

SEXTON'S REPORT.

G. S. L. City Sexton's Report for the month of March, 1865.

Total number of interments during the month	19
Males	11
Females	8
Adults	5
Children	14

DIED OF THE FOLLOWING CAUSES AS REPORTED.

Scarlet and other Fevers	6
Putrid sore throat	3
Accidental	2
Died at birth	2
Measles	1
Consumption	1
Diarrhoea	1
Liver Complaint	1
Inflammation Lungs	1
Croup	1

Brought from country places for interment	4
Resident Citizens	15

JOSEPH E. TAYLOR, Sexton.

Miscellaneous.

AN ADVENTURE IN THE ALPS.

Professor Tyndall sends to the London *Times* a narrative of a rather exciting adventure in the Alps. On the 3d of July he and two friends with a couple of guides, Jenni and Walter, ascended the Piz Monteratasch. The ascent was accomplished safely, but not the descent, which was made along the Monteratasch glacier.

"We at length reached the point at which it was necessary to quit our morning's track and immediately afterwards got upon some steep rocks, which were rendered slippery here and there by the water that trickled over them. To our right was a broad coulier, which was once filled with snow, but this had been melted and refrozen so as to expose a sloping wall of ice. We were all tied together at this time in the following order: Jenni led, I came next, then my friend H., an intrepid mountaineer, then his friend L., and, last of all, the guide Walter. After descending the rocks for a time, Jenni turned and asked me whether I thought it better to adhere to them, or to try the ice sloping to our right. I pronounced in favor of the rock, but he seemed to misunderstand me, and turned towards the coulier. He cut steps, reached the snow, and descended carefully along it, all following him apparently in good order.

After a little time he stopped, turned, and looked upwards at the three last men. He said something about keeping carefully in the tracks, adding that a false step might detach an avalanche. The word was scarcely uttered when I heard the sound of a fall behind me, then a rush, and in the twinkling of an eye my two friends and their guide, all apparently entangled together, whirled past me. I suddenly planted myself to resist their shock, but in an instant I was in their wake, for their impetus was irresistible. A moment more and Jenni was whirling away, and thus all five of us found ourselves riding down with uncontrollable speed on the back of an avalanche, which a single slip had originated. When thrown down by the jerk of the rope, I turned promptly on my face and drove my baton through the moving snow, seeking to anchor it in the ice underneath. I had held it firmly thus for a few seconds when I came into collision with some obstacle and was rudely tossed through the air, Jenni at the same time being shot down upon me. Both of us here lost our batons. We had, in fact, been carried over a crevasse, had hit its lower edge, our great velocity causing us to pitch beyond it.

I was quite bewildered for a moment, and immediately righted myself, and could see those in front of me half buried in the snow, and jolted along from side to side by the ruts among which they were passing. Suddenly I saw them tumbled over by a lurch of the avalanche, and immediately afterwards found myself imitating their motion. This was caused by a second crevasse. Jenni knew of its existence, and plunged right into it—a brave and manful act, but for the time unavailing. He is over thirteen stone in weight, and he thought that by jumping into the chasm a strain might be put upon the rope sufficient to check the motion. He was, however, violently jerked out of the fissure, and almost squeezed to death by the pressure of the rope. A long slope was below us, which led directly down where the glacier suddenly fell

into a declivity of ice. At the base of this declivity the glacier was cut by a series of profound chasms, and towards these we were now rapidly borne. The three forward men rode upon the forehead of the avalanche, and were, at times, almost wholly immersed in the snow; but the moving layer was thinner behind, and Jenni rose incessantly and, with desperate energy, drove his feet into the firmer substance underneath. His voice shouting, "Halt! halt!" was the only one heard during the descent.

A kind of condensed memory, such as that described by people who have narrowly escaped drowning, took possession of me; and I thought and reasoned with preternatural clearness as I rushed along. Our start, moreover, was too sudden and the excitement too great to permit of the development of terror. The slope at one place became less steep, the speed visibly slackened, and we thought we were coming to rest; the avalanche, however, crossed the brow which terminated this gentler slope and regained its motion. Here H. threw his arm around his friend, all hope for the time being extinguished, while I grasped my belt and struggled for a moment to detach myself. Finding this difficult, I resumed the pull upon the rope. My share in the work, I fear, infinitesimal, but Jenni's powerful strain made itself felt at last. Aided probably by a silent change of inclination, he brought the whole to rest within a short distance of the chasms over which, had we preserved our speed, a few seconds would have carried us. None of us suffered serious damage. H. emerged from the snow with his forehead bleeding, but the wound was superficial. Jenni had a bit of flesh removed from his head by a collision against a stone; the pressure of the rope had left black welts on my arms, and we all experienced a tingling sensation over the hands, like that produced by incipient frost bite, which continued for several days.

