

Seventies' Hall Lectures.

On Friday evening, February 28th, Chemistry, that most interesting of sciences, was ably discoursed upon by Mr. Alex. C. Pyper, whose indefatigable labors in practical chemistry, are too well known and appreciated to require comment or encomium. His lecture was chiefly devoted to commercial chemistry, and a minute description of the manufacture of Sulphuric acid, generally known as Oil of Vitriol.

England, he said, could boast of her Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield and other large manufacturing districts; also of her iron, coal and tin; the State of Illinois of her Galena, Massachusetts of her Lowell, California of her gold mines, and the Southern States of their plantations and beautiful climate; yet there is no country that presents such facilities as this does for self-sustaining independence. It is not for want of skill that we have not succeeded better already in developing the resources of our Mountain Home, for the very best of skill has been brought to bear in some of our metallic enterprises. Some say that a practical chemist is what is wanted but the lecturer thought that was not the only pre-requisite to the more full development of our mineral wealth; and, although he admitted that a practical chemist was a great blessing to a community, and especially in this, yet for such a man to succeed in so new a country, with so many obstacles in his way, his perseverance must be equal to his skill, and his capital equal to both. The observing man, he remarked, can not go into any portion of this Territory but he will find immense quantities of undeveloped wealth: upon the shores of Great Salt Lake there lies thousands of dollars worth of valuable substances that but few ever notice, in the shape of the great variety of salts known in chemical science, such as are used for dyeing, medicine and many other purposes.

The facilities for iron, copper and other metals, are vastly greater than most of our citizens imagine. When we have the copper, the iron and the lead, we have then the means for much manufacturing enterprise, but very little can be done in chemistry until we have these minerals developed here, but when they are then commercial chemistry will be profitable. The great admixture of the strata is one of the chief difficulties in the way of producing good metals.

Mr. Pyper next proceeded to enumerate the articles, requiring chemical knowledge to produce them, that have been manufactured in this Territory; after which, he gave an interesting account of the leaden chambers used in the manufacture of Sulphuric acid: mentioned the many uses to which this chemical production can be put, in the analysis of metallic compounds of every kind. The constituent parts of this acid were then described by the speaker, together with the several classes of ingredients from which it is made in different countries and by different processes, the older process being still practised at Bleyl in Bohemia and Norhausen in Saxony.

The unfavorable state of the weather, on Friday, prevented the Hall being as densely crowded as is usual, but the attendance was respectable, and the audience evinced a lively interest in the subject.

Sheep Stealing Extraordinary.

We are informed that a new plan for obtaining a flock of sheep has recently been inaugurated by a man named Winslow, who for some time past has been stopping at Payson. He has been in the habit of hauling fire-wood from the cedars west of Santaquin, and so arranged as to pass through that village after dark on his return homeward. He had to pass some sheep-pens, and whenever an opportunity presented, took out a sheep and carried it home. This game was carried on by him for some time, during which he persuaded his confiding wife that he was trading wood and molasses for the sheep he occasionally brought home. To prevent discovery, when he thus added a sheep to "his flock," he cut off both its ears close to the head. When remonstrated with by his wife for his cruelty, he informed her that that was his mark.

Missing some of his sheep, a Mr. Butterfield, of Santaquin, came down to Payson to hunt them, and in examining those claimed by Winslow, he soon discovered his private brand, the letter B, which the thief had failed to notice. The sheep-thief is now in the custody of the proper officer, and has made a full confession of his guilt.

Manufacture of School Slates.

A few days since Bishop Hunter exhibited in our office a splendid school slate manufactured by Mr. Robert Wardrop, of Wellsville, Cache county, equal, if not superior, to any that have been imported into the Territory. The Bishop also favored us with the perusal of a letter received from Mr. Wardrop, accompanying the slate, in which he says that he has made a considerable number; that he can make them for a much less price than has been demanded for those heretofore imported, and intends to continue manufacturing them in sufficient quantities to supply the demand throughout the State of Deseret. He says further that the quarry from which the stone is obtained is very extensive, and that slate for roofing can be obtained there to an indefinite amount, and trusts that it will soon be brought into use for that purpose.

