

THE FROST.

[Selected.]

The frost looked forth one still clear night,
And whispered, "Now I shall be out of sight;
So through the valley and over the height
In silence I'll take my way."

I will not go on like that blustering train—
The wind and the snow, the hail and the rain;
Who make so much bustle and noise in vain;
But I'll be as busy as they."

Then he flew to the mountain, and powdered its crest;
He lit on the trees, and their boughs he dressed
In diamond beads; and over the breast
Of the quivering lake he spread

A coat of mail, that it need not fear
The downward point of many a spear,
That he hung on its margin, far and near,
Where a rock could rear its head.

He went to the windows of those who slept,
And over each pane, like a fairy, crept;
Wherever he breathed, wherever he stepped,
By the light of the morn, were seen
Most beautiful things: there were flowers and trees;
There were hives of birds and swarms of bees;
There were cities with temples and towers; and these
All pictured in silver sheen!

But he did one thing that was hardly fair—
He peeped in the cupboard, and finding there
That all had forgotten for him to prepare,
"Now, just to set them a-thinking,

"I'll bite this basket of fruit," said he;
"This costly pitcher I'll burst in three,
And the glass of water they've left for me,
Shall 'tchick!' to tell them I'm drinking!"

Miss H. F. GOULD.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

SANDWICH ISLANDS MISSION.

G. S. L. CITY, Aug. 27, 1855.

EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS—Sir:

I left this city on the 3d day of Nov. 1849, with Messrs. Pomeroy's train, and arrived at Williams' Ranch on the 18th day of Feb. 1850. Here nine of us left the train and traveled about 600 miles up the Pacific coast, living on muscles, dried beef and some flour.

Found President Rich at Stockton. He was kind unto us and directed us to the brethren who had accompanied him out.

After working in the mines until Oct. 18th, 1850, we left for the above named islands to perform a mission appointed us by President C. C. Rich. We had a pleasant but slow passage of 20 days. The voyage is frequently made in ten or 12; the distance is about 2,500.

We arrived at the port of Honolulu on the 12th day of Dec. 1850. On the 13th, after washing our bodies in pure water, we ascended a hill to the height of about 100 feet, and found a suitable place to tender our heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for his preservation over us while on the mighty deep, for surely it did appear that by his power we were saved from a watery grave; for on the first night, while trying to find our way out of the harbor, we got into breakers which struck the vessel two very heavy blows and broke one of the rudder ropes while we were in the midst of rocks, islands, &c.

It was a very dark night, and the captain told his wife that he thought it was all over; but we had no fears; our confidence was that the Lord would take of us while on his business.

Before kneeling, we agreed what to pray for. Our main petition was that the influence that then held the people in bondage might become powerless, and that the gospel of life and salvation might find its way to the hearts of that people.

In a few months' time, some of us were able to bear our testimony to the truth of 'Mormonism,' and others to preach as fluently as in their own tongue, and in the short time of one year we baptized from 400 to 500 persons, and many of those could bear testimony that they knew for themselves that the work was of God.

In the commencement we had to endure some hardships, for at times we had not enough even of native fare.

The work has gone on steadily ever since it began.—Some 4000 were baptized during our sojourn there, and two companies of elders arrived, four in the first and nine in the second; and twenty more were on their way as we left.

I resided on the islands three years and seven months, and was away from home five years, 7 months and 10 days.

There are 11 islands in the group; 5 are large, and appear to have been formerly densely populated. The next three are small, and on the largest one of them the elders are establishing a gathering place for the native brethren. Wood and water are scarce upon it, and grass is almost the only spontaneous product.

The other three islands are mere barren rocks. The Islands are situated between 19 and 23 degrees north latitude and 157 and 159 west longitude.

The leeward side slopes from the mountain to the beach, and villages are scattered thro' the country very similar to the northern settlements of this valley.

There are large pasture lands where thousands of cattle find very good range.

The windward side is a perpendicular precipice, and for miles it is almost impossible to receive or put off freight; this makes some rich parts of these Islands of but little avail, as the gulches are very deep, and it is almost impossible to make wagon roads over them.

The kalo is raised in rich abundance in moist land, and some kinds are raised under water; in fact most of it is raised in ponds of water. The natives have to expose themselves very much in raising it, as they have to stand in water and mud knee deep, and sometimes deeper, for days together.

Sweet potatoes are the staple commodity in dry parts of the country; they are eaten like poi, that is, when sour and fermented; the potatoes will intoxicate if eaten freely. Irish potatoes grow almost spontaneously. Wheat, oats, corn, &c., do well, also melons, squashes, &c. Oranges, bananas, gawaws and pine-apples do well when taken care of; bananas grow wild in the mountains. There are some very large sugar plantations, and much good sugar is made. Indigo grows in large quantities, and is fast overrunning the pasture land.

