

CLIPPINGS.

The Rothschild family at Paris have been thrown into affliction by the death of the infant child of M. Gustave de Rothschild, married last year, it may be remembered, with so much pomp to M^{lle} Anspach.

M. Babinett the successor of Arago predicted in the *Journal des Debats*, that there would be the highest tide on the 8th of March that there had been in France for a century.

Over two thousand sailors were wounded and many killed by the blowing up of a Spanish war steamer in the port of Malaga, December 25th.

The Hong Kong correspondent of the Savannah Republican says that nineteen Chinamen had been beheaded in Canton for kidnapping Coolies.

Queen Victoria's privy purse is \$300,000!

Lord Clyde's share of the India plunder is stated by an English paper as £120,000 sterling. Clyde is the best soldier of fortune on record.

A fair sample of Ochre has been discovered in Carson, where, the *Union* says, in consequence of the "rustiness which envelops all the senses, it was taken for cinnabar."

Alfred Claveau, brother of the artist, was fatally poisoned a few weeks since, by eating toad stools, which he mistook for mushrooms.

M Kuhlmann asserts that the use of iron nails in building wooden ships is one of the chief causes of their decay. The rotting decay of wood is a process of slow combustion, and M. Kuhlmann considers that the iron nails act as carriers for oxygen, and introduce it into the substance of the timber. By contact with water and air the iron is rapidly converted into a sesquioxide. In this state it yields a portion of its oxygen to the wood, and is reduced to the state of protoxide, which further action of air and moisture converts to the sesquioxide, and so the process goes on.

The annual statement of marine disasters on the lakes for the year 1859 shows the total loss by steam to be \$1,020,000—an increase upon losses of 1858 of \$287,786. Total loss of life in 1859, 105—being a decrease of 17 from the previous year.

There are 554 convicts in the Indiana State prison at Jeffersonville.

A young man who had taken passage on a Mississippi steamboat from Memphis, not long since was detected with the captain's watch and a valuable Masonic emblem in his possession. The passengers at once appointed a Judge Lynch court, which tried and convicted the offender, and sentenced him to receive thirty lashes upon his bare back. The punishment was duly inflicted, and the thief set ashore to plod his weary way alone.

There were one hundred incendiary fires in New York during the first thirty-five days of 1860.

In Grass Valley, Cal., seventeen robberies on the highways in various directions, within two miles of town, are reported to have been committed, or attempted, in three evenings. Twelve persons were stopped in one hour! They must be a bold and industrious set of fellows and hard up, to attempt to rob twelve persons in one hour in a thickly settled neighborhood.

The taxable property in Kentucky in 1859 was \$493,409,363, a little over one half as much as that of Ohio.

The defalcation of Rev. Mr. Peck, the treasurer of Maine, amounts to over \$94,000.

The amount of taxable property in Kansas, as shown, is \$15,000,000. The indebtedness of the Territory amounts to \$20,000.

A bill has been passed by the Virginia Legislature, appropriating \$150,000 to pay the expenses accruing from the Harper's Ferry affair.

The Gloucester News says that a couple have just been married in that town after a courtship of thirty years!

The infant recently presented to her loyal subjects by the Queen of Spain has been christened, and received no less than sixty-one names.

Nine prisoners lately made their escape from the California State prison at San Quentin.

The time for holding of the Republican National Convention at Chicago has been changed to Wednesday the 16th day of May.

Large silver smelting works have been

erected in San Francisco for the purpose of reducing the silver ore from the great mines lately discovered near Washoe Valley in Carson county.

Hay is worth \$200 per ton. Lumber from \$40 to \$60 per m. Wood \$15 per cord.—Wages of hand, \$5 per day in Carson Valley.

There were only 27 bills of indictment found by the Grand Jury at the March term of the Court of Sessions, in El Dorado co., Cal.

At Inskip, in Butte co., Cal., snow fell on Thursday night, March 1st, to the depth of two feet.