We are exceedingly glad that it has been demonstrated that slates for school purposes can be made here of the best quality. They have hitherto been very scarce, the importation not having been equal to the demand. The prospect now is that hereafter there will be no want of these necessary articles, and it is hoped that Mr. Wardrop will lose no time in carrying out his intentions by supplying the market, and that he will make a fortune by the enterprise, not by selling at high prices, but by producing them in great abundance.

There are other slate quarries in the country, which, if opened, we have no doubt, would be of great value to the community for roofing, as material for that purpose, in most locations, through out these valleys, is exceedingly scarce.

Snow Slides.

Within the past week American Fork Canyon has been visited by two immense snow slides. The first completely buried a house belonging to Messrs. Allen and Catler, and the second covered the saw mill with a pile of snow about fifty feet deep. Fortunately no person was injured, the parties living in the canyon, having been apprehensive of some such occurrences, had previously moved away. It has not yet been ascertained what amount of damage was done to the mill.

THE THEATER.—The New Theater is to be dedicated on Thursday evening, (to-morrow) at which will be present only those who may be favored with a special invitation. It will be opened for the amusement and entertainment of all who may desire, next week, of which the public will be duly notified.

Musings of a First Class Grumbler.

MR. EDITOR:

I have had the pleasure of being among your readers in this quiet vale for a few months—just long enough to look about me and get my reckonings. I see a good many things, besides some I don't see; and now, unlike the ordinary sort of grumblers, I come up and ask permission to grumble a little, not that I see so much to grumble about; but then, you know, some of us folks can never be really comfortable until we can make ourselves miserable about something.

I have been looking about to find some business I could go at which would pay: for instance, like picking up decent sized lumps of gold—say, on an average, not smaller than a walnut; but I have failed in my research to find anything like it; so what could I do but sit down and grumble, and wonder why, when these high hills were piled up, some such good strokes could not have been fixed up for a good natured chap like me to come along and improve, to make self and family a little comfortable, without working one's poor finger nails off. To be sure, I could find a plenty of things to do and material to work on, but what gentleman could go and put himself to hard work for a living, and dig down that big mountain of gypsum and pulverize it to manure the land, though the crop might thereby become two-fold greater? There is a mountain of salt and a salt spring, but who could think of dirtying his fingers and clothes, by preparing that for market, or the saleratus that can be gathered up in many places?

The lead mines and coal bank rather attracted my attention; but then, when I come to examine them, one has not only to crawl in under the mountain to dig it out the coal and cannot stand upright even to do that, so I could not think of soiling my clothes in that way, though I must confess the coal did look bright and excellent. The lead business turned out nearly as bad: I had been told it was half silver, and that one could make a fortune in a short time by permutating; but on examination, found there was no fun in getting out the mineral and then it was not half so rich in silver as I expected, so I gave that up in disgust. The iron-works were bragged on, so I looked at that, but I found

one had not only to dig out the ore, but dig coal to melt it; so that would not do me. I thought of trying the cotton business; but then that requires work to produce it; and, after all that, it could not be worn until spun, woven, etc., etc.; so the idea was abandoned at once. Working at lime, alum, niter, coppers, brimstone and all those things were too laborious to think of; although the material I found to be very abundant.

Farming, I think, might pay well as the soil looks good and I am told that they often raise fifty bushels of wheat per acre; but very unfortunately for me, I have no servants to perform the labor.

Growing stock would be a good business if one had a good herd to start on and a clever fellow to take care of them for nothing and board himself; but I have not the stock, neither can I find a herdsman of that kind.

There is any amount of timber up in the canyons, and mills to saw it, and all kinds of machinery and furniture bring a high price, yet who can think of applying the labor required to bring out the stuff for market?

