

Petroleum, or Rock Oil.

Recent discoveries of large deposits of *oleum terre*—oil of the earth—have been made in the northwestern parts of Pennsylvania and in Virginia. This substance has been long known, in one form or another. Petroleum—*petros alaiian*, rock oil—oil of the earth, naphtha, seneka oil, asphaltum, bitumen, carbon oil, etc., are but different names for substantially the same thing. In the form of naphtha, it is limpid and volatile; in that of asphaltum, often solid enough to break with a fracture, and to be employed as a paving for streets. The ancient Egyptians used it in embalming, under the name of *mumia*; and the Babylonians employed it in place of mortar, as a cement for their bricks. Hitherto it has been chiefly obtained in the region of the Dead sea, and in Persia, Italy, Sicily, and some of the West India Islands. It is essentially carbon and hydrogen, having from eighty to ninety per cent. of carbon, or sometimes the two, in nearly equal proportions.

Deposits of this mineral have long been known to exist in the United States, but until recently it has been put to little or no use, except in small quantities, for medicinal purposes. Formerly it was much peddled about the country, in small bottles, and sold at the shops as a specific for burns, scalds, rheumatism, etc., under the name of seneka oil. The oil springs in Cattaraugus county, on the Indian reservation, were known to the whites half a century ago or more; and in Morse's *Gazetteer*, published nearly forty years ago, we find it stated, that on the spring from which Oil creek—now so famous—takes its rise, "floats an oil, of which many gallons may be collected in a day." It is added that this oil "has valuable medicinal properties."

It was not, we believe, until—further down the same water, on the Alleghany river, of which Oil creek is a branch, at the village of Tarentum or Freeport—one of our modern miracles occurred, that much attention was turned to the subject, or the value of the article suspected. At that point, an old salt well, without known cause, underwent a sudden transformation, and commenced throwing up a substance which was not brine. For seventeen years this well had behaved as an honest well should, and contributed, in bountiful supplies of salt, to the substance and wealth of its owners. Now its pure waters came up alloyed with a greasy, brown matter, which threatened to them valueless. Greatly annoyed, the proprietors submitted to the unrequited toil of exhausting this foreign substance from the brine, but it steadily increased upon them. Thus far they had thrown it away as useless. Now it occurred to them to subject it to an analysis, and ascertain its quality. The result of this, and the experiments which followed, reconciled them to the vitiation of their water, for in the new substance, without detriment to the brine, they ascertained they had received another gift of at least equal value. It proved to be petroleum of very great purity. The produce of this well was introduced into this city about two years ago, under the name, after distillation, of carbon oil, and the demand for it soon outran the supply. Though the yield is by no means so great as that of other wells since opened on Oil creek, none of them equal it in purity and absence of color. The produce is from one hundred and fifty to two hundred gallons per day. It is used only for illuminating purposes.

Large deposits of rock oil are also known to exist in Canada West; and from the abundance of the supply in these several localities, it would appear probable that immense vats of this liquid wealth underlie large tracts of country north and south of Lake Erie, extending, according to indications already noted, from a point between Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron, to the neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The yield of the wells, which are obtained by boring, is truly astonishing. One of these, on Old creek, is reported at four hundred gallons daily, another at five hundred; another at eight hundred; and the McClintock well at from one thousand to twelve hundred gallons per day. The quality of the oil varies. The produce of one well is thin and fine, best fitted for burning; that of another, thick and dense, suiting it to the lubrication of machinery.

The smell of this oil is pungent, and no process has yet been discovered by which it can be removed. In some cases, indeed, the odor is so powerful as to render it almost unendurable. The oil obtained in the neighborhood of Enniskillen, Canada West, is of this character. There is a large tract of land in that vicinity, in various parts of which the soil itself is saturated with the oil. The proprietor has only to dig pits, when they fill without further trouble, and continue to fill as the liquid is removed. He offers to furnish two thousand gallons per day if he can find a market. The difficulty in the way of this, however, is the extreme pungency of the article. Samples of the oil having been consigned to a house in this city, for reasons patent, they got it off their hands as soon as possible. The purchaser shipped a barrel of it to Illinois, and in due time was advised by his consignee that it could neither be sold nor returned; that nobody would buy it, and no transportation line receive it; and that the arrival of the oil among them was furnishing the town with its chief subject of excitement.—[Exchange.]

