than he did about Wyoming and Colorado cattle, and began to talk business. He said that he was making large profits, on his present investments, and, therefore, he wanted to put more capital into the business, very naturally, to increase his income. Mr. Moneybags asked what security would be given.

"I would secure the loan by mortgage on my herd, sir."

"Where are your cattle?"

"Some in Wyoming, some in Nebraska and some in Colorado."

"How much land have you under fence?"

"None."

"How much land do you own?"

"Not a foot."

"Whose land does your stock graze on?"

"Government land."

"How often do you see your cattle?"

"Once a year."

"Don't you have a herder with them?"

"No sir."

"Well, young man, I would as soon loan you money on herring in Boston harbor."

A Cheyenne man who don't pretend to know a maverick from a madam, has made a neat little margin of \$15,000 this summer in small transaction and hasn't seen a cow yet that he has bought and sold. Cheyenne is wild over the market and Sixteenth street is a young Wall street. Millions are talked of as lightly as nickles, and all kinds of people in all professions are dabbling in steers. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has recently succumbed to the contagious excitement and gone to purchase a \$40,000 herd.

Everywhere the excitement is as bad as it ever was in mining stocks in the old palmy days of Comstock. How long this thing will continue is a matter of pure speculation. Whether the laboring classes of the "States" will eat porter house steaks when they taste like a government bond, or quit all at once and knock the bottom out of the Chicago market, no man knows to a dead moral certainty. Of course all is smooth sailing now, but we doubt the propriety of fooling with this thing right along for six months, for one of these days buyers will insist on a delivery of the goods and sales cannot be made immediately enough to omit the universal kerplunk. We may not be using the correct terms, perhaps, but our meaning may be readily gathered.—Boonerang.

A Pleasant Experiment With Salt.

Do you want to grow salt and at the same time have an interesting, handsome ornament? The process is a novel chemical experiment that may be tried by any one, says the Troy Times. Put in a goblet one tablespoonful of salt and one spoonful of bluing; fill the goblet two-thirds full of water and set it in a position where it will have plenty of warmth—in the sunshine. In a little while crystals will commence forming on the outside of the glass, and it is a novel and interesting sight to watch it gradually growing day by day, until the outside of the goblet will be entirely covered over with beautiful white crystals. Another variation of this beautiful experiment would be to take a goblet with the base broken off and fasten it in the center of a thin piece of board, which may be round, square or oblong. After the crystals have formed on the glass, set it on a tiny wall bracket and place a bright holiday or birthday card in front of it; this will hide the base on which no crystals will form. After this is done, fill the goblet with flowers or dried grasses, and you will have a vase which will cost comparatively little, and in reality adds to the bric-a-brac of a room.

Long, pointed finger nails are fashionable among women, but they will never be popular with married men.

Egyptian History.

BY EUGENE LAWRENCE.

Egypt is the most interesting of countries, because it is probably the oldest. We borrow from it nearly all our arts and sciences, and have only improved upon what the Egyptians taught us. Our alphabet and the art of writing came from the banks of the Nile. It was carried to Phoenicia, then to Greece and Rome, and then to Europe and America. The Egyptians invented the lever, by which all engines are moved, and electricity and steam made useful. Egyptian glass-makers, gold-smiths, painters, weavers, builders and stone-cutters, miners, gardeners, and even poets and historians, have taught the arts to Western nations; Moses studied in the Egyptian colleges, and Joseph and his father looked upon its Pyramids and temples with wonder.

The land of Egypt is a deposit of mud brought down by the floods of the Nile from the mountains of Middle Africa. Every year the river overflows its banks, and renews the fertility of the soil by a new deposit, and these regular inundations have been so provided for by embankments and canals as to be seldom dangerous. The Nile scarcely ever sweeps away the flocks and harvests of the farmers, like the Mississippi. It would be well if the Mississippi could be made as useful as the Nile.

This flat land of mud rests on rocks and sand. On each side of it is a desert, bare, hot, and stifling. A desert divides it from Asia. It is isolated from the world, and here for several thousand years the Egyptian Pharaohs ruled over an obedient people, and these people invented and practiced those useful arts which they were afterwards to teach to others. The first King of Egypt is supposed to have been Menes; he reigned about 3000 B. C. Thirty-one dynasties or families of Kings follow Menes, and the Egyptian kingdom had lasted more than two thousand five hundred years when it was conquered by Alexander the Great. The Assyrians, Persians, and even the Ethiopians, had conquered it before, but had been driven out by the rising of the people. For two thousand years the Egyptians were free and united. The oldest modern kingdom counts scarcely eight hundred years, and our own government nearly one hundred.

