

Miscellaneous.

AN EARTHQUAKE IN WASHOE.—The *Virginia Enterprise* of December 9th says:

We are informed by John Skae, who has just returned from Desert District, about 75 miles east of this city, that a few days since several severe shocks of an earthquake were experienced in the region of country named above. John says there is no humbug about it; the shocks were genuine and startling. The Indians say that about nine years ago the ground got very sick out near Pyramid Lake, that a great crack opened, and that water was spouted out from it to a great height.

BLASTING ROCKS.—A simple and effective invention for blasting rocks has been patented by Mr. D. S. Sutherland, of 34 Great George st., Westminster. He is to introduce into the bore-hole a cone, either of wood or hollow metal, between the powder and the outer side of the hole. The apex of the cone is outward, and the hole is then filled up with sand, sufficient room only being left for the passage of the fuse. The effect of this cone is that the force of the explosion is much increased, the sand rendering the blowing out of the cone impossible.—[London Mining Journal.]

GENERAL McDOWELL AND THE INDIANS.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE
PACIFIC, SAN FRANCISCO,
(Cal.), Nov. 23, 1864.]

It has come to the knowledge of the Major General commanding that officers in this Department have assumed to act in a summary manner in reference to Indians charged with crimes; and there are cases where they have had Indians executed by the troops. This is against all law, is in no way to be justified, and will not be sanctioned. As his Excellency, the Governor of California, correctly states, "Indians are amenable to the civil law equally with whites, and should be tried for offenses committed, and punished accordingly."

Hereafter no officer or soldier will execute or aid in executing any Indian prisoners on any pretext whatever. If an Indian commits any crime, the military may hold him under guard until the civil authority can take charge of him. By command of Major General McDowell. R. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HOW BODIES ARE EMBALMED.—A correspondent of a Philadelphia paper writes from City Point, Va., as follows:—

Among the curiosities in the rear of our great armies, none more attract my attention than embalming tents, and the amount of business they do. The process of embalming is very simple and easily comprehended. When the subject is laid upon the operating table, a slight incision is made in the neck, from which as much of the blood as can be is withdrawn, and then an incision in the femoral artery admits the metal end of a rubber tube, through which, by a force pump, the preserving fluid is driven into the entire arterial system, and thus into the venous system, expelling in the course of its progress what blood had yet remained in arteries or veins. The materials used, the embalmers attempt to conceal. It is said that arsenic is a principal one. This is especially important in warm weather. After the process is completed, the form of the face and general expression of the countenance remains unchanged, except a good deal darkening in color. At the end of a few months, an embalmed body would not be very different in appearance, perhaps, from the Egyptian specimens, though less repulsive.

If the embalming is deferred till the third day after death in summer time, it cannot be performed with success except in rare cases. Upon the second day success is quite certain; "and when we get the body within a few hours of death," said an embalmer to me, "we make very pretty cases." And he exhibited some which seemed beautiful to him.

I learned of Dr. J. W. Bunnell, City Point, who is engaged in the business, that the whole cost of coffin, embalming, and expressing the body home to the Northern States, will range from \$80 to \$100, which must be paid here before the body leaves.

Upon the desirableness of having a friend's body embalmed and taken home, I am strongly in the negative. If he falls in fighting for a sacred principle, his body will help consecrate the soil, and make it truly sacred dust; and he will then remember him as he appeared when he left his Northern home,

nor have our recollection of a bright and beautiful face forever marred by the vision of his decaying but embalmed corpse. Such would be my advice to any friend. Still, if you must see and bury with your own hands that loved dust, the embalmer will enable you to do it.

WHAT AN EDITOR MIGHT HAVE BEEN.—Holland, the editor of the *Springfield Mass. Republican*, has been up in Vermont, to "where he came from," and he thus sketches what he should have been, if he had not left home and become an editor:

Your correspondent would have grown stalwart and strong, with horny hands, and a face as black as the ace of spades. He would have taught school winters, worked on the farm summers, and gone out haying fifteen days in July, and taken for pay the iron work and running gear of a wagon. At two-and-twenty, or thereabouts, he would have begun to pay attentions to a girl with a father worth two thousand dollars and a spit-curl on her forehead—a girl who always went to singing-school and "set in the seats," and sung without opening her mouth—a pretty girl any way. Well, after seeing her home from singing-school two or three years, taking her to a Fourth of July, and getting about a hundred dollars together, he would have married and settled down. Years would pass away, and that girl with the spit-curl would have eleven children—just as sure as you live—seven boys and four girls. We should have had a hard time in bringing them up, but they would soon be able enough to do the milking and help their mother on wash-days, and I, getting independent at last, and feeling a little stiff in the joints, should be elected a member of the Legislature, having been an assessor and school committee for years. In the evening of my days, with my pipe in my mouth, thirteen barrels of cider in the cellar, and a newspaper in my hands, I should sit and look over the markets, through a pair of gold mounted spectacles, and wonder why should such a strange, silly piece as this be published.