The natives cook everything under ground, (except fish, which they broil on the coals) sometimes wrapped in leaves and sometimes not. They dress and cook pigs in the following manner:—They first tie up the pig's mouth, which soon smothers it; they then singe off the bristles, and, after rubbing and washing it, they open and clean it, and put hot stones in the inside, and lay the pig on hot stones and cover all over with leaves, leaving a small hole in the center thro' which they pour water, which soon becomes steam; the oven is then closed up quite tight. In one hour, it is managed well, the meat is cooked.

I felt well, as a general thing, and felt much interested in trying to enlighten and bring that people to a knowledge of the plan of salvation.

Many of them had adopted the system of spiritualizing the Bible, which made it almost as bad as tho' it had never been taken in their midst. Often the word of God was made of none effect by those who had been taught in that way; but by the blessings of Heaven we have been enabled I hope, to lay a foundation that will never be overthrown.

May the blessings of God our heavenly Father, be with them and us, is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ:—Amen.

JAMES HAWKINS.

IRON COUNTY.

Sept. 20th, 1855.

BRO. CARRINGTON:—I give you an account of a profitable garden in Parowan. My garden is 144 by 82 1-2 feet, upon which I have raised this season 1200 pounds of fodder, 2000 pounds of squashes, 1600 pounds of pumpkins, 500 pounds of melons, 150 pounds of sweet corn, 45 pounds of beans and peas, also 5 rows of potatoes, and 2 rows of broomcorn, the rows running lengthwise.

I send you a sample of horse-shoe nail, made by Thos. Whitney, the Pledge. All right in Parowan.

FRANCIS T. WHITNEY.

[The nail came to hand, and is as well made as the majority of nails of that description.]

Bro. Whitney's success on so small a piece of ground is simply another evidence of what well applied skill and labor can accomplish within a small space, and should go far towards convincing our farmers that small fields well tilled are far more profitable and less vexatious than large ones indifferently cultivated. When this matter is properly appreciated, all who wish will be able to secure tillable land in compact neighborhoods, and all the farms will indicate a high state of cultivation.—Ed.

THE PRESENT EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.—In person the present emperor looks more of a Russian than the late Czar, whose fair complexion and fine physiognomy bore distinct traces of his German descent. He is very tall and robust, of a dark complexion, with full round eyes, which though occasionally lighted up by the spirit of merriment, habitually wear an expression of melancholy. The last time I had a close view of Alexander, then Grand Duke, he was waiting for a railway train at the station at Tzarsko Celo; he walked about the public waiting room, in familiar conversation with an aide-de-camp, causing apparently as little restraint to the surrounding public, as he seemed to feel himself in their presence. He looked the very picture of *bonhomie*, but appearances are often deceitful, and it was impossible not to remember his close relationship to the first Alexander, whom a great master in the knowledge of human character designated "a Greek of the lower empire."

I never heard, however, anything but a favorable opinion of the present Czar's excellent qualities as an affectionate husband and father. An amusing instance of the unaffected way in which he thought of his children, was told me by a young lady, who had charge of a stall at a fancy fair. The Naslednik (his apparent) came to ask her for the largest doll she had in her stock, and having secured it, he strode away with it in his arms, seemingly as pleased as such a present might have made him on his second or third birthday. His paternal feelings received a cruel shock shortly after the occurrence of this little incident, by the death of his only daughter; his remaining four children are all sons.—[Harrison's Nine Years' Residence in Russia.]

INFLUENCE OF A NEWSPAPER.—A school teacher, who has been engaged a long time in his profession and witnessed the influence of a newspaper upon the minds of a family of children, writes to the editor of the Ogdensburg Sentinel as follows:—

I have found it to be the universal fact, without exception, that those scholars of both sexes and of all ages, who have had access to newspapers at home, when compared with those who have not, are:—

1. Better readers, excelling in pronunciation, and consequently read more understandingly.

2. They are better spellers and define words with ease and accuracy.

3. They obtain a practical knowledge of geography, in almost half the time it requires others, as the newspaper has made them familiar with the location of the important places, nations, their governments and doings, on the globe.

4. They are better grammarians, for having become so familiar with every variety of style in the newspaper, from the common place advertisement to the finished and classical oration of the statesman, they more readily comprehend the meaning of the text, and consequently analyze its construction with accuracy.

