

with those packages sadly plundered, as has been customary of late; the following is a list of the abstractions from the last mail, so far as known:—

22 Harpers Magazines, 20 Grahams, 10 Godey's Lady's Book, 2 London Punch, 2 London Illustrated News, 3 New York Herald.

This mail is carried so regularly and makes such good time, that it is a matter of sincere shame for some bipeds of the human species that we are compelled to publish their abominable pilferings. Were such acts done in Utah, what a howl would be raised; but stealing from the 'Mormons' excites no enquiry nor comment. This is a goodly example and usage for converting the 'deluded Mormons!'

Can no one find out where and by whom this mail is plundered? Are not some of our friends in San Bernardino willing to help? D. M. Thomas, Esq., Postmaster at that place, could easily inform us of the condition of the Fulivan and Noisy Carrier packages when they reach his office; and perhaps the Postmaster at San Pedro will be kind enough to lend his official aid towards effecting the prompt and certain transmission of mail matter for Utah.

THE EASTERN MAIL left this city on the 8th inst., under the charge of Mr. William A. Hickman.

MOVEMENTS OF ELDERS.—We learn from The Mormon, that Elder George J. Taylor has been appointed President of the New York Conference.

Elder Parley P. Pratt was in St. Louis, Nov. 28.

Elders George Gates, Ezra T. Clark, William Bevans, Samuel F. Neslin, George Taylor and Samuel Roskelly sailed from New York for Europe on the ship Thornton, Nov. 24.

Elder William L. Appleby is doing a good work in visiting the different branches in the Philadelphia Conference. He was in Philadelphia on the 21st of Nov., and expected soon to resume his visitations in company with Prest. Angus M. Cannon.

Elder Jacob Hofheines is in New York City, and with Alexander Ott is laboring among the Germans.

Elders John H. Tippetts, Daniel Page, jr., James G. Browning, Thomas Pearce and William Brown arrived in New York, Nov. 4.

Elders George A. Smith and Erastus Snow were in Cincinnati, Nov. 29, on their way east.

PREST. CHARLES C. RICH will please accept our thanks for a package of Pie Melon seeds, forwarded by the last California mail. These melons are said to grow like other varieties of that species; and it is stated that pies made from them are very like, in taste, to those made from green apples. With a little thought and trouble, the Elders abroad can soon enrich Utah with every required variety of seeds, roots, and cuttings. Roots of the strawberry, blackberry, &c., and cuttings of the grape, apple, &c., can be successfully forwarded by mail, if soldered in tin cans or put up with moss and carefully enveloped in oiled silk.

THE MORMON AND STANDARD are most ably sustaining their mottoes, "it is better to represent ourselves, than to be represented by others," and, "to correct misrepresentation we adopt self-representation;" and are most manfully aiding in the spread of the glorious principles revealed from Heaven for the acceptance or rejection of the human family, for their exaltation or condemnation, as may seem unto them good in the exercise of the agency given them.

Summary.

In addition to the 'News Items,' we find that noticeable fires destroyed buildings and other property in Syracuse, N. Y., Nov. 8, valued at \$1,000,000; in New York City, Nov. 9, to the value of \$500,000; and at Three Rivers, near Montreal, L. C., Nov. 15, to the value of \$500,000, destroying about one half of the business portion of the town.

—A French steamer, Le Lyonnais, was wrecked off Nantucket on the 2nd of Nov., and out of 166 persons on board only 16 were known to have been saved.

—High winds in November did much damage to the shipping on the lakes, and to some buildings in Buffalo, Chicago, and other lake towns.

—Congress convened on the 1st of Dec., and on the 2nd the President's message was received, and the House was angrily discussing the propriety of allowing the Delegate from Kansas a seat. The Delegate was elected solely by pro-slavery voters, the other party not voting, on the ground that the election was

not lawfully held. It would thus seem that Kansas affairs are not yet altogether so quiet as some represent.

—The election of James Buchanan to be President of the United States, from March 4, 1857 to March 4, 1861, is confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SAN BERNARDINO,

JANUARY 9, 1857.

BR. A. CARRINGTON—DEAR SIR:—

At 25 minutes past 8 o'clock this morning our place was visited with the most violent earthquake that has ever been experienced in this part of the country. A majority of the houses here are injured by it, the water in the creeks and ponds was thrown over the banks and several feet high. The course was from the N. W. to S. E. The first shock lasted about two minutes, and in ten minutes after was another shock which was not so violent; lasted one minute.