So here I am where I started with all my schemes abandoned and resources exhausted. Judging from what I heard bro. Brigham preach the other Sunday, I must, of course, do something. I cannot deny but all the elements that would be rich are around me, if I could get the courage to take hold of them and draw out the fine material; but there's the rub, it takes labor, and it takes nerve to do it. For instance, here is sand and other materials to make glass. Here is timber enough, and waterpower too, to make patent pails and tubs to furnish the whole country; there are hides and bark to make leather, and then there is material for tar, turpentine, lampblack and rosin in the mountains; saltpetre and brimstone to make powder, good soil to grow cane for sugar and molasses, as also hemp flax and cotton, seeds to make oil and lead to make paint; minerals to make dyes; good range to raise stock and make butter and cheese; good water-power to propel machinery for manufacturing, and a thousand other ways for an industrious man to make himself useful and rich; but who can endure all this labor.

I have fancied how one might build himself a nice, cozy home, an adobe cottage, veranda running all round, nice basement for vegetables, with kitchen, parlor, library, school-room, nursery, bath-room, store-room, &c., with a nice garden, bordered with delightful fragrant flowers; groves of fruit trees and clustering vines that laden the trellis with rich fruit, the whole adorned with verdant forest trees and climbing plants that bloom all summer, and everything around bearing the air of order, neatness, prosperity and happiness. But this ideal of a happy home is too much for me—it overcomes me! I should so much like to possess it, but then the labor to produce it frightens me.

Mr. Editor, if you cannot suggest something that will bring a gentlemanly and easy living without much work, I guess I shall have to go down and hear the President preach a sermon or two more, and then screw up my courage and try to make real some of the ideal, and go to work in earnest.

PARVO IN MULTUM.

Siam and Japanese Presents.

The government at Washington has recently received a quantity of gifts from Siam and Japan.

The King of Siam sent a genuine Damascus bladed sword, the scabbard of gold, rarely and curiously chased; two enormous elephant tusks; and a shabby daguerreotype of himself, seated with all the trappings of barbaric royalty in the way of gold and jewels, and holding his infant son and heir apparent in his lap. The presents were forwarded on the occasion of the ratifications of the late treaty with the King of Siam.

Five wagon loads of Japanese presents reached the White House a few days before the gifts from Siam. Among the collection is a punch bowl, three inches thick, of fine enameled blue porcelain, covered with white storks in relief, and also ornamented with branches of snowy almond flowers. The following gifts were also sent:

Two gigantic blue and white vases for holding orange trees; four oblong vases of the same color and enormous proportions, for flowering plants; two great candlesticks of light blue porcelain, some five feet high, with golden sockets, delicately arabesqued in flowing figures; two pagoda open-worked vases of porcelain, surmounted by caps of lacquer and porcelain most curiously wrought, for perfume and flowers; one lacquer bowl of great size, adorned with peacocks in gilt; a complete dinner set of porcelain, covered with figures and scrolls, upon which are written the proverbs of the wise spiritual emperors of Japan, who have reigned in centuries past; two delicate antique bowls of porcelain with lacquer stands, covered with a coat of arms of reigning princes. Two bronze vases, sculptured with the tortoise and the dragon in bold relief, and gorgeously gilded, together with blocks of the finest crystal from the sacred mountain, Fusi-yama. A complete suit of armor, worn by a knight of the days of Richard Cœur de Lion, with scores of pieces of brocade silk, and drapery of every variety of texture and pattern, make up this truly imperial present from the Tycoon. A letter sent in a yellow silk bag contains a list of the articles, and assurances of the continued regard of that exalted official.

It is hoped that the people will soon have an opportunity of viewing these splendid articles at the Patent Office.

The French Army and Navy.

The Boston Transcript of a recent date says that the following comprehensive statement of the condition and efficiency of the French army and navy was prepared in Paris by a thoroughly competent and faithful hand. The writer says:

All the cannon now used by the French are rifled. The equipment secures rapid movement over heavy grounds; and plenty of spare men, horses and material, make up for casualties and preserve efficiency in action.