5. They write better compositions, using better language, containing more thoughts, more clearly and connectedly expressed.

6. Those young men, who have for years been readers of the newspapers are always taking the lead in the debating society, exhibiting a more extensive knowledge upon a greater variety of subjects, and expressing their views with

greater fluency, clearness and correctness in their use of language.

TOADS.—A Correspondent of the Cambridge Chronicle, puts in a plea for toads, and justifies his partiality by the following, which we extract from his communication:—

"We have in our garden a small nursery of plumb trees, which have been nearly destroyed by the canker worms. Last season we commenced shaking them off. One day we observed many toads about these trees, that on our approach became frightened, and retreated in great haste to their retreats in the neighboring bushes. Soon finding that they were not pursued, they commenced hopping back and eagerly caught with avidity each canker worm as it descended on its tiny thread. We counted at one time thirty immediately around our feet. Day after day we fed them with their favorite food, and they became so tame as to follow us, watch our hand, and take the worm from our fingers."

This is new to us, though it may not be to many of our readers; but whatever taste the toad may have for canker worms, we are quite sure that it does a world of good in a garden, by destroying earth worms, of which it eats large numbers. We once tried to surfeit a toad with earth worms, but our patience was exhausted before its appetite was appeased, and we have always held that to destroy one of these disgusting looking reptiles was doing one's grounds a deal of injury. There is no charge brought against the toad but its disagreeable appearance, and it might well quote the old saw to those who despise it without seeking to learn its real value—looks are nothing, behavior is all.—[Newport Mercury.]

ARTIFICIAL STONE.—Mr. John Wood of Brooklyn, has invented an artificial sand-stone, the materials for which are sufficiently abundant and easily obtained. The sanguinary element now compelled to serve so novel and tame a purpose may be obtained in liberal quantities and preserved for any periods by admixture with charcoal. The proportions are fifteen parts clear sand, five parts calcined plaster and fifteen parts animal food. When first mixed, the composition is about the consistency of stiff mortar, and the most fragile plaster mould is sufficient for its retention during the few hours necessary to the perfection of its form. The cost as may be inferred from this description, is absolutely trifling when compared with the carved stone which it is designed to supplant.

The potash of the blood dissolves a portion of the sand and diffuses it throughout the mass as silicate of potash, the element to which all material analogous to this owes its adhesive properties. The albumen of the blood becoming thoroughly coagulated by manipulation is coagulated by the silicate of potash and rendered insoluble—thus forming locks holding all the parts firmly together, while the iron of the blood forms a sesquioxide, and still further cements the mass.

The union of silex and alkali alone produces, in some cases, a very high degree of hardness, as the case with feldspar, and in this composition are fulfilled, in the language of Professor Mapes, all the conditions of a perfect stone, no element except time being wanted to ensure its extreme hardness, strength and ability to resist the action of the elements.—[N. Y. Tribune.]

STRIKE OFF HIS NAME.—Mr. Higgins was a very punctual man in all his transactions through life. He amassed a large property by untiring industry and punctuality; and at the advanced age of ninety years was resting quietly upon his bed, and calmly waiting to be called away. He had deliberately made almost every arrangement for his decease and burial.

His pulse grew fainter, and the light of life seemed just flickering in its socket, when one of his sons observed:—

"Father, you will probably live but a day or two; is it not well for you to name your bearers?"

"To be sure, my son," said the dying man, "it is well thought of, and I will do it now."

He gave a list of six, the usual number, and sank back exhausted upon his pillow.

A gleam of thought passed over his withered face like a ray of light, and he rallied once more.

"My son, read me that list. Is the name of Mr. Higgins there?"

"It is, my father."

"Then strike it off," said he emphatically, for he was never punctual—was never anywhere in season—and he might detain the procession a whole hour!"—[Ex.]

CONFIRMATIONS OF SCRIPTURE.—It was impossible to visit Egypt and not observe the striking coincidence of the statements of Scripture, with the facts that were continually presenting themselves to our notice, especially in relation to ancient prophecy. I often inquired for the papyrus, of which material the ancient Egyptian books were made; but it was nowhere to be found. It has passed away, with the lotus flower, that figures so much in the ancient hieroglyphics. Now this fact is a startling commentary on the nineteenth chapter of Isaiah's prophecy, that refers to this land.

"The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and everything sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more." (ver. 7.) This is literally the case. The condition of the people is that of abject poverty. They are under grinding taskmasters whose will is law. Mentally and morally they are in the most degraded condition; so that an awful confirmation is given to the words of Ezekiel, chap. xxix., 15, "It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations." And this is said, and is true, of a land that was "first in the race that led to glory's goal."—[Aveling's Travels in the Lands of the Tiber, the Jordan, and the Nile.]