—Punch says that Garibaldi is an Irishman, and was born in Cork, or Connemara and after his father was christened Richard Murphy, a name which he has now contracted to Dick Tator.

Brougham's Advice to Macaulay.

In 1823 Lord Brougham addressed a letter to Macaulay's father, offering suggestions on the education of the deceased historian, then a student at Cambridge. Starting on the principle that the foundation of all excellence is to be laid in early application to general knowledge, Lord Brougham proceeds to give advice as to the best mode of cultivating the talent for public speaking, which the son then possessed. He says:

"1. The first point is this,—the beginning of the art is to acquire a habit of easy speaking. Let him first of all learn to speak easily and fluently, as well and as sensibly as he can no doubt, but at any rate let him learn to speak. This is to eloquence, or good public speaking, what the being able to talk in a child is to correct grammatical speech. It is the requisite foundation, and on it you must build. Moreover, it can only be acquired young, therefore let it by all means, and at any sacrifice, be gotten hold of forthwith. 2. The next step is the grand one, to convert this style of easy speaking into chaste eloquence. I do earnestly entreat your son to set daily and nightly before him the Greek models. First of all he may look to the best modern speeches; Burke's best compositions as the *Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents*; speech 'On the American Conciliation,' and 'On the Nabob of Arcot's Debt'; Fox's 'Speech on the Westminster Scrutiny,' 'On the Russian Armanant,' and 'On the War,' 1803, with one or two of Wyndham's best, and very few, or, rather, none, of Sheridan's; but he must by no means stop here. If he would be a great orator, he must go at once to the fountain head, and be familiar with every one of the great orations of Demosthenes. I take for granted that he knows those of Cicero by heart; they are very beautiful, but not very useful, except, perhaps, the *Milo pro Ligario*, and one or two more; but the Greek must positively be the model; and merely reading it, as boys do, to know the language, won't do at all; he must enter into the spirit of each speech, thoroughly know the positions of the parties, follow each turn of the argument, and make the absolutely perfect and most chaste and severe composition familiar to his mind. In this view I hold a familiar knowledge of Dante to be next to Demosthenes. It is in vain to say that imitations of these models won't do for our times. First, I do not counsel any imitation, but only an imbibing of the same spirit. Secondly, I know from experience that nothing is half so successful in these times (bad though they be) as what has been formed on the Greek models. I use a very poor instance in giving my own experience, but I do assure you that both in courts of law and parliament, and even to mobs, I have never made so much play (to use a very modern phrase) as when I was almost translating from the Greek. This leads me to remark, that though speaking, with writing beforehand, is very well until the habit of easy speech is acquired, yet after that he can never write too much; this is quite clear. But I go further, and say, even to the end of a man's life he must prepare word for word most of his finer passages. Now, would he be a great orator or no? In other words, would he have almost absolute power of doing good to mankind, in a free country, or no? So he wills this, he must follow these rules."

The U. S. Government Presented as a Nuisance.

Presentment of the grand jury of the United States for the middle district of Alabama. The grand jury of the United States for the middle district of Alabama, empaneled and sworn to inquire and true presentment make, for said district, as to all violations of the laws of the United States—do hereby present: That the several States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Ohio, and others have nullified by acts of their several legislatures, several laws enacted by the Congress of the confederation, for the protection of persons and property; and that, for many years, said States have occupied an attitude of hostility to the interest of the people of the middle district of Alabama. And the said federal government having utterly failed to execute its enactments for the protection of the property and interests of said middle district; and this court having no jurisdiction in the premises, this grand jury do present the said government as worthless, impotent, and a nuisance.

The grand jury do make their acknowledgments to the presiding judge and the district attorney, for the able and courteous manner in which they have both discharged their respective official duties.

C. G. GUNTER, Foreman,

And nineteen others.

United States district court, December Term 1860.

A FORTUNE.—A man named Joseph Burnham, who removed some years since from Middletown, in Rutland county, Vermont, to Wisconsin, has recently been discovered to be heir to an immense property in England. It seems that an agent of the English government has been over to investigate the matter, and the result is the finding of the heir, a son of the brother of the testator, by whose will the windfall comes, in the person of Mr. B. A married daughter of the fortunate man resides in Rutland. The estimate amounts to the round sum of \$22,000,000!

