

MISCELLANEOUS.

MOTION OF ELECTRICITY.—The mode by which the rate of motion of electricity was obtained by Professor Wheatstone is so curious that it deserves to be described. He caused the electricity from a common machine to pass through a long coil of insulated wire, in which were two or three more breaks, across which sparks must necessarily pass. A mirror was made to revolve with immense rapidity before this coil. The reflection of the sparks was thus thrown occasionally, when the mirror was in the right position, upon a canopy above, graduated in divisions. The reflection of one of the sparks was found always to lag behind the other, on account of the time occupied by the electricity in passing through the intervening portion of the coil, the effect of which was multiplied by the revolving mirror. The length of coil between the breaks, and the rate of revolution of the mirror being known, and the distance of the reflected sparks from each other being observed, the rate of electrical motion was easily calculated.

A LAUGHABLE MISTAKE.—When Mrs. Robinson published her "Sapho and Phaon," she wrote thus to Mr. Bowden, the newspaper editor: "Mrs. Robinson would thank her friend Bowden for a dozen puffs for 'Sapho and Phaon.'" By a mistake of the postman, this note was delivered to Mr. Bowden, the pastry-cook, who sent her this answer: "Mr. Bowden's respectful compliments to Mrs. Robinson, and should be very happy to serve her; but as she is not a regular customer, he can not send the puffs for the young folks without first receiving the money."

DESCENT FROM GREAT MEN.—It is remarkable, in many instances, how soon the line of descent of men of great genius has been cut off. We have no male descendants of William Shakespeare, Milton, Sir Walter Scott, or Lord Byron. Sir Isaac Newton left no heir. The male branch of Sir Christopher Wren's family is extinct, and the female line nearly so. The races of Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr. Johnson, Oliver Goldsmith, Telford, and Brindley have ceased to exist; and a hundred other famous names might be mentioned, to show to what a great extent this fact may be considered as a natural law. We had recently another illustration of this when the grave closed upon the only son of George Stephenson, without leaving any direct successor.

CRIME IN CALIFORNIA.—Either something in the peculiar habits and customs of our people, or the times, or the atmosphere of the season, seems to eliminate an unusual amount of violence, crime and bloodshed. This condition of society is nearly equal to the times of 1855, when every public journal was loaded down with the relations of terrible outrages against the law. Since the 1st of December last to the present time, at least an average of one person daily has lost his life by assassination, or in brawls, or by the hands of the Vigilance Committee, making, without exaggeration, 75 violent takings off, and probably this is only one-half the actual number. Many of these were worthy and valuable citizens, whose families are without protectors, and are thus thrown on the cold charities of the world. Local communities seem torn with faction, malice and spite, and in three or four instances lately the officers of the law and the Vigilance protectors have been resisted on party grounds or bitter prejudices of race and language, and the public security and order set at defiance, thus leaving most ranking and bitter feelings in their train, with the promise of a fearful crop of future bad results. The Legislature surely ought to take notice of these things, and overhaul the criminal law—particularly the jury system, the change of venue from one county to another so easily obtained and a man committing an assault or outrage being allowed to confess his crime to a justice and by paying \$5 go scot free to do the same thing over again as often as he can find \$5 to compromise his brutalities. The carrying of deadly weapons is another matter which calls loud for some efficient remedy among such arrogant, reckless, passionate and quarrelsome a set as we have among us.—[S. F. Bulletin, 17 inst.]

A "THANKFUL HEART."—"If one should give me a dish of sand, and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how would it draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction. The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no merits; but let the thankful heart sweep through the pan, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour some heavenly blessings; only the iron in God's sand is gold"—O. W. Holmes.