The Egyptians were a dark-colored race, and came probably from Asia. They lived alone upon the banks of the Nile, shut out from the world. All Europe was then a wilderness filled with wild beasts and a few savage men. All was waste and desolate. The savage people who surrounded Egypt were like our American Indians, ignorant and treacherous. Had they been able they would have broken in upon the industrious Egyptians, sacked and burned their cities, and robbed them of all they possessed. They would have destroyed temples and palaces, houses and gardens, ships factories, and left us without any of the Egyptian inventions and improvements. But fortunately the deserts and the sea for two thousand years at least kept the savages away. The country grew rich and flourishing; the banks of the Nile were lined with fine farms as fertile as those of Kansas and Dakota. The wheat was full and white. The gardens of Egypt produced beans, onions, cabbages, and were filled with flowers. Countless towns and cities sprang up along the Nile. Some of them were as large, perhaps, as Chicago or New York. The rich lands swarmed with people. The families of the Egyptians lived in comfortable houses; the children were usually taught in the temples to read and write; all were taught to work; they were well dressed and very neat; and when Joseph governed the land with discretion and good sense, there was no part of the Western world that could equal the intelligence and civilization of Egypt. Its cities, temples, palaces, farms, and gardens were the wonder of the ancient historians.

To-day Egypt is an impoverished country, distracted by civil war. Alexandria, once one of the most magnificent cities of the world, lies in ashes, and the people throughout the land are suffering all the horrors of famine amidst their plundered and ruined homes. Long ages of misrule and ignorance have brought the fruitful and prosperous land to this terrible condition. In the days of Joseph the armies of Egypt might have withstood the world. Now the conqueror is at her gates, disorder rages within, and peace and prosperity can return to her borders only under the protection of a foreign power.—Harper's Young People.

Near the Crater of Vesuvius.

Arriving at the edge of the 172 crater from the west, one crosses the crater plain and arrives at a low, semi-circular ridge, with an average height of about twenty feet. Ascending this rimlike heap of scoria, one observes occupying its irregular bottom fumaroles and yellow patches of decomposing lava. The complete crater of July is formed of this ridge, together with the southern portion of the former cone of eruption. Within this space rose another cone of eruption, whose center was occupied by the main vent. On this occasion it was possible to approach within a few yards of the great mouth, from which issued the column of vapor and momentary puffs of fluid lava fragments. Thus it will be seen that there are at present three cones and craters one within the other. This, however, was not the most interesting point. In the lava of the great plain we discovered a great cone or lava tunnel about eight feet high, twenty or thirty feet long and fifteen feet broad, but with a general slope downward. The roof was composed of lava about eight months old, but much decomposed. The whole cave presented one glistening forest of stalactites; some three hundred about were counted; also stalagmites. Most of these were from two to three feet long, and a few twice that length; many, however, with a uniform diameter of less than an inch throughout, and tubular, divided by septa, reminding one of the Orthoceras in structure. The colors most various and beautiful; birds' egg blue, aqua-marine, salmon, white, yellow and reddish brown, and many variegated in these colors. The effect was, the eyes quitting the rugged and fierce scenes around seemed to rest on some fairy cave. On attempting to approach the entrance the gust of hot air redolent with hydrochloric acid vapor almost prevented one from making an attempt at an entrance. However, these beautiful and interesting prizes determined me to make an endeavor. Nose and mouth muffled, and having placed both my friends; one on each side of the entrance with a strap, made a dive down some steps. The effort was at first almost suffocation, stinging of the conjunctiva, and a profuse perspiration. To grab a few of these stalactites near at hand and return with them was the work of a minute, then the hearty pull up by my friends, a fit of coughing, and a little fresh air restored me. This was repeated eight times, during which I was able to obtain all the best specimens, some thirty examples, and reach the extremity of the cavity. These prizes were carried carefully to Naples, where they have been placed under glass in a dry atmosphere, since they were highly deliquescent. A qualitative analysis gives the chief component as chlorides of potassium, iron, manganese, sulphates of soda, potash, iron and copper.—Nature.

Sociology.