Recreations of Great Men.

Socrates did not blush to play with the children.

Asinius Pollio would not suffer any business to occupy him beyond a stated hour; and after that time, he would not allow any letter to be opened during his hours of relaxation, that they might not be interrupted by unforeseen labors.

Tycho Brahe diverted himself with polishing glasses for all kinds of spectacles, and making mathematical instruments—an amusement too closely connected with his studies to be deemed as one.

D'Andilly, the translator of "Josephus," after seven or eight hours of study every day, amused himself in cultivating trees; Barclay, the author of the "Argeneos," in his leisure hours was a florist; Balza amused himself with a collection of crayon portraits; Peirce found his amusement among his medals and antiquarian curiosities; and Politian in singing airs to his lute.

Descartes passed his afternoon in the conversations of a few friends, and in cultivating a little garden in the morning.

Grantville Sharp, amidst the severity of his studies, found a social relaxation in the amusement of a barge on the Thames, which was well known to the circle of his friends. There was festive hospitality with musical delight. It was resorted to by men of the most eminent talents and rank. His little voyages to Putney, Kew and to Richmond, and the literary intercourse they produced, were singularly happy ones. "The history of his amusements can not be told without adding to the dignity of his character," observed Mr. Prince Hoare, in his very curious life of this great philanthropist.

Some have found amusements in composing treatises on odd subjects. Seneca wrote a burlesque narrative of Claudian's death. Pierius Valerianus has written a eulogium on beards; and we had a lea ned one recently, with due gravity and pleasantry, entitled "Eloge de Perruques"—a eulogium on wigs.

Erasmus, to amuse himself when traveling in a post-chaise, composed his panegyric on "Moria, or Folly;" which, authorized by the pun, he dedicated to Sir Thomas Moore.

PROPORTIONS OF THE HUMAN FIGURE.

The proportions of the human figure are strictly mathematical. The whole figure is six times the length of the foot. Whether the form be slender or plump, this rule holds good. Any deviation from it is a departure from the highest beauty of proportion. The Greeks made all their statues according to this rule. The face, from the highest point of the forehead, where the hair begins, to the end of the chin, is one tenth the whole length of the stature. The hand, from the wrist to the middle finger, is the same. The chest is a fourth, and from the nipples to the top of the head is the same. From the top of the chest to the highest point of the forehead, is a seventh. If the length of the face, from the roots of the hair to the chin, be divided into three equal parts, the, the first division determines where the eyebrows meet, and the second the place of the nostrils. The navel is the center point of the human body; and if a man should lie on his back with his arms extended, the periphery of the circle which might be described around him, with the navel for its center, would touch the extremities of his hands and feet. The height, from the feet to the top of the head, is the same as the distance from the extremities of the other when the arms are extended. These are the general measures of the species.

FLIRTATION OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The innocent flirtations of married women is one of the abominations of modern society. Even a desire for promiscuous admiration is wrong in a wife. The love of one and his approval, should be all that she ought to desire. Let her be ever so beautiful, it is a disgusting and appalling sight to see her decorating that beauty for public gaze; to see her seeking the attention of senseless fops around her, and rejoicing in the admiration of other eyes than those of her husband. Her beauty should be for him alone, not for the gaze of the fools that flutter around her. There is always among the sedate and the wise a sensation of disgust; when a married lady attempts to ensnare or entrap young men by profuse display of her charms, or an unlicensed outlay of her smiles. Such smiles and such charms are loathsome to the indifferent beholder; the trail of the serpent is over them.

A SLANDER REFUTED.—A late number of the *Knickerbocker* has a good anecdote of a man who rarely failed to go to bed intoxicated and disturb his wife during the whole night. Upon his being charged by a friend that he never went to bed sober, he indignantly denied the charge, and gave the incident of one particular night in proof:

"Pretty soon after I got into bed, my wife said, 'Why husband, what is the matter with you? you act strangely!'"

"There's nothing the matter with me," said I. "Nothing at all."

"I am sure there is," said she, "you don't act natural at all. Shan't I get up and get something for you?"

And up she got, lighted a candle, and came to the bedside to look at me, shading the light with her hand.

"I knew there was something strange about you," said she, "why, you are sober!"

