

This afternoon the *Journal Official* announces that the police have been for some time on the track of a plot against the life of the Emperor, and yesterday morning, one Beaur, recently arrived from England, was arrested in the Rue des Moutons, whereby the plot was completely discovered. On this person was found a large sum of money, a revolver and a letter from London, from a man who was implicated in a similar plot in February last. This letter and the confessions made by Beaur leave no doubt of his intention immediately to attempt the assassination of the Emperor. Last night other persons were arrested in the Belleville quarter. At the house of one of these the police seized a large quantity of powder and new explosive bombs, together with directions how to use them. Many of the members of the International Association of workmen at Paris are implicated in this plot, some of whom are already arrested. This evening two secretaries of the International Association of workmen were arrested. The police found upon their persons a complete list of the adherents of the plot. The authorities are now scouring the city for these persons. Great military and police precautions are being taken to-night.

THE FATHER OF FREDERICK THE GREAT.

The king was scrupulously clean, washing five times a day. He would allow no drapery, no stuffed furniture, no carpets in his apartments. They caught dust. He sat upon a plain wooden chair. He ate roughly, like a farmer, of roast beef, despising all delicacies. His almost invariable dress was a close military blue coat, with red cuffs and collar, buff waistcoat and breeches, and white linen gaiters to the knee. A sword was belted around his loins, and as we have said, a stout ratan or bamboo cane ever in his hand. A well-worn, battered, triangular hat covered his head. He walked rapidly through the streets which surrounded his palaces at Potsdam and Berlin. If he met any one who attracted his attention, male or female, he would abruptly, menacingly inquire, "Who are you?" A street lounge he has been known to hit over the head with his cane, exclaiming, "Home, you rascal, and go to work." If any one prevaricated or hesitated, he would sternly demand, "look me in the face." If there was still hesitancy, or the king was dissatisfied with the answers, the one interrogated was lucky if he escaped without a caning.

The boorish king hated the refinement and polish of the French. If he met a lady in rich attire, she was pretty surely to be rudely assailed; and a young man fashionably dressed could hardly escape the cudgel if he came within reach of the king's arm. The king, stalking through the streets, was as marked an object as an elephant would have been. Every one instantly recognized him, and many fled at his approach. One day he met a pale thread-bare young man, who was quietly passing him, when the king stopped in his jerking gait, and demanded, in his coarse, rapid utterance, "Who are you?" "I am a theological student," the young man quietly replied. "Where from?" added the king. "From Berlin," was the response. "From Berlin?" the king rejoined; "the Berliners are all a good-for-nothing set." "Yes, your majesty, that is true of many of them," the young man added; "but I know of two exceptions." "Of two?" responded the king; "which are they?" "Your Majesty and myself," the young man replied. The king burst into a good-humored laugh, and, after having the young man carefully examined, assigned him to a chaplaincy. — From "Frederick the Great," in *Harper's Magazine* for December.

AUSTRALIAN GOLD.—The value of the Australian gold imported into Great Britain in 1869 was \$39,463,785, an increase of \$4,515,815 over 1868, and of \$10,457,550 over 1867. This year commences with a receipt of \$3,766,825 for January, a large increase over preceding years. The opening of new gold fields in New Zealand, Queensland and Tasmania has contributed to the increase during the past years. Recent official returns show that 2,651 distinct quartz veins have been proved to be auriferous in Victoria, and at the same date 884 square miles of gold fields were worked, and the value of gold mining claims was estimated at \$44,347,520. The gold production of Victoria in 1868 is given as 1,657,498 ozs., of which about one-third was from quartz veins.

CURIOUS FACTS IN REGARD TO SOUND.—The following curious observations in regard to the transmission of sound have been carefully verified by an extended series of experiments: the whistle of a locomotive is heard 3,300 yards through the air; the noise of a railroad train 2,800 yards; the report of a musket and the bark of a dog, 1,800 yards; an orchestra or the roll of a drum, 1,600 yards; the human voice reaches to a distance of 1,000 yards; the croaking of frogs, 900 yards; the chirping of crickets, 800 yards. Distinct speaking is heard in the air from below up to a distance of 600 yards; from above it is only understood to a range of 100 yards downwards. It has been ascertained that an echo is well reflected from the surface of smooth water only when the voice comes from an elevation.

Other similar phenomena connected with the transmission of sound have been observed, but the results disagree either from inaccuracy in the observations or from the varying nature of the circumstances affecting the numbers obtained. Such variations occur to an extent of ten or twenty per cent., and even more. The weather's being cold and dry, or warm and wet, are the chief influencing causes. In the first case, the sound goes to a greater, and, in the second, to a lesser, distance. — *Technologist*.