There were thirty American sea-going vessels and seven foreign vessels, bound to or from United States ports, reported during February last, as missing, wrecked or otherwise lost. Their total value is estimated at \$465,000.

Governor Magoffin has vetoed a Bank bill passed by the Kentucky legislature, and in his veto message uses the following language:

"The Bible says, 'Lead us not into temptation,' and it is a very significant prayer. I would add, 'TEMPT US WITH NO MORE BANKS, BUT FROM THEM, GOOD LORD, DELIVER US.'"

Below Point Coupee, Louisiana, is one broad field of sugar cane covering thirty thousand acres! There are rows four miles in length and straight as an arrow. At one point the traveler can count fifteen brick sugar houses at a glance.

New Orleans has sold the right to lay down and operate passenger railroads in that city for thirty years, for the sum of \$130,000.

A French periodical states that a Perfect of Corsica, Monsieur Guibeya, having lately examined the registers of the town of Calvi, has discovered in them the record of the birth of Christopher Columbus—making him, consequently, a countryman of Napoleon. Genoa has been usually regarded as the birthplace of Columbus.

Interpretation of Dreams.

To dream of a small stone around your neck, is a sign of what you may expect if you get an extravagant wife.

To see apples in a dream, betokens a wedding, because where you find apples you may expect to find pears.

To dream that you are lame, is a token that you will get into a hobble.

When a young lady dreams of a coffin, it betokens that she should instantly discontinue the use of tight stays, and always go warmly and thickly shod in wet weather.

To dream of a fire, is a sign that—if you are wise—you will see that all the lights in your house are out before you go to bed.

To dream that your nose is red at the tip, is an intimation that you had better leave off brandy and water.

To dream of walking barefooted, denotes a journey that you will make bootless.

To dream of eggs, is a sign that you will discover a mare's nest.

If you dream of clothes, it is a warning not to go to law, for, by the rule of contraries, you will be sure of non-suit.

To dream that you are eating, is certain to come true at breakfast.

To dream of a barber, denotes losses—hairs may be expected to be cut off.

To dream of having a great number of servants, is madness.

It is very lucky to dream that you pay for a thing twice over, since afterward you will probably take care to have all your bills receipted.

FORCE OF HABIT.—I know from experience that habit can, in direct opposition to every conviction of the mind, and but little aided by the elements of temptation, induce a repetition of the most unworthy actions. The mind is weak where it has once given way. It is long before a principle restored can become as firm as one that has never been moved. It is as in the case of a mound of a reservoir; if this mound has in one place been broken, whatever care has been taken to make the repaired part as strong as possible, the probability is that if it give way again, it will be in that place.—[Foster.]

WHEN LOST.—"If a man steals my umbrella," says Hunker, "it's no use making a fuss—it only shows that an umbrella equilibrium has been broken. Now, if I take one from some one else, that restores the equilibrium. There is really no umbrella lost; an umbrella is only lost when it is used up."

HAD A RIGHT.—"How is it," said a gentleman to Sheridan, "that your family has not O attached to it?—Your family is Irish, and no doubt illustrious." "No family has a better right to O than our family," said Sheridan; "for we owe everybody."

TIT FOR TAT.—A deserted damsel struck her lover with a poker, exclaiming, with sobs: "You have broken my heart, and I will break your head, sir."

BLANKS.—"Men, like books, at their beginning and end have blank leaves, infancy and gray-haired old age." And some, like books, are blank all the way through.

Secret Service in the Revolution.

Of all the mysteries that occurred in the American Revolution, the employment of Rivington, editor of the Royal Gazette, in the secret service of the American Commander, is the most astounding.

Rivington proved faithful to his bargain, and often would intelligence of great importance, gleaned in the convivial moments at Sir William's or Sir Henry's table, be in the American camp before the convivialists had slept off the effects of their wine.