SUMNER'S LIBRARY IN WASHINGTON.—The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, sketches Charles Sumner's arrival in that city. "The Hon. Charles Sumner arrived yesterday and took rooms on F. Street. He brought with him a ponderous library—six large dry goods boxes packed full of all kinds of volumes. While half a dozen porters were endeavoring to remove this literary luggage from two drays, one of the packages broke, and there was a grand chaos of law, religion, romance and poetry. A Holy Bible straddled Kent's Commentaries; somebody on International Law got mixed up with Hervey's Meditations; the jaws of Statutes at large swallowed up the Psalms of David; Tom Jones,

the rascal, disfigured Shakespeare's frontispiece; Byron and Blackstone reached the pavement simultaneously; the life of A. Lincoln was lost in the Anatomy; the Constitution of the U. S. bridged a large vacuum between Sumner's Orations and Common Sense; a book of Common Prayer stepped gently to one side and opened its eyes as wondering what business it had in the National Capital, and the Life of Washington was extinguished in the gutter."

ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE.—The Washington Republican says that court martials do not always arrive at correct conclusions. For instance, not many days since information reached the President that a young man, belonging to the army of the Potomac, had been sentenced by court martial to be shot for desertion. The boy was doomed to die in a few hours when the despatch was received. No time was to be lost. A telegram was sent to Gen. Meade suspending the execution. An examination of the case was ordered by the President, when it was ascertained that the young man ought to have been promoted long ago for gallant and meritorious service, instead of being shot. It appears that upon the march of the Army of the Potomac towards Maryland, on the occasion of Lee's first raid northward, the young man alluded to became exhausted, and fell out of the ranks, and, as soon as he recovered, he proceeded on after his regiment, but not finding it, and there being no time to lose, he fell into the ranks of another regiment, and fought gallantly at South Mountain and Antietam, and was wounded in the last-named battle. He was sent to a hospital, which fact, by the absence of a proper system in such cases, did not reach the officers of his regiment. At last he was arrested as a deserter, tried, condemned, and was about to be shot, when, by the interference of his executive, his life was saved, and a young man, hastily condemned to an ignominious death, was suddenly restored to honor.

"GIVE ME THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD."—It is honorable to get a living by honest industry, and it is but right that every one should have the chance of so doing. It is a disgrace for any one to eat the bread of idleness if not absolutely forced to do it, in which case it is humiliating as well as enervating in the extreme. To a sensitive being, there is nothing which tends more directly to blast soul and body than a feeling of uncertainty and dependence. It bows such a being into the very dust, and makes happiness a mockery, life a burden. Oh! the longing and pining for independence—the desire to feel that our destiny is in our hands, and that we may walk abroad in perfect freedom, breathing the fresh air and enjoying the beauties of nature as one of her darling children, with none to say, "why do you so?" There is an eternal desire in the human breast to feel dependent on God alone—to have our destiny unlinked with that of any other erring dependent mortal, further than we choose from our own free will. It is terrible to feel that others have unnatural power over us, from which it is impossible to extricate ourselves—to feel that we are dependent on others for the bread we eat, for the very maintenance of our existence. And, oh! how much more terrible is the idea that others still are dependent on us—are looking up to us for the privilege of living. Heaven have pity on those poor beings, who, from youth, age, or sex, are incapable of engaging successfully in the great battle of life, and are left the needy dependents of one who must—

'Beg a brother of the earth
To give him a lief to toil,
And see his lordly fellow worm
The poor petition spurn,
Unmindful though a weeping wife
And helpless offspring mourn."

SUBLIMITY ON THE RAMPAGE.—"As the ostrich uses both legs and wings when the Arabian courser bounds in his rear—as the winged lightnings leap from the heavens when the thunderbolts are loosed—so does a little nigger run when a big dog is after him!"