In haste, your brother,

R. R. HOPKINS.

NEWS ITEMS.

EARTHQUAKE AT MALTA.—Malta, October 15.—On Sunday the 12th of October, at eleven minutes before 2 o'clock, A. M., the Islands of Malta and Gozo were visited by shocks of an earthquake, so violent in their nature, and so long in their duration, that the oldest inhabitants do not remember ever to have experienced anything so severe.

The first shock made itself perceptible by a tremulous motion similar to that caused by the passing of a heavy gun-carriage a thousand times repeated, accompanied by a rumbling noise of distant thunder, which rapidly increased in violence until every building trembled. Scarcely a minute had elapsed when a more violent shock, accompanied by a louder noise, occurred. The alarm occasioned was general throughout town and country.

Men, women and children, suddenly aroused from their slumbers, issued from every house, rushed into the streets and made their way to the squares, and other spaces, which soon became full of people. The sentry at the Treasury left his post and ran to the main guard, which he turned out, under the impression that shells were being thrown into the town by an enemy from some steam fleet.

The two shocks, the interval being so brief as to be incalculable, lasted two minutes. In the city of Valetta scarcely a building escaped injury, and all corner structures have more particularly suffered. Of the Roman Catholic churches those of San Giacomo, St. Orsola, and St. Dominica appear to have suffered most.

At Floriana, and in each of the three cities as well as in the harbor, the shocks were felt with considerable vigor, and at Sengels, Cospicua and Vittoriosa, many of the buildings are injured. Persons on board ships in the port describe the effect of the earthquake as felt by them, as of letting go the ship's boats from the davits by the run, only much stronger.

The sea receded two feet and a half. The night had been without a breath of air, with a sultry sensation, the sea perfectly calm, and the moon shining in a clear sky with a brightness that seemed to transform night into day, it being within twenty-one hours of full moon.

At Civita, Vecchia, in the interior of the island, all the churches, monasteries, nunneries and hospitals, (the church of St. Augustine excepted) sustained greater or less damage. The dome of the cathedral is rent, so as to admit the light, and the belfry is much shaken.

The London Times Malta correspondent says: Intelligence continues to pour in from the surrounding and more distant countries which felt the earthquake on the night of the 11th and morning of the 12th of October. It seems to have been more sensibly felt in the interior than in the seaport towns of the neighboring Island of Sicily. In Naples the shocks were severe and of long duration, and so likewise in Calabria; but it appears to have generated in Asia Minor or in Syria, as indeed, has been generally the case when phenomena of this nature having any degree of intensity have been felt in Malta; with which countries, rather than with the nearer land of Sicily, Malta in this respect corresponds.

At Rhodes the shock was felt at 2.40 a. m. on the 12th, and was so violent that 50 houses and the celebrated tower are reported to have been razed to the ground in the town, and many others seriously injured, while the village of Trianda is in ruins, with a deplorable loss of life. Alexandria also felt it, and in Cairo there have been casualties from falling houses and mosque minarets. The duration of the shock throughout Egypt is reported to have averaged 75 seconds, the time agrees with Malta.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer Adria, though distant fully 50 miles from Rhodes, felt it so severely that all on board thought she had struck on some new submarine formation. The St. Andrew English steamer, bound to Alexandria from Liverpool and Malta, at a distance of 300 miles from this last-mentioned port, got so strained by the shock that she sprung a serious leak, lost one of her masts, and bale goods were pitched into the engine-room from out the hold.

THE DANGERS OF THE LAKES.—Those who live far away from the Great Lakes, and have never seen them when lashed into fury by the storm, can have but a faint conception of the danger of navigation and the hazard of those who sail upon these inland seas. The season of 1856 will long be remembered as one of disasters on the lakes, and when the statistics of the loss of life and property are prepared, as they soon will be, by the Board of Underwriters, the figures will astonish even those who reside on the shores. A rough estimate of total losses this season thus far foots

up thus: 8 side-wheel steamers, 9 propellers, 5 brigs and 28 schooners. A number of these vessels disappeared and not a soul of their crew were left to tell the tale of disaster. Besides this, many vessels were partially wrecked, and suffered material damage. Not less than three hundred lives were lost, and property amounting to millions.—[Rochester Advertiser.]