TIED DOWN AT HOME.—A friend of ours, living not far from Pontize, was one day importuned by his wife to take her a riding. The gentleman being a man of business, pleaded his engagements, when the wife replied with the old story, that she must be "tied down at home." The husband replied that if a person would furnish him with clothing to wear and enough to eat and drink, he would be willing to be tied down at home.

A few days after, the gentleman came home earlier than usual, and being fatigued, lay down on the sofa and fell into a sound sleep. His wife took cords and slightly tied his hands together, served his feet in the same way, and made him fast to the sofa. She then set a table with all that the house afforded, and placed an extra suit within his reach. This done, she started to pay a friend a visit. Upon her returning late in the evening, she found her subject of domestic discipline in the same position, except he was wide awake and very mad.

"What on earth does all this mean?" said he.

"Nothing," quietly remarked his wife, "except the consummation of your earthly wishes—enough to eat, drink and wear, and to be tied down at home."

They were seen out riding the next day.—[Ex.]

GETTING INTO BUSINESS.—"Can you tell me how I can get into business?" is the request of many a new-comer west. "Yes, sir. There is plenty of business. There are plenty of broad acres in our beautiful State that need cultivation. But says young Goldchain, "I mean some business; I abhor farming. I want some genteel business, something fashionable."

"Yes, there is in-town business. Our corporation's building several miles of side-walk, and they need several nice, fashionable young men like you, Mr. Goldchain, to lay plank and grade streets."

"Good morning, Mr. Calamo, you misunderstand me."

"Good morning, Mr. Goldchain, you misunderstand yourself."

The next we hear of young Goldchain, he is in some fourth story office, with a sign on the door, "Brainless Goldchain, Esq., attorney and counsellor at law." Duns are thicker than clients, and B. Goldchain finds that such fashionable business is not profitable. He borrows five dollars of his neighbor for a day or two, and is never heard of again where he carried on fashionable business.—[Madison Patriot.]

HINTS TO POETS.—A few of which we copy, for the benefit of "whom it may concern."

1. Do not take a psalm tune and make a jingle of words to match it. Greenville and Coronation are capital tunes, but they do not always inspire good poetry.

2. Do not take a rhyming dictionary and select a row of words, and then prefix syllables to make out the requisite number of feet. Poetry constructed upon that principle usually requires to be read backward.

3. Do not take a foot rule and measure off inflated prose into blank verse. This is apt to confuse the reader as to the proper use of capitals and the pauses of the sentence.

4. Never send us any thing "upon the recommendation of judicious friends, who desire to see it in print."

5. After composing, lay aside your piece until the intoxication of the first inspiration has subsided. Keep it a month, and then read it over!

6. Do not be mortified if your piece is not published; but take it for granted that you would be more mortified if it was.—[Independent.]

IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS.—Provide yourself with the best of implements. This is an age of improvement, and oftentimes an improved farming implement—though it may cost much more than an old fashioned one, will be found infinitely the cheaper of the two, in the end. The improved plows, cultivators, hoes, scythes, forks of all kinds, together with the chaffing, rasping, reaping, mowing, stone-picking, seed-sowing, and other newly invented implements, are effecting an entire revolution in agriculture. Not only is the farmer enabled through this assistance to perform a much greater amount of labor with the same help, but to perform it much better. Toil seems robbed of its onerousness, and the most irksome details of husbandry are performed, if not with pleasure, at least with the greatest ease. You should avail yourself of all these resources.—[Germantown Telegraph.]

TO PREVENT METALS FROM RUSTING.—Melt together three parts of lard and one of resin powder. A very thin coating applied with a brush will preserve Russia iron stoves and grates from rusting during summer, even in damp situations. For this purpose, a portion of black lead may be mixed with the lard. The effect is equally good on brass, copper, steel, &c. The same compound forms an excellent water-proof paste for leather.

Boots, when treated with it, will thereafter take the usual polish when blacked, and the soles may be saturated with it, without soiling the floor, as it does not rub off.—[Ex.]

PRINTERS' ROLLERS are thus improved by the Amherst (N. C.) Cabinet:—"We have recently made an improvement in the making of our rollers, which was entirely original with us, although it may have been known to others before us, but for which, we are sure, those not acquainted with it will thank us when they have tested it. It is simply to prepare them of glue and sugar, instead of glue and molasses. They are much more easily prepared, as they need but simply to be dissolved, and are much more elastic and durable."