THE PRINCE OF SATSUMA.—This noble, who is reported to have driven off and damaged the British fleet, is one of the most powerful of the great half-independent princes of Japan. His name is Matsudaira Satsuma no Kami. He is lord over the province of Satsuma and Fougio, in which he possesses the fortresses or strongholds of Kagosima and Sadowava. It was the first named of these which repulsed the attack of the English. He possesses also the Loochoo Islands. The Prince's revenue is given in the Japanese Red Book at two millions four hundred and thirty thousand dollars per annum. He has always been a bitter enemy of the foreigners, of whom his retainers have assassinated several. Nor is he a very quiet subject of the Tycoon. Sir Rutherford Alcock saw a Japanese of "considerable official rank," who was remarkable as the only one of seven *omelkeys*, or official spies, sent successively from Yeddo to the Prince of Satsuma's territories, who came out alive. There is a story told of him which shows curiously the absolute power he wields in his dominions. According to Japanese etiquette, if the subject or vassal of one prince is suitor of another, the latter is held to be dishonored if he does not avenge it. The present Prince of Satsuma, finding himself inconvenienced by the quarrels of his followers with those of the neighboring nobles, made a rule that, if one of his people was insulted by the subject of another daimio, he might avenge himself by taking the life of his adversary,

but on the condition that he performed "harakiri," or ripped open his own bowels immediately afterwards! At the same time he gave instructions that if any of his people were insulted, and failed to retaliate, he should be taken on board one of the ships of the Prince, have his head struck off without trial, and head and body thrown into the sea.—[New York Evening Post.]

IDLE GIRLS.—The number of idle, useless girls, in all of our cities seems to be steadily increasing. They lounge or sleep through the mornings, parade the streets in the afternoons, and assemble in frivolous companies of their own and the other sex to pass away their evenings. What a store of unhappiness for themselves and others are they laying up for the coming time, when real duties and high responsibilities shall be thoroughly assumed! They are skilled in no domestic duties—nay, they despise them—have no habits of industry, nor taste for the useful. What will they be as wives and mothers? Alas for their husbands and children, and alas for themselves!—[Ex.]

NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN.—Socrates, at an extreme age, learned to play musical instruments, for the purpose of resisting the influences of old age.

Cato, at eighty years of age, began to learn the Greek language.

Plato, when between seventy and eighty, commenced the study of Latin.

Boccaccio was thirty years of age when he commenced his studies in polite literature, yet he became one of the great masters of the Tuscan dialect. Dante and Petrarch being the other two.

Sir Henry Spelman neglected the sciences in his youth, but commenced the study of them when he was between fifty and sixty years of age. After this time he became a most learned antiquarian and lawyer.

Colbert, the famous French minister, at sixty years of age, returned to his Latin and law studies.

WASTE OF TIME.—The proverbial oracles of our parsimonious ancestors have informed us that the fatal waste of fortune is by small expenses, by the profusion of sums too little singly to alarm our caution, and which we never suffer ourselves to consider together. Of the same kind is the prodigality of life: he that hopes to look back hereafter with satisfaction upon past years, must learn to know the present value of single minutes, and endeavor to let no particle of time fall useless on the ground. An Italian philosopher expressed in his motto that time was his estate; an estate, indeed, that will produce nothing without cultivation, but will always abundantly repay the labors of industry, and satisfy the most extensive desires, if no part of it be suffered to lie waste by negligence, to be overrun by noxious plants, or laid out for show rather than for use.—[Johnson.]

FLOQUENT.—A man, to be truly eloquent, must first possess some well defined thoughts which he believes, and feels, and with which he is so burdened that he cannot keep them. Then, if his soul is on fire, there is no fear (provided he discards all affectation or artifice) but that he will light up a flame in the minds of his audience, of living, sparkling thought, which will continue to burn forever.

VARIETIES.

—It is said that Washington Irving realized on his works the sum of \$205,383. Since his death, to September, 30, 1863, the sum of \$34,273 has been received by his executors.

—It is stated that a pyramid, similar in construction to those of Egypt, though much smaller, has been discovered in California. One account says that the stones composing the courses average 6 feet in length, and from 1 foot to 3 feet in thickness.

—What makes a lawyer's position so perilous? Because he has other men's deeds to answer for as well as his own.

—An ingenious person has discovered an economical way of lighting cities, and proposes to apply it to Paris. Balloons, from the cars of which is to emanate an electric light, are to be fixed at certain stations, and hover over the city, at the proportion of one balloon to 80,000 persons; the city would thus be lighter at night than it often is in winter by day!

—Cars, built after the American plan, have been put upon some of the railways in Switzerland.