There was a time in this country when that myth of the present day called society constituted the basis of virtue, intelligence and good breeding whose laws neither wealth nor noble ancestry could disregard. An age of snobbery and obsequiousness, founded on the accident of wealth or political influence, has rudely pushed aside the barriers that fenced out vulgarity and vice, and now society has become a base counterfeit and a sham. Saratoga and Long Branch saloons of fashion are adorned by the flashing sport and the vulgar millionaire, who vie with the political bummer and ward politician for the smiles of beauty and the favors of the bon-ton. Statesmen and diplomats hobnob with vulgarity, while modest worth is discounted in the presence of unlettered audacity. Brilliant programmes of fetes and displays of fashion jumble together in promiscuous confusion the representatives alike of virtue and vice, until the line that divides them has grown dim beneath the tread of fashion. The dross of vulgar gold has tarnished more vulgar men into respectability, and the wantonness of society has thrown open its gates to the herd, without password of counter-signe.

Until public sentiment shall have drawn a line in the social fabric, excluding the patrons of vice from public recognition, public morals must rest upon a plane of depression and humiliation. Society that is not based on virtue and intelligence is a sham, and it should be vigilantly guarded against any association, either public or private, with the vicious or depraved. Why public opinion should tolerate vice and immorality in a man, and not in a woman, is one of these riddles that encourages skepticism in religion and licentiousness in morals.—Galveston Weekly Journal.

The New National Bank Bills.

The work of preparation for printing of the new currency "brownbacks" is going on quite satisfactorily at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. Under the recent act of Congress authorizing national banks to renew their charters, all banks doing so must turn in their old circulation and turn out new. This new money is to differ in many respects from the present national bank notes. The plate from which the face of the note is to be printed has been engraved new and differs materially from the old. The backs are to be printed in brown instead of green and black, as the old ones. They will be printed of course on the fibre paper, which has made counterfeiting of our national currency so difficult, but it is not improbable that there will be difficulty in obtaining the fibre paper fast enough to print it as called for. There will expire within the next year the charters of probably one-third of the national banks, and they too of a class which have a large circulation, the smaller ones of later date having but a small circulating medium. In addition to this demand there is another in the printing of gold certificates under this bill, for which there is now a vigorous demand in New York; so great indeed, that Secretary Folger, after arriving there the other day and interviewing the bankers and business men, telegraphed back, urging that the printing of these be begun as soon as possible. Then, besides this, and perhaps greater than all, is the demand for this same fibre paper for the new 3 per cent. bonds to be issued under the bill in exchange for the old 6 per cents, so recently converted into 3 1-2 per cents. All these will make an immense demand for this paper, and as only one mill in the country makes it there may be some delay in obtaining a sufficient quantity to meet the demand. The manufacture of this paper is a profound secret, as carefully kept as the combinations to the great vaults where the government millions lie awaiting further river and harbor bills. As stated above, it is made only at the Dalton mill, which dates back almost to Colonial days. What its combinations are nobody knows except those intimately connected with its manufacture. The secret of the paper making is jealously guarded, as is also the paper itself. From the moment it is made until it gets into the treasury vaults it is carefully guarded. It comes here in small iron safes, the sheets carefully counted, and all the precaution against its loss being taken both by the government officials and by the express companies which carry it.

Qualifications of a Drug Clerk.

"Want to hire a drug clerk?" asked a bright eyed youth stepping into the office of a prominent apothecary on Dearborn street.

"Are you a competent man?" inquired the proprietor, rising and closing the door with an air of secrecy.

"Well, I should say, yes" replied the youth.

"Had any experience?"

"Three years."

"Where?"

"In Milwaukee."

"Ahem—what would you do for a plain wink at the soda fountain?"

"Dash with sour mash."

"Two short winks and the tongue in the left cheek?"

"Fill the glass half full with Jamaica rum."

"In case a man calls for a banana syrup with a doleful look, and his hand on his watch pocket?"

"Give him cognac and ginger."

"Three winks and a jerk over the left shoulder with the thumb?"

"Put in Old Tom gin, and have the same ready for a friend of the man's who will be in directly."

"What if the man says 'Baraboo' and spits to the left?"

"Fill with old crow dashed with peppermint and tansy."

"The examination is satisfactory. You may come on in the morning. The new international code of signals is not published yet. If any change is made I will give you a key. We have to be very strict in the examination of prescription clerks where the health, yes, even the lives of individuals are at stake."—Chicago Cheek.

—Dallas City is building five public school houses at a cost of \$5,000 each. San Antonio is erecting a high school at a cost of \$34,000. Corsicana has just built two school houses at a cost of \$12,000 each, and Austin needs one in the eastern part of the city at a cost of \$15,000.

—Twenty-three counties in Northern Texas will raise 200,000 bales of cotton this year.