I am informed that the Emperor does not occupy himself much with new arms, but gives much attention to new modes of doing things, new drills, new tactics, new evolutions, new corps organized for special work in the field, the siege, the trenches, the escalades, new ways of crossing rivers, ditches, marshes, climbing walls or houses, and surmounting obstacles of all sorts, much practice in maneuvering large bodies massed, much athletic practice with arms, with sticks and without either, a great deal of target firing with guns, rifles and muskets, at various ranges and over valuable grounds, rapid marches and new paces, square, short, quick—a return in some degree to the athletic drill and physical discipline of the Roman Legions; the central ideas being the development of athletic endurance, rapidity of movement, accuracy of firing, and by the division of labor, speciality of employment and perfection of evolutions, to produce the highest combined effect with a given force.

As to the movements in ship building, etc., I can give you no information, for I can get none—but it is pretty clear that the Emperor does not consider the number of men as any gauge of the strength of an army. Small armies have generally done the greatest work. The Russian army on its present footing is about 850,000; the Austrian, 740,000; the Prussian, 720,000; the French, 626,000; the English pretend to muster 534,000, but this includes 218,000 blacks in India, 18,000 Colonists, and 61,000 militia and yeomanry, 140,000 volunteers, 15,000 pensioners, and 12,000 constables.

There are no breech loading guns in the army. The Emperor, I am told, does not like them; has tried them; thinks them too liable to blow out or get out of order, and too expensive; had experience of the Armstrongs in the China war also beside his own, and, on the whole, prefers the latter. The artillery arm of the French army, (for the field work) consists of 32 batteries of horse artillery, (6 guns) 192 guns; 10 batteries foot artillery, 60 guns; 6 squadrons trains pontooner, and 100 batteries mounted artillery, 600 guns; in all, 852 guns, 37,000 men, and about as many horses. The mounted artillery, one hundred batteries, is the great arm; each gun in marching order is as follows: 1st, 1 gun 6 horses and 3 postillions, (no man on the caisson); 2d, 8 mounted gunners; 3d, 1 caisson, 6 horses and 3 postillions; 4th, 8 mounted ammunition men; 5th, 3 spare wheels—that is to say, the fore wheels of a gun carriage, with gun caisson, and a spare wheel, (making 3) with 2 horses and 1 postillion; 6th, 6 spare horses and 3 postillions. The rack gun has 16 mounted men, 6 postillions and 4 spare postillions, 8 spare horses, 3 spare wheels and 1 spare gun caisson; in all, 26 men and 26 horses. Six of these form a battery. My own impression is, that all breech-loading cannon fail in rapid work—they get hot—the parts expand unequally, and no longer fit—gas gets in, and the parts become deranged or burst. I don't believe Armstrong's "cups" for gas will afford any remedy. Nevertheless, rifled guns are a great improvement, on account of length of range and accuracy—and elongated shot are better for some work, but they will not recoil.

It is difficult to arrive at a fair comparison of the naval forces of England and France; but I make it that the French are superior in steam and inferior in sails, and that, if the two entire navies were ranged in line of battle, the forces would be so nearly equal that it would be difficult to say which would win; and I judge from a speech of Lord Ellenborough, at an agricultural meeting, that he arrives at a similar conclusion, as he says, "It is useless to deny that we cannot rely on it, that we have any superiority of naval force."

A NOVEL DUEL.—Two Russian officers in Warsaw, Count Lambert and General Gerstenzweig, recently got into a quarrel, and could not settle it but by a duel; but as a duel at that time between two high personages presented great inconveniences, the belligerents decided that one of the two should kill himself the same evening, and that lots should be drawn to decide which it would be. The lot fell on General Gerstenzweig, who accordingly shot himself through the head as per agreement.

—The Emperor of the French has lent the British Government 2,000 pairs of snow boots for the use of the troops sent to Canada—"than which (says a Liverpool paper) nothing could be more considerate or friendly."

—The British Ambassador at Paris lives in a magnificent hotel, which is superbly furnished and decorated at the public expense in order that he may suitably represent his nation. His salary is \$50,000 a year, besides an annual allowance of \$5,000 for warming and lighting the Embassy, and a liberal allowance for plate, servants and other extras.