

dent. A similar current of immigration, he said, is again needed, and there is still room for millions from England, North Germany and the Scandinavian countries.

He proposed the establishment of three emigration agencies, one in England, one in Germany and one in Scandinavia for the purpose of distributing information concerning the resources of the Northwest in those countries, and to start this movement without delay. A proposition was finally agreed to to ask Congress for a yearly appropriation for the purpose of promoting immigration to the northwestern states.

It is probably true that some systematic agitation of the emigration question in foreign countries would again result in a swifter movement of the tide towards these shores, which was perceptibly retarded by the panic under which the United States, in common with other countries, has been suffering the last few years. But it would seem that to reach out beyond the ocean for a supply of a farming population—if no other object is sought—is very much like crossing the river in search for water, as the saying is over there. In the overcrowded parts of the United States there are probably thousands who would embrace an opportunity of building homes, were somebody to reach out a helping hand to them in the first difficult steps toward independence, and if government appropriations are obtained, these ought certainly to be expended for the benefit of the people already here, rather than on foreigners.

DANGEROUS FISH.

The connection between foul fish and disease has recently been pointed out by competent medical authority and emphasized in a bulletin by the U. S. Fish commission. The outbreak of cholera in 1893 in the fishing ports of Grimsby and Hull and several cases of death are traced to the consumption of stale oysters, cockles and various kinds of fish in a state of decomposition.

It is generally known that people who subsist chiefly on the yield of the sea, and who, as a general rule, are not noted for cleanliness, are prone to various diseases. In Astrakhan, for instance, the place of the sturgeon and caviar, it is shown that the population would become extinct, were it not for the constant influx from other sources. In 1878, when cholera decimated the inhabitants, most of the fatal cases occurred among the laborers employed in fish salting. The poverty of these laborers is so extreme that bread is often beyond their reach, and they subsist chiefly on the inferior parts of the fish. The remains are left in accumulated masses to rot on the banks of the rivers and the atmosphere is further vitiated by the offal from fat boiling, fish oil and isinglass works. Measles, smallpox, scarlet fever and other fevers is the result.

It has been ascertained that wounds caused by the handling of decomposed fish are often very serious. In Norway the whalers know this and use harpoons poisoned by a putrifiactive prepared from such material. When the whales are struck with the poisonous harpoons they show signs of exhaustion in twenty-four hours, sup-

posedly as a result of septic poisoning, and are then readily captured. The harpoons are again recovered and preserved for future use.

From the facts observed it is evident that the question of putrid food is one of great importance. At many fish markets, where the ignorance of hygienic rules is great and, consequently, filthiness prevailing, fish is left unguilted and unbled until sold. The skin is repeatedly soaked so as to give it a bright appearance, but really hastening on the process of decomposition. What is exported to the markets in the interior is often infected by impure preservatives as unclean salt or ice from impure water. Bacteria are sure to be transported with it by these means.

It has further been proven that poisonous matter of this kind cannot be destroyed by boiling. There is therefore no way of avoiding possible danger in putrid food except by destroying it in properly constructed furnaces.

The conclusion drawn from all this is that decaying fish is one of the most potent factors in the production of disease. It is evident, however, that the dangers are of such a nature that by proper attention to the matter, they can be remedied. Fish, like other slaughtered animals intended for food, should be bled, properly cleaned and treated with pure preservatives. In this country this is more generally the rule than in other countries, and it is therefore a good deal more safe to use the home product than that from most foreign markets where fish is preserved for export.

A "MORMON" RELIC.

The following article is reproduced from the DESERET EVENING NEWS of June 28, 1895:

A "MORMON" RELIC.

The NEWS has had a pleasant visit from Mr. A. H. Thatcher, formerly of Van Buren county, Iowa, but now of Rich Hill, Bates county, Missouri, who tells of the possession, and something of the history, of what he calls an old "Mormon" relic.

At the time of the exodus of the Latter-day Saints from Nauvoo, Mr. Thatcher, then a young man, was living near Keosauqua, Iowa, and distinctly remembers the presence and encampment of the exiled people on the neighboring prairie. A Mr. Phillips, who lived somewhat nearer the town, and three or four miles from the Thatcher farm, allowed one of the Mormon families to camp in his yard. They remained there some time, and before leaving they gave or sold to Mr. Phillips an old anvil of antiquated shape and style, but something which they appeared to value highly and only at last disposed of because their wagon was heavily loaded and the muddy roads made desirable the lightening of their burden in every possible way. Their affection for and reluctance to part with the anvil will be understood from the fact that it was at that time over four hundred years old. Upon its side appears the date of manufacture—1496; also its weight—31 pounds.

The age of the relic became gradually known in the vicinity—to Mr. Thatcher among others; this gentleman, besides being a blacksmith, was also a lover of antiquities, and he became the owner of it at the death of Mr. Phillips, when

at an auction sale of effects he secured it after spirited bidding at a figure many times higher than the ruling price of anvils. Since then he has exhibited it at various county and state exhibitions and has won numerous premiums with it as being the oldest relic on exhibition. The most notable vicary of this kind was in the centennial year, when the claims of a three-hundred-year-old Dutch oven, which seemed to have clear sailing for the first prize, were completely demolished by the four-hundred-and-seventy-year-old anvil. Its present weight is exactly thirty pounds, it having become somewhat lighter through losses of rust during its long and eventful career. But it is still in excellent condition, and for certain kinds of blacksmithing is much more convenient than the ordinary clumsy and stubby implement of the same name.

When it is recalled that the article described was made more than eighty years before the discovery of America by Columbus, and was probably brought to the New World by one of its earliest colonists, the anxiety to learn something more of its history prior to Mr. Thatcher's acquisition of it will be easily understood. The NEWS therefore takes pleasure in instituting inquiries as to whether any reader knows the name of the family who camped with Mr. Phillips near Keosauqua, Iowa, after the terrible expulsion from Nauvoo; and if there are any living members of that family, whether they can tell anything about the anvil they disposed of to him just before starting their journey westward to the mountains.

Upon the same subject we have lately received the following letter from Mr. Thatcher:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 30, 1895.

Dear Mr. Cannon:

I suppose you can remember my visit to your office about the 26th of June, 1895, and giving you a description of a Mormon relic I have in my possession; you published the same in your paper, which I received when I arrived home. Many thanks for the same.

Since leaving your beautiful and historic city, to which I got much attached in my short stay (by the kindness of Mr. Wilson, of the Lion House, who showed me around), I have gained some more information about the old Mormon relic. I am now located here for the winter. After leaving your city I spent one day in Leadville, sixteen in Denver with relatives, and going on many interesting excursions, viewing the grand sights of nature which he added art of man, such as the Clear Creek canyon, Pike's Peak by the "cogwheel," the "Springs," caves, Garden of the Gods, etc., etc.; then a few days in Topeka, Kansas City, and at home, Rich Hill, Mo. Then, being urged by old comrades to meet with them at Louisville, at the national G. A. R. encampment, I did so, and spent a very pleasant month in Kentucky, Tennessee and southern Missouri.

After getting through with all of this, I concluded to spend the winter in Washington City, D. C., with a brother; have been here during this month, and am enjoying many things of interest. The other day I wrote to my old friend, Ira Phillips, in Iowa, a son of the man that owned the relic, asking him the names of the Mormons who lived in their yard. He said the man's name was Mallory—had forgotten the first name, but he had a son about 20 years old, by the name of Eliza. They stopped there two and a half miles south of Keosauqua, Van Buren county, Iowa, in the winter of 1844-45. The man had two wives. Now, if this will give you any