TRIAL OF AN ALPINE LOCOMOTIVE.—An interesting trial of a locomotive engine, built upon novel principles at the Canada Works, Birkenhead, took place lately at Whaley Bridge, on the Cromford and High Peak Railway, and upon a short line made especially for the experiment. The engine is constructed to ascend and descend steep gradients, to pass sharp curves, and to perform work which locomotives as yet have never been able to accomplish.

The practical object of this invention cannot but be greatly interesting, inasmuch as it proposes to run a line of railway for passengers, mails and merchandise over the very heart of the Alps, and along the road hitherto considered impassable for locomotives. It is the well known military road hewn out of such great difficulties by the first Napoleon that it is thus contemplated to traverse. At present there is a tract of mountain pass forty-eight miles in length between the two great railway systems of France and North Italy, the terminus of the former being San Michael, in Savoy, and the latter Susa, in Piedmont. The Mount Cenis, by which this district is known, has been considered so important for the purpose of traffic, that the French and Italian Governments, five years ago, commenced the excavation of a tunnel to remove the difficulties so often felt. At the lowest computation this great undertaking will take twelve years to complete. The proposed railway over the surface of the pass will only be two years in making, and the projectors would, therefore, have ten years of working before the tunnel was available for traffic. The district has been thoroughly surveyed by Mr. Fell in connection with a company of well known English capitalists and contractors, and the scheme has met with the approbation of the Italian government. The present road is sufficiently wide to accommodate the railway and leave room for local traffic, and the usual engineering labors of tunnelling, &c., will not be required.

The chief difficulty, however, is that which the new locomotive is especially designed to overcome—namely, the excessive steepness. Starting from San Michael, the road gradually rises as far as the village of Lansleburg, whence it takes a rapid ascent, with gradients of one in twelve to the summit of the pass, which is seven thousand feet above the level of the sea. From this point there is an equally rapid descent to Susa. In addition to this rising and falling there are frequent sharp curves. It is proposed to cover in those portions of the line

where it is known avalanches and snow drifts fall. The locomotive to be employed here is, in fact, a double engine, a horizontal and vertical engine combined, and so arranged that it may be worked either together or separate, according to the steepness of the incline. Not the least feature of this invention is the safety which it insures. The horizontal wheels referred to above facilitate the passages of the curves, enable the driver to stop the engine in the middle of the steepest gradient, give a propulsive pressure of several tons, and by means of the flanges which underlap the centre rail, renders it nearly impossible that the carriages can be overturned. The brakes are extremely powerful, and, as they are attached to each carriage, no danger can arise from a coupling chain giving way. The extreme narrowness of the gauge renders the curves less difficult to pass, gives more room for the public road, and greatly assists in erecting the covered ways for the most dangerous parts.

The trials on Tuesday were in every way successful, and for once the High Peak proved an aid rather than an obstacle to the engineer. There were two inclines; the first being two hundred yards long, at a gradient of one in twelve, with curves of about two chains radius. This represents the most difficult part of the Mount Cenis road. The shortness of the line upon which the experiment was made prevented the full getting up of steam, and the trial may therefore be taken as a fair test. The locomotive itself weighing sixteen tons—first ascended and descended the lines, stooping in the middle, and going backwards and forwards as required with perfect ease. Four wagons, laden with twenty-six tons of ballast, were then attached and the experiment was repeated with equally satisfactory results. It is proposed to work the Mount Cenis line at an average speed of twelve miles, thus performing the journey in from four to five hours. The number of passengers will not exceed one hundred and ninety—equivalent to twenty-four tons.—[Liverpool Post.]

SALT FOR THE THROAT.—In these days, when diseases of the throat are so universally prevalent, and so many cases fatal, we feel it our duty to say a word in behalf of a simple, and what has been with us a most effectual preventive, if not a positive cure, of sore throat. For many years past, indeed we may say during the whole of a life of over forty years, we have been subject to sore throat, and more particularly to a dry, hacking cough, which was not only distressing to ourselves, but to our friends and those with whom we were brought into business contact. Last fall we were induced to try what virtue there was in common salt. We commenced by using it three times a day, morning, noon and night. We dissolved a large table-spoonful of pure salt in about half a small tumbler full of cold water. With this we gargle the throat most thorough just before meals. The result has been that during the entire winter we were not only free from the usual coughs and colds to which, as far as our memory extends, we have always been subject, but the dry, hacking cough has entirely disappeared. We attribute those satisfactory results solely to the use of salt gargle, and do most cordially recommend a trial of it to those who are subject to disease of the throat. Many persons who have never tried the salt gargle, have the impression that it is unpleasant. Such is not the case. On the contrary it is pleasant, and after a few days' use no person who loves a nice clean mouth, and a first-rate sharpener of the appetite, will abandon it.—[Farmer and Gardner.]