A NEW GUNPOWDER.—Carbolic acid, treated with concentrated nitric acid, forms crystals of picric acid, yellow and bitter, used in dyes. Combined with potash, it forms a golden colored gunpowder of prismatic needles, insoluble in alcohol and nearly so in cold water, but dissolves in boiling water. At 572° F. it becomes orange red if heated slowly; and yellow again when cooled. If heated quickly to 620° F., or touched with a red hot body, it explodes violently, with immense volumes of gas (nitrogen, carbonic acid, hydrogen and oxygen) set free, and leaves a slight residuum of carbon and potash. Its smoke is light and easily dissipated, and neither corrosive nor poisonous, like that of common gunpowder. It does not get damp and spoil like gunpowder, by imbibing moisture from the air, so that it will be useful in the dampest mines, and do away with much of the need of strong ventilation. It is coming into use as blasting powder and for fire arms of various grades of strength and kinds of action. The blasting powder is a mixture of picrate and nitrate of potassa. For guns, charcoal is added to diminish its violence. The blasting force is much greater than that of common gunpowder and equal to nitro-glycerine. It will be of great use, therefore, as torpedo powder for oil wells. It is nearly as cheap as common gunpowder. Its brilliant yellow color is another advantage, for it cannot be mistaken for other substances in common use. The French government are carrying on trial experiments to see if it cannot be substituted for its old gunpowder in army practice.

HEALTHY CHICKENS.—The way I keep my fowls in health, I clean out the house once a week; put wood ashes under the roosts; have iron basins for them to drink from; whitewash inside of henhouse with hot lime; put a little kerosene oil on the roosts once a month. The main food is oats and cake of scraps to pick on. I never feed but once a day—at noon, or when I shut them up at four or five in the afternoon. When they run out then give them all they will eat. In my experience there is no easier way to get diseased fowls than to keep them stuffed; it makes them lazy, and they won't work as much as they ought to keep them in a healthy condition. I never had any gaps in chickens. When any fowl begins to droop, I give three large pills of common hard yellow soap; it is the best thing to cleanse a fowl I know of. I follow it for three days; give them nothing to eat, and plenty of pure water to drink. In desperate cases give a half-teaspoonful of tincture of lobelia. — *Rural New Yorker*.

RAPID TELEGRAPHING.—The new telegraph company, the "National," which is now erecting wires between New York and Washington, and will do so all over the United States, expects to transmit dispatches at the rate of 12,000 to 18,000 words per hour over a circuit of 1,000 miles. They affirm that they have already demonstrated, by actual experiment, that they can work perfectly over 2,000 miles of line at the rate of 200 words per minute, with 28 cups of battery, whereas no Morse machine is able to work through even 500 miles at the rate of five words per min-

ute, with 50 cups of battery. The instrument used is the recently patented one of George Little. The messages to be sent are prepared by punching slots and circles through a slip of paper, which, on being drawn through the instrument, transmit corresponding signals. These are received and made visible upon strips of chemically-prepared paper. Copies of messages may be dropped, at all stations, upon the line without interfering with the working of the instruments.

A FACT IN REGARD TO HORSES.—There is perhaps no more marked exhibition of nature's law of adaption of means to ends, or of supply, to waste, than is shown in the arrangement of the horse's foot. There terminates the various ducts of communication and supply, rendering it a point in the animal economy of no little importance. The extremity of the limb being of such a vital character, and coming in contact with the ground, needs protection; accordingly the hoof is constructed especially, it appears, to prevent injuring the inner portions of the foot in coming against the ground, and not with regard to the injury from above or on the sides of the foot; a consistent fact, since, in the state of nature, these portions of the foot are not subject to injury any more than the rest of the animal.

The direction and arrangement of the fiber of the hoof prove this point, as do practical tests also. A nail driven into the wall of the hoof from below, on account of this arrangement of the fiber, occasions no pain, but a nail clinched on the top or side of the hoof with a hammer, induces pain, and in some instances, where horses have been lame from no apparent cause, it has been simply the result of an inner irritation, caused by pounding the hoof. This is an important point, and should not be overlooked by horsemen. An arrangement by which the nails on a horse's hoof could be clinched without using a hammer would eventually be an advantage.

PAPER HANDKERCHIEFS.—The Japanese paper handkerchiefs are assuredly coming, if a cotemporary be right. The paper collar manufacture now has been extended to less prominent, but more important garments of great strength and flexibility, which can be sewed with a machine, giving seams almost as strong as a woven fabric. The inventor has particularly applied it to the production of petticoats, which are either printed in imitation of the fashionable skirts of the day, or stamped out with open work of such beauty and delicacy as no amount of labor with scissors and needle could imitate. The marvel is that these really beautiful productions can be sold at retail at fifteen cents each! Imitation cretonnes and chintz for bed furniture are also made, a set costing at retail about \$1.50. The felted material is so flexible that a curtain may be twisted into a rope and shaken out again, showing as little creasing as chintz similarly treated. There are also table-cloths embossed with signs of great beauty. This felted paper may in the end have a serious influence on the production of the woven fabrics it is intended to displace. Imitation leather, impermeable to water, is likewise made of it, and produces a cheap and useful covering for furniture, and even serves for shoes. — *Paper Trade Reporter*.