THE ENGLISH GOING AHEAD OF US IN ARMS.—It is stated in some of the papers that orders have been issued for arming the whole of the British infantry with breech-loading rifles. Experience in our war has shown that this would be equivalent to increasing their numbers at least five fold. We have been accustomed to consider the English Government as very conservative of old methods, and slow in adopting improvements, but if the above statement is correct, it would seem that they are more prompt to profit by our experience than we are ourselves.

In heavy ordnance too, the British Government is making gigantic strides. The strange favoritism shown to the absurd breech-loading system of Sir William Armstrong, so fondly supported by the leading daily press, has been shaken by the intelligent criticisms of the *Mechanics' Magazine*, and *Engineer*, and is now being overthrown by the results of extensive trials. The English are not following our practice at all in heavy cast-iron ordnance, their heaviest guns of this material being of 8-inch caliber, while we have them in use of 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 20-inch caliber. In England the attention of the Government and manufacturers seems to be directed wholly to the use of wrought iron or steel, or to combinations of these two materials for the construction of heavy ordnance. The largest gun yet made of wrought iron is 13½ inches caliber, and weighs 22 tons. This is the gun that Sir William Armstrong chooses to call the 600-pounder, we suppose on the ground that a bolt might be put into it of sufficient length to weigh 600 pounds. It is rifled but with a turn of only 1 in 56, and it is found that this is not sufficient to prevent an elongated bolt from tumbling over. Its most destructive effects have been produced by a shell nearly spherical, weighing 303 pounds, and discharged by 40 pounds of powder. But the delusions in regard to Sir William's humbugs, though supported by the most powerful of the daily press, are being rapidly brushed away by the costly lessons of experience, and the enlightened discussions of the mechanical journals. The best form and material for heavy ordnance will doubtless be arrived at, and then the enormous appliances of the English workshops will enable them to turn out cannon equal in quality to any that can be made in the world.

The strange supremacy which this country has so long enjoyed in ordnance, was doubtless owing to the contempt in which our naval and military establishments were held by the fighting monarchies of Europe. This contempt is now in a measure removed, and our advance will be watched with jealousy by all military powers. England, France, Prussia, and other nations are

constructing heavy ordnance of wrought iron and steel, and we shall need all of our skill and energy to keep pace with them. England is even taking a stride far in advance of us in infantry arms, an advance that will render 50,000 of her troops equal 200,000 of ours in any engagement. We trust that our Government will allow no other nation to get the advantage of us in the all important matter of arms.—[*Scientific American*.]

MRS. HOWE, Boston's best authoress—smartest, at least—takes revenge on the *Atlantic Monthly*, from whose pages she is now excluded, as the result of one of those little tea-table misarrangements peculiar to small villages and peculiar manners, by perpetrating a very sharp criticism upon its December number. Dr. Holmes is mercilessly pulled to pieces; he is described as a man of conceits and not of poetry; and his lines to Bryant are dissected and found wanting in sense and rhythm throughout—while, to exhibit how amiable one woman can be to another, Gail Hamilton gets this "setting out": "We have, for ourselves, a generous desire to read the *Atlantic*, but some of its contributors furnish stuff which we cannot consider other than detestable. We wish to be warned when the 'smart young woman' will perform. We do not wish to be inveigled into giving her an audience. And we do not want to be all the time afraid that if we enter upon an article whose title is not offensive we may encounter that vulgar person whose style and whose conceits we abhor."

BEAUTY IN POLAND.—Bayard Taylor accounts for there being so much beauty in Poland, "Because (in his own words,) there, girls do not jump from infancy to young ladyhood. They are not sent from the cradle to the parlor, to dress, to sit still and look pretty. No, they are treated as children should be. During childhood, which extends through a period of several years, they are plainly and loosely dressed and allowed to run, romp, and play in the open air. They are not loaded down, girded about, and oppressed every way with countless frills and superabundant flounces, so as to be admired for their clothing. Nor are they rendered delicate or dyspeptic by continual stuffing with candies and sweet cakes, as are the majority of American children. Plain, simple food, free and various exercise, and an abundance of sunshine during the whole period of childhood, are the secrets of beauty in after life."

NEATS FOOT OIL.—This is the very best preparation for softening and preserving leather. A supply should be on hand in every house for use on harness, carriage-tops, boots, shoes, etc., and applied often enough to keep them soft and pliable. To prepare it, break and cut into small pieces the shin bones and hoofs of an ox or cow, and put them into a kettle. Keep them covered with water, and boil until the oil is extracted and rises to the surface. While boiling, water enough should be added from time to time to supply that lost by evaporation, so that the oil shall not come in contact with the bones and be again absorbed. The process will be hastened by keeping the kettle closely covered to retain the heat. When cold, the oil may be dipped off and kept in jars or bottles, tightly corked.