The business of secret service was so well managed, that even a suspicion never arose as to the medium through which intelligence of vast importance was continually being received in the American camp from the very headquarters of the British army, and, had suspicion arisen, the King's printer would have been, probably, the last man suspected; for during the whole of his connection with the secret service, his Royal Gazette literally piled up abuse of every sort upon the American General and the cause of America.

In 1783, this remarkable mystery was solved. When Washington entered New York as conqueror on the evacuation by the British forces, he said one morning to two of his officers, "Suppose, gentlemen, we walk down to Rivington's bookstore; he is said to be a very pleasant kind of a fellow." Amazed, as the officers were, at the idea of visiting such a man, they of course prepared to accompany the Chief. When they arrived at the bookstore, Rivington received his visitors with great politeness; for, indeed, he was one of the most elegant gentlemen and best bred men of the age.

Escorting the party into parlor, he begged the officers to be seated, and then said to the Chief, "Will your Excellency do me the honor to step into the adjoining room for a moment that I may show you a list of the agricultural works I am about to order out from London for your special use?" They retired. The locks on the doors of the houses of New York more than three score years ago, were not so good as now. The door of Rivington's private room closed very imperfectly, and soon became ajar, when the officers distinctly heard the chinking of two heavy purses of gold, as they were successively laid on a table.

The party soon returned from the inner room, when Rivington pressed upon his guests a glass of Madeira, which he assured them was a prime article, having imported it himself, and it having received the approbation of Sir Henry and the most distinguished 'bon vivants' of the British army.

The visitors now rose to depart. Rivington, on taking leave of the Chief, whom he escorted to the door, said:—Your Excellency may rely on my especial attention being given to the agricultural works, which, on their arrival, will be immediately forwarded to Mount Vernon, where I trust they will contribute to your gratification amid the shades of domestic retirement." Rivington remained for several years in New York after the peace of 1783. It was the general opinion at that time, that if Rivington had been closely pressed on the delicate subject of the secret service, characters of greater calibre might have appeared on the tapis than the King's printer.—[From the New York Recollections and Private Memoirs of George Washington.]

ATTEMPTING TO FLY.—The Madison (Wis.) Journal relates the following incident:

Not long since, a man named Whiting, living near San Prairie, got religion so bad that he was too pure for the prairie, and, accordingly, attempted to come to Madison or some other religious place. He was too pure to travel like a mortal, and having faith that he could fly to his destination, he attempted the experiment. He procured an umbrella, and climbed to the topmost branches of a tree in the skirts of a timber. After hoisting his umbrella, he jumped from the tree and began to kick and squabble, thereby thinking to propel himself through the air. La Mountain or Wise did not work harder than our hero; but, alas for human calculations, instead of going ahead, he quickly descended to the ground, holding on to the handle of the umbrella for dear life. He, at last, reached terra firma in a round state, and has now made up his mind that religion is a good thing, but should not be taken in too large doses."

THE SAME RESULT.—"What did you give that blood-mare of yours the other day when she had the bots?" asked a Wall street broker of a friend from Long Island.

"A pint of spirits of turpentine. Good morning." "Morning;" and they separated.

Two days after the same parties met in the street.

"Say, look o' here, I gave my mare a pint of turpentine, and, by Jove, it killed her."

"So it did mine!" was the reply. "Good morning." "Morning;" and straightway they departed.

THE NIGGERS AND CONGRESS.—The "niggers," who do the "menial" work at the Capital are a shrewd set of fellows. Tuesday one of them was standing by one of the doors of the House, looking in at the members. The doorkeeper said, "Jim they're talking about niggers in there." "Well," was the response, "dat's der business. Lor bless you, if it wasn't for de niggers, dere wouldn't be no Congress."

SPINSTERS.—Formerly, women were prohibited from marrying until they had spun a set of bed furniture, and hence were entitled spinsters until married. A morose old bachelor remarked:

"Now a days they spin street yarn!"