POULTRY.—Feed your poultry on raw onions chopped fine, mixed with other food, about twice a week. It is better than a dozen chicken cures for cholera. Fowls exposed to dampness are apt to be troubled with catarrh, which will run to croup if not attended to. Red pepper mixed with soft feed fed several times a week, will remove the cold. Pulverized charcoal, given occasionally, is a preventive of putrid affections, to which fowls are very subject. Sitting hens can be cured by putting water in a vessel to the depth of one inch, putting the hen into it, and covering the top of the vessel for twenty-four hours. The vessel should be deep enough to allow the hen to stand. Pulverized chalk administered with softer feed will cure diarrhea. This disorder is caused by want of variety in food, or by too much green food. Garlic fed once or twice a week is excellent for colds. *Gardener's Magazine*.

A youth asked Montrom—the memoir writer—to teach him the art of succeeding in society. "Oh, it is simple enough," said the Count, "Talk to the middle aged and young ladies, and listen when the old ones talk to you."

SHOCKING ACCIDENT BY FIRE IN SAN FRANCISCO.—Last Sunday morning a shocking accident happened, resulting in the death of a baby boy not quite twelve months old, son of a man named Charles Bradley, who, with his family, resided in a frame house, No. 431 Goodsell place, east of First Street, between Bryant and Harrison, San Francisco. For several years they had used a petroleum stove for cooking purposes. On Saturday a leak was discovered in some of the apparatus belonging to the stove, which Mr. Bradley set about repairing. To prevent, as he thought, all danger, he removed the naphtha from the kettle on the stove and placed it in a tin vessel on the kitchen table. He then procured a lighted candle in which he tried to heat a knife, to melt a piece of solder to repair the leak. He had held the knife thus but a few moments, when the gas generated by the naphtha was exploded by the light of the candle. Bradley took the vessel containing the naphtha, now burning, to try and throw it out of doors, but it burned him so severely that he let it drop on the floor, and the whole place was instantly in a blaze. He gave an alarm, and his wife rushed in to rescue her infant, but the fire was so intense, and the horror caused by the thought of the child's position so great that both father and mother lost presence of mind and became all but frantic. The whole of the rear and upper portion of the building was consumed, and when the fire was extinguished and the child found most of its head and one of its arms were burned from its body. In addition to this loss the unfortunate people lost all their worldly possessions and both of them were severely burned.

REMARKABLE ESCAPE.—The *New Northwest*, of the 22nd inst., published at Deer Lodge, Ma., says that on the 14th inst., a whirlwind, the third that had occurred there, blew a Mr. Elliot and the roof of a building which he was finishing at the time the cyclone commenced, and to which he clung to save himself, a distance of 189 feet at an altitude of forty feet. The roof contained 1,200 feet of lumber nailed to heavy log rafters. The whole mass was blown intact for the above distance. The concussion with the ground broke the roof to pieces, but Mr. E. escaped with a few bruises.

The same paper says the grasshoppers in great numbers have made their appearance in some localities, in consequence of which the farmers had determined not to cultivate so much land this season as they had intended.

Louis Blanc has turned Fenian.

A Cincinnati lady boasts hair ten feet long.

It is estimated that there are 300,000 women in the State of New York, with no prospect of pairing off—not men enough to go round. We invite them to come to Utah.

Whipping a child in an Iowa school is apt to bring on an argument between parents and teachers, in which carving knives are the points used in remonstrance.

"Doctor," said an old lady, "I had a buzzing in my head this morning, and for half an hour didn't seem to know anything." "Oh, that's nothing, madam; many people don't seem to know anything all their lives."

A letter recently passed through the Derby Line (Vt.) office, bearing the following inscription: "This is fur the man that has the Thourrow Bread Dearum cattle I am not seartin of the rite ennnions of his name."

A New Orleans wife, left at home one evening by her husband "who had urgent business down town," accepted a friend's escort to the theatre. The fates decreed that her husband should occupy the next seat with another lady, the occasion of his urgent business. As soon as the wife made the discovery, she leaned over and whispered viciously, "Charles, who is that huzzy you have with you?" "Sister of that fellow you have with you." There was no need of further explanation.

The sportsmen on the west coast of Florida discover where the oyster beds are, by drifting along the coast with a small boat, on a cloudy day. When they are drifting over an oyster bed they hear a clicking like that produced when a telegraph instrument is in operation.

Queen Victoria's annual allowance is £385,000 besides £25,000 from the Duchy of Lancaster, and the fee rental of a dozen castles, palaces, etc. As she accepted a legacy of £250,000 from Mr. Neeld (who passed over his own relations to enrich her), as she inherited £1,000,000 from Prince Albert in 1861, and as she has not spent a third of her allowance since his death, it is estimated that Her Majesty's cash capital, well invested, is at least £2,000,000, or \$10,000,000.