INGENIOUS CLOCK.—There is now in possession of, and manufactured by Mr. Collings, silversmith, of Gloucester, England, a most ingenious piece of mechanism—an eight-day clock, with dead beat escapement maintaining power, chimes the quarters, plays sixteen tunes, plays three tunes in twelve hours, or will play at any time required. The hands go round as follows: One, once a minute; one, once an hour, one, once a week; one, once a month; one, once a year. It shows the moon's age, the time of rising and setting of the sun, the time of high and low water, half ebb and half flood; and by a beautiful contrivance, there is a part which represents the water which rises and falls, lifting the ships at high water tide as if it were in motion and as it recedes leaves these little automaton ships dry on the sands. It shows the twelve signs of the zodiac, it strikes or not, chimes or not, as you wish it; it has the equation table, showing the difference of clock and sun every day in the year. Every portion of the clock is of beautiful

workmanship, and performs most accurately the many different objects which are called into action by the ingenious proprietor.

WOMEN KILLED WITH CARE.—Every woman must have a best parlor, with haircloth furniture, and a photographic book; she must have a piano, or some other substitute; her little girls must have embroidered skirts, and much mathematical knowledge; her husband must have two or three meals every day of his life; and yet her house must be in perfect order early in the afternoon, and she prepared to go out and pay calls, with a black silk dress and card case. In the evening she will go to a concert or lecture, and then, at the end of all, she will very possibly sit up after midnight with her sewing-machine! doing extra work to pay for little Ella's music lessons. All this every "capable" woman will do or die! She does it and dies, and then we are astonished that her vital energy gives out sooner than that of an Irish woman in a shanty, with no ambition on earth but to supply her young Patrick's with adequate potatoes.—T. W. Higginson.

SOUTHERN PLANTERS SETTLING IN BRAZIL.—The *Brazil and River Plate Mail* says: Owing to the war in America, several wealthy Southern planters purpose settling in this country, some have already arrived, and several more are on their way. One gentleman from South Carolina is expected to arrive here with a capital of 250,000 patacons. All these parties intend to locate in Santa Fe. In a few years' time the lands in that province will be worth as much, if not more, than those of Buenos Ayres.

FUN AT HOME.—Don't be afraid of a little fun at home, good people! Don't shut up your house lest the sun should fade your carpets, and your hearts, lest a hearty laugh should shake down some of the musty old cobwebs there! If you want to ruin your sons, let them think that all mirth and enjoyment must be left on the threshold without, when they come home at night. When once a home is regarded as only a place to eat, drink and sleep in, the work is begun that ends in gambling houses and reckless degradation. Young people must have fun and relaxation somewhere; if they do not find it at their own hearthstones, it will be sought at other and perhaps less profitable places. Therefore let the fire burn brightly at night, and make the home nest delightful with all those little arts that parents so perfectly understand. Don't repress the buoyant spirit of your children; half an hour of merriment round the lamp and firelight of a home blots out the remembrance of many a care and annoyance during the day, and the best safe-guard they can take with them into the world is the unseen influence of a bright little domestic sanctum.

LINIMENT TO RELIEVE PAIN.—One of the most powerful liniments for the relief of severe pain is made of equal quantities of spirits of hartshorn, sweet oil and chloroform; dip into this a piece of cotton cloth, doubled, about the size of a silver dollar, lay it on the spot, so as to confine the fumes, and the pain immediately disappears. Do not let it remain on over a minute. Shake it well just before using, and keep the bottle very closely stopped.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

WHAT DID HE MARRY FOR?—Tom is a bright little boy, and very much attached to his mother. The other day his father came home in a bad humor, and was scolding and finding fault generally. Little Tom sat and listened until he thought it necessary to interfere in behalf of his mother, when looking up at his father, he said in a very decided tone: "If you do not like her ways, what did you marry her for?" We need scarcely add that the weather cleared up at once, and the storm was over.

DURING the Revolution, with a population of 3,000,000, there were 395,000 men called into the service. If the same proportion were called out now, we should have an army of 4,000,000.

ASTOUNDING navy yard frauds have been discovered in Philadelphia—persons receiving good salaries, but spending three times the amount on fast women—are implicated. Some have been able to put up costly brown stone houses with the plunder. Parties in New York are involved. The amount of stealings discovered thus far is from one to two hundred thousand dollars.

THERE are no less than six physicians who attend the Empress of Russia. That woman ought certainly to be sick of doctors.