"Now, this is a fact, and my wife will swear to it; so don't you slander me any more, by saying that I haven't been to bed sober in six months; 'cause I have."

ABSTRACT

Containing a summary of Meteorological observations for the month of January, 1861, at G. S. L. City, Utah, by W. W. Phelps.

MONTHLY MEAN.		BAROMETER.
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
25	25	25
Monthly mean		Thermometer attached.
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
27	32	29
Monthly mean		Thermometer open air.
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
18	27	24
Monthly mean		Thermometer Dry bulb.
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
26	32	28
Monthly mean		Wet bulb.
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 a.m.
34	36	35
Highest and lowest range of Barometer during the month.		Highest and lowest range of thermometer in the open air during the month.
Max. 25.—		Max. 40°
Min. 25.—		Min. 0° zero.

The depth of snow which fell during the month, was 17 inches, producing with some rain, 1,200, which only lacks 50 of being 1-4 inch of water. The weather has been steady and sleighing good; wind light.

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

1. Cloudy and cold; good sleighing.
2. Cloudy and cold.
3. Cloudy do.
4. Hazy and cloudy do.
5. Cloudy; strong south wind; thawing.
6. Cloudy, warm; south wind; snow melting.
7. Cloudy do do warm.
8. Cloudy A.M., after partially clear.
9. Cloudy; disagreeable weather.
10. Cloudy; cold. New moon 10h. 1m. p.m., sun eclipsed, invisible.
11. Cloudy and dreary.
12. Cloudy, and like for a storm.
13. Snowing, and storming till 4 p.m.
14. Clear and cold.
15. Snowing moderately all day, three inches fell.
16. Cloudy and cold.
17. Cloudy and spitting snow all day.
18. Cloudy A.M. P.M. fair.
19. Cloudy, wind and cold.
20. Cloudy A.M. P.M. partially clear and cold.
21. Cloudy till 9; thence snowing all day.
22. Clear and cold.
23. Cloudy and cold.
24. Cloudy, with a little sunshine, but cold.
25. Cloudy and moderate.
26. Cloudy do. Full moon 9h. 39m. a.m.
27. Cloudy and sunshine alternately.
28. Clear and thawing.
29. Clear, with some flying clouds.
30. Clear and very pleasant.
31. Cloudy, appearance of a storm.

A COURT INCIDENT.—The amusing little incident here related actually took place in one of our Northern Court rooms less than a century ago.

Enter juror (who has detained Court at least an hour).

Judge [much irritated].—"Mr. Clerk, enter a fine of twenty-five dollars against Mr. Smith."

Smith.—"Did I understand your Honor to fine me twenty-five dollars?"

Judge.—"Yes, sir."

Smith draws his pencil and addresses the following note to his honor:

"Dear Judge:—That little difference, upon winding up our last game of 'draw,' amounted to just 'fifty.' Pay the Clerk that 'twenty-five,' and hand the balance to the Sheriff."

Yours, etc., SMITH.

[Sheriff hands note to Judge, who inspects it for a moment. The judicial frown gives place to a most benevolent and satisfied smile, as his Honor stammers.]—

"Ah—yes! Certainly—yes—valid excuse! Certainly—valid excuse—certainly! The Clerk will remit Mr. Smith's fine.—[California paper.]

NO TIME TO SWAP.—An Indiana man was traveling down the Ohio on a steamer, with a mare and a two-year-old colt, when by a sudden career of the boat all three were tilted into the river. The Hoosier, as he arose, puffing and blowing, above water, caught hold of the tail of the colt, not having a doubt that the natural instinct of the animal would carry him ashore. The old mare took a bee-line for the shore, but the frightened colt swam lustily down the current with its owner still hanging fast.

"Let go the colt and hang to the old mare!" shouted some of his friends.

"Phree booh!" exclaimed the Hoosier, spouting the water from his mouth and shaking his head like a Newfoundland dog, "It's all mighty fine, yer telling me to let go the colt; but to a man that can't swim this ain't exactly the time for swapping horses!"

—At the London Bridge Station, the annual number of passengers, according to an English paper, was no less than from eleven to twelve millions. At the same time it is stated that the number of trains daily during the busy season, exclusive of empties, is three hundred and sixty-five—or a train every four minutes throughout the day and night.