OCEAN TELEGRAPH.—The British Government has, at the request of Cyrus W. Field, Esq., of New-York, ordered a steamer to be fitted out under efficient officers, to examine thoroughly the coast of Ireland and Newfoundland, and to sound across the Atlantic between these parts to ascertain the best place for laying and landing the Submarine Telegraph Cable. The Government has further agreed to guarantee four per cent. interest per annum on the whole capital required to manufacture and lay down the cable between Newfoundland and Ireland. Contracts for the full extent of the Atlantic cable were signed in London on Tuesday, the 29th ult., one half to be manufactured by Messrs. W. Kuper, Glass & Co., of London, and the other by R. S. Nowell & Co., of Liverpool.

It is all to be completed and placed on board of two steamers ready for sea on or before the 31st of May next; and by the 4th of July next, it is confidently expected that Great Britain and the United States will be in telegraphic communication.

DROUGHT IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY.—For the tranquil and fruitful county of Santa Clara, says the Pacific Sentinel, the last dry season may be truly said to be one of poverty and adversity. One who has been recently traveling in the county says that there has as yet been no rain of importance, that the plains are entirely destitute of vegetation, and that cattle are dying of starvation. Much wealth will be lost in this way in that region, before the spring grass will give succor and vigor to animal life.

SEBASTOPOL.—The Russian Government intend to make Sebastopol a magnificent city. A letter from Constantinople says the attempt made to get up the fragments of the vessels sunk at the mouth of the harbor appears likely to be successful.

St. Louis, Nov. 20, 1856.

FIRE IN ST. LOUIS.—Last night the block on the city levee, known as the City Buildings, and consisting of thirteen stores, occupied by some of the heaviest firms in the city, was entirely destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$400,000. The block sold a year ago for \$183,000.

ANCIENT TUNNEL.—In the interior of Peru there has been discovered a beautiful tunnel under a river, the work of the old Inca Indians, and a lasting proof of their civilization.

[From the Woman's Advocate.]

Art of Daily Happy Life.

And here are some invaluable hints on the subject, picked out for us by Mrs. Lowell:—

"There is a singular inaptitude of means to ends, which prevails generally throughout the human aids and appliances for living. I mean dress, houses, equipages, and household furniture. The result is, I believe, that more than half of what we do to procure good, is needless or mischievous; in fact that more than half of the labor and capital of the world is wasted; in savage life by not knowing how to compass what is necessary; in civilized life, by the pursuit of what is needless.

"Yet these are but trifling. Men might live with very foolish furniture around them, with absurdly ill-built houses, noisy and smoky, mostly of one pattern and that a bad one, if all were well in their social relations and social intercourse; if they had found out the art of living in these important respects. But, as it is, how poor a thing is social intercourse.—How often in society a man goes out from interested or vain motives at most unseasonable hours, to sit or stand in a constrained position, inhaling tainted air, suffering from great heat, his sole occupation or amusement being to talk. I do not mean to say that there are not delightful meetings in society, which all who were present at remember afterwards, where the party has been well chosen, the host and hostess genial, (a matter of the first necessity) where wit has been kind as well as playful, where information has known how to be silent as well as how to speak, where good humor to the absent as well as to the present, has assured the company that they were among good people; and where a certain feeling of regard and confidence has spread throughout the company, so that each man has spoken out from his heart.

But these days are sadly rare. The main current of society is very dreary and dull, and not the less so for its restlessness. The chief hindrances to its improvements are of a moral nature—want of truth, vanity, shyness, imitation, foolish concerns about trifles, want of faithfulness to society, habits of ridicule, and puritanical notions.

Want of truth is as fatal, if not more so, to enjoyment as it is to business. From want of the boldness which truth requires, people are driven into uncongenial society, into many modes of needless and painful ostentation, and into various pretences, excuses and all sorts of vexatious dissimulation. The spirit of barter is carried into the amusements and enjoyments of life.