SCENE IN A SOUTHERN PRISON.—The Philadelphia *Inquirer* relates that among the 30,000 Union prisoners in Andersonville there was a band of the most dangerous and vicious characters, who seized any man that came into the camp, if they had a chance, and robbed him of everything he had. If he made an outcry they murdered him. This state of things finally became so notorious that the prisoners determined to put a stop to it and the rebel authorities gave them permission. A court was formed, lawyers and a jury procured, and six of the ring leaders found guilty, sentenced to be hung and finally executed. After this proceeding the crimes ceased.

A NEW WAR IN INDIA.—The English, says the New York *Evening Post*, have another Indian war on their hands. It is not a mutiny that is to be suppressed this time, but an independent State, never under British rule, that is to be conquered and "annexed." Bhootan, a poor and isolated State, hitherto exempt from the ravages of foreign wars, has not only turned the cold shoulder to an Envoy from England who penetrated its dreary wastes, but actually threatened him, so that he conceived that his life was in danger, and hastily retired. For this and other offences England declares war against Bhootan, and the

Bhootas are to be footed down the hill of adversity.

The history of this country of Bhootan is interesting. The best authorities say that it is about two hundred and fifty miles in length by ninety-five in breadth, with an area of sixty-four thousand square miles, and population of seven hundred and fifty thousand souls, having Bengal proper on the south, Assam to the southeast, and Thibet to the north. Like the highlands of Scotland it is a place of mountain fastnesses and wild glens. Its people, whom few white men have seen, are rude barbarians, whose arms are the bow and arrow and the spear, and who are of Tartar blood, with broad triangular faces, small oblique eyes and yellow skin. Their religion is Buddhist, of a modified type, and the country swarms with mendicant priests. The hills produce good iron; building-stone is abundant; dense virgin forests offer inexhaustible supplies of lumber, and a narrow belt of valley land yields tropical fruits. The towns are few, but are commanded by castellated strongholds which are said to be formidable. The rulers are a Deb-Rajah—who is the actual sovereign as well as the principal merchant—and a Dharma-Rajah, or nominal king, who has no civil power, but is invested with a surprising number of divine attributes.

FAST FIRING.—At Shoburness, the Armstrong and Whitworth committee fired 100 rounds rapid fire from the Armstrong 12-pounder breech-loader field gun. There was an interval of ten minutes after the first 50 rounds. The time, as taken by the committee, was—for the first 50, six minutes, fifty-three seconds; and for the second 50, six minutes, thirty-five seconds—thirteen minutes, thirty-three seconds in all. Thus the gun was fired throughout the 100 rounds, at the rate of 7½ rounds a minute. It was supposed on the ground, that four shots were often in the air at the same time. This is by far the most rapid artillery fire on record, and it is more than twice as rapid as ever has been accomplished by any muzzle-loading gun. No water was used, nor any sponging, nor did any hitch of the sort occur. At the fifty second round, the lanyard that pulls the friction tubes, broke; this caused a delay of twenty seconds.—[*London Artisan*.]

IMPROVEMENT IN ENGLISH COMMERCE.—London papers state that the accounts from the manufacturing districts for the past week have in several instances been more satisfactory. At Manchester a moderate amount of business has been done in both cloths and yarns, although prices in some instances have been in favor of buyers. The woolen trade of Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield has shown symptoms of improvement, the chief inquiry having been for spring goods at fully previous rates. In the hosiery and lace departments of Leicester and Nottingham, there has not been much change; but at Sheffield, Walsal, Wolverhampton, and their immediate neighborhoods, symptoms of renewed animation have been apparent in most departments. An improvement in the prospect of the Federal cause seems at once to differ universal confidence.

CRIME IN NEW YORK.—During the year 1865 the number of crimes committed in this city has been larger than for many years past. In the court of General Sessions 422 criminal cases were disposed of. The convictions numbered 275, and there were several murder and manslaughter cases. In the Special Sessions 3947 cases, and 2304 convictions. In the Court of Oyer and Terminer 5 persons were tried and convicted of manslaughter, and 1 was convicted of assault and battery with intent to kill.

The number of persons committed to the Tombs during the year on a charge of murder was 62. The largest number was in March, when 11 were committed. [N. Y. Eve. Post.]

LOST FOREVER.—Lost wealth may be restored by industry; the wreck of health regained by temperance; forgotten knowledge restored by study; alienated friendship soothed into forgetfulness; even forfeited reputation re-won by patience and virtue; but whoever looked upon his vanished hours, recalled his slighted years and stamped them with wisdom, or effaced from Heaven's record the fearful blot of wasted time?—[Mrs. Sigourney.]

FIRE, March 25, destroyed a block of buildings in Oakland, Cal.; loss \$70,000; insured \$35,000.

THE value of school-houses in Ohio is \$6,168,736. The number of common schools 11,561; of high schools, 149; of colored schools, 145; of German and English schools, 35.