—A blind beggar recently begged of a Scotch Innkeeper. He told a pitiful story. The guide wife fed him, but Boniface quietly put half a crown in the poor fellow's path. The cure was complete. The beggar stooped for the coin, miraculously received his sight—and a basting.

—Life is like a theatre, in this respect: that although during the performance we hold higher and lower place, we all mix in one common stream when the play is over and we go home.

—The *Baltic Gazette* says that the two steam rams built at Glasgow for the Confederates have been purchased by the Prussian Government for 1,000,000 thalers.

—Coal mines, 150 miles square in area, have been discovered in Brazil. The coal is bituminous and good.

—The population of Bombay is estimated at 800,000 persons.

—Two deaths have occurred recently in this city, from the incautious use of chloroform. Extreme care in using it should be the lesson learned, and not a blind prejudice against its advantages.

—Five women abruptly left the Episcopal Church in Vicksburg on Christmas day, when the minister prayed for the President. Gen. McPherson has sent them out of the Federal lines "for having acted disrespectfully toward the President and Government of the U. S., and having insulted their officers, soldiers and loyal citizens, who had assembled."

—Lord Clanmaurice, son of the Marquis of Lansdowne, has been much hurt by a kick, in the hunting-field.

—At a secret consistory, held lately at the Vatican, several vacant sees in the annexed provinces of the Papal States were filled up by the nomination of Cardinals to bishoprics. This will tend to widen the breach subsisting between the Pope and the King of Italy.

—Sir Roderick Murchison, has carried off the triennial prize offered by the French Academy of Science.

—A Dutchman's soliloquy, on the fickleness of his ladylove, is thus reported. "She loves Shon Mickle so petter as I, because he has got couple tollars more as I has."

—Geo. Francis Train, in a recent speech, delivered somewhere in Nebraska, candidly alluded to himself as "the best played-out man in the country."

—A Judge interrupted Curran in the midst of a speech, when an ass began to bray under the window, by saying: "One at a time, Mr. Curran, if you please." Presently the Judge began his charge to the Jury, and the ass began to bray again, when Curran remarked: "Does your lordship hear a remarkable echo in the court?"

—The Paris *Presse* computes the population of the globe at one thousand millions, speaking three thousand and sixty-four languages, and having eleven hundred forms of religion.

—A French company is preparing to cultivate sugar in Tahiti. Twenty-four sugar mills are already in operation in the Sandwich Islands.

—The Nashville *Gazette* says that a company has been formed in that city, for the purpose of bringing to market houses already built. These buildings can easily be moved from place to place, according to the owners' caprice.

—It not unfrequently happens that manners are best learned from the unmannerly.

ABSTRACT

Of Meteorological observations for the month of Jan., 1864, at G. S. L. City, Utah, by W. W. Phelps.

MONTHLY MEAN.

Barometer.

7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
26.380	26.372	26.365
Monthly Mean. Thermometer attached.		
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
30	35	32
Monthly Mean. Thermometer. Open Air.		
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
14	27	22
Monthly Mean. Thermometer. Dry Bulb.		
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
32	37	33

Highest and lowest range of the Thermometer in the open air was,

Max. 42°. Min. 8 below zero.

The amount of snow that fell during the month was twenty and a half inches, which produced nearly two inches of water. The weather was steady cold, and severest on the morning of the 6th—at 8 degrees below zero. Fine sleighing during the month, and plenty of health and wealth to improve the beverage.

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

1. Cloudy and snowy.
2. Cloudy.
3. do
4. do
5. Clear and very cold.
6. do do
7. Snowing all day.
8. Cloudy and cold.
9. Cloudy and snowy.
10. do do
11. do do
12. Cloudy and warm.
13. do do
14. Clear.
15. Cloudy; snowed some.
16. Cloudy.
17. Clear.
18. Clear and cloudy.
19. Clear.
20. do
21. do
22. do
23. Hazy.
24. Clear.
25. do
26. do
27. do
28. A.m. clear; p.m. snowy.
29. Partially clear.
30. Cloudy and snowy.
31. do do