Shyness proceeds from a painful egotism, sharpened by needless self-examinations and foolish imaginations, in which the shy youth or maiden is tormented by his or her personality, and is haunted by imagining that he or she is the centre of the circle—the observed of all observers. This comes from not sufficiently accustoming children to society, or making them suppose that their conduct in it is a mat-

ter of extreme importance, and especially from urging them in their earliest youth by this most injurious of all sayings, 'If you do this or that, what will be said, what will be thought of you?' thus referring the child, not to religion, not to wisdom, not to virtue, not even to the opinion of those whose opinion ought to have weight, but to the opinion of whatever society he may chance to come into. The parent who has happily omitted to instill this vile prudential consideration, or enabled the child to resist it, even if he has omitted much good advice and guidance has still done better than that teacher or parent who has filled the child to the brim with good moral considerations, and yet has allowed this one piece of arrant worldliness to creep in.

"I come now to foolish concern about trifles—a besetting sin in highly civilized communities. In these societies, there are many things; both physical and intellectual, which are outwardly complete, highly polished and varnished; much too is in its proper place, and corresponds with what it ought to correspond to,

'Grove nods to grove, each alley has its brother,'

so that at last there comes a morbid excitement to have every little thing and circumstance square and neat, which neither nature nor man will allow. Hence the pleasure of visits and entertainments, and in general the plans and projects of social intercourse, are at the mercy of small accidents, absurd cares and trifling offences. When this care for small things is combined with an intense fear of the opinion of others, a state of mind is generated which will neither allow the possessor of it to be happy in himself, nor permit him to enjoy any peace or comfort long.

The next hindrance is one rarely commented upon, but very important—want of faithfulness to society. In whatever company a man is thrown, there are certain duties incident upon him in respect to that association. The first of these is reticence about what he hears in that society. In all social intercourse there is an implied faithfulness of the members of society, one to another; and if this faithfulness were well maintained, not only would a great deal of pain and mischief be prevented; but men, knowing that they were surrounded by people with a nice sense of honor in this respect, would be more frank and explicit in all they said and did. As it is, a thoughtful and kind-hearted man is often obliged to make his discourse very barren, lest it should be repeated to a circle for whom it was not intended, and by whom it could not be understood.

I pass to the habit of ridicule. There is a light jesting, flippant unkind mode of talking about things and persons, very common in society, exceedingly different from wit, which stifles good conversation, and gives a sense of general hostility rather than sociability—as if men came together chiefly for the purpose of ridiculing their neighbors, and talking slightly about matters of great concern. I am not sure that this conduct is not a result rather than a cause—a result of vanity, want of truth, want of faithfulness and other hindrances which we have been considering. It certainly bespeaks a lamentable want of charity, and shows that those who indulge in it are sadly ignorant of the dignity of social intercourse, and of what a grand thing it might be.

Lastly, there is the want of something to do beside talking, which must be put down as one of the greatest drawbacks to the pleasantness as well as usefulness of social intercourse.—Puritanical notions have gone some way in occasioning this want by forbidding many innocent or indifferent amusements. But I suspect that anybody who should study human nature much, would find that it was one of the most dangerous amusements to bring people together to talk who have but little to say.

But this consideration of the want of something to do besides talking, leads naturally to that branch of the art of living which is connected with accomplishments. In this we have hitherto been singularly neglectful; and our poor and arid education has often made time hang heavy on our hands, given opportunity for scandal, occasioned domestic dissension, and prevented the just enjoyment we should have had of the gifts of nature. More large and general cultivation of music, of the fine arts, of manly and graceful exercises, of various minor branches of science and natural philosophy, will, I am persuaded, enhance greatly the pleasure of society, and mainly in this, that it will fill up that want of something to do besides talking, which is so grievously felt at present.

This, however, is but a very small part of the advantage and aid to the art of living which would flow from a greatly widened basis of education in accomplishments and what are now deemed minor studies. The whole of life would be beautified and vivified by them. Various excellencies would be developed in persons whose natures, not being suitable for the few things cultivated and rewarded at present, are thick with thorns and briars, and present the appearance of waste land; whereas, if sown with the fit seed, and tended in a proper manner, they would come into some sort of cultivation, would bring forth something good, perhaps something excellent of its kind.

MOUNTAIN PEAKS.—Colonel Waugh, Surveyor-General of India, has completed his computations of the positions and elevations of the peaks of the Himalayas. The result was to depose the mountain Kanchinjunga from its throne as the highest point on the earth's surface. That distinction belongs at present to a peak 100 miles from Kanchinjunga, and between that mount and Katmandoo. This peak is ascertained to be 29,002 feet above the sea level.

It is every one's business to mind his own business.