A STRONG BRIDGE.—Before the great Victoria Bridge at Montreal was accepted of the contractors, it was put to the severe test of a loaded train weighing the enormous load of one ton to the square foot, which it was difficult for three powerful locomotives to drag along. While in the first tube only, the deflection of that tube was seven-eighths of an inch, the adjoining empty tube being lifted in the middle three-eighths. The load being placed half over both tubes, the deflection was the same in each—three-fourths of an inch; and when run wholly upon the second tube the result was the reverse of that in the first. The final test was the long central span, (three hundred and thirty feet,) where the deflection was only one inch and three-eighths. In no instance was the deflection greater than five-eighths what it was expected.—[Ex.]

ABOLITION OF GRAND JURIES.—A bill has been introduced in the Legislature of the State of Vermont to do away with the grand jury system, a movement which has already proved successful in the State of Michigan. Steps have also been taken toward the abolition of grand juries in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Louisiana. There are few subjects of more importance to our own State than the grand jury system now in vogue, and none which the doing away with would result more beneficially. The grand jury is a humbug, its action productive of little good, and generally the most expensive of any system of county government. Proceedings by information, instead of the old grand jury system, have been introduced with success in other States.—[S. F. Herald.]

HOW A DWARF OBTAINED A WIFE.—The sultan's favorite dwarf, a man about thirty years old, and three feet high, a few years ago took a notion to marry, applied to the sultan for a wife. The sultan gave him permission to go into his harem, and take the one whom he could kiss! The dwarf, like all other small men, was ambitious to have a long wife. While the sultan's five hundred women, who knew the terms according to which the dwarf was permitted to choose, were laughing at the manikin, went up to one of the tallest and handsomest of them, and struck her a sudden blow on the stomach. She collapsed with the pain, and before she could recover he caught her by the neck and gave her the dreaded kiss. The sultan kept his word, and the tall beauty is now the mother of the dwarf's children.

THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.—Sir John Bowring, the late English commissioner to China, in a lecture recently delivered in Glasgow, made the assertion that the lexicon of the Chinese language consisted of seventy volumes. M. Julien, Professor of the Chinese at the College of France, has written a letter to the Constitutionnel to point out Sir John's mistake. He states that in reality the Imperial Dictionary of the Emperor Khang-hi, his only of thirty-two volumes, 12mo., not thicker than the little finger, and containing only 42,718 characters. This Dictionary is the one all European students use in acquiring Chinese, and he says that a knowledge of about one-tenth of these is sufficient to enable Chinese books to be understood. He advances the rather startling proposition that the Chinese is as clear as the easiest of modern languages.

A LARGE COUPLE.—Mr. and Mrs. Annin, says the *Easton Express*, residing near the High Bridge of the New Jersey Central Railroad, are supposed to be the largest couple in this country. The gentleman's weight is 700 pounds and the lady's weight 500. Mr. Annin's age is about 45, and Mrs. Annin's about 40. It requires six yards of cassimere for Mr. A's pants, and nine yards of cloth for a coat. He and his wife keep a public house at a place called Peg's Pebble. It is said that the New York Museum offered the couple \$1500 per year and their expenses if they would come to New York; but they refused, on the ground that they did not wish to be looked at so much. They began to increase in size about seventeen years ago.

A VULGAR WHISKER.—"Of all things, says the Dublin University Magazine, "avoid a vulgar whisker. This is of various kinds. A short, scrubby, indomitable red whisker is a vulgar whisker; a weak, fuzzy, white, moth-eaten, mouldy whisker is a vulgar whisker; a twisting, twining, sentimental cork-screw of a whisker, is a vulgar whisker; a big, black, bluff, brutal looking whisker is a vulgar whisker; a mathematical, methodical, master-of-arts-ical diagram of a whisker is a vulgar whisker. Whatever is not one of these—will do."

SHOWERS.—A clergyman of this city met a little boy of his acquaintance on the cars, and said to him, "This is quite a stormy day, my son." "Yes, sir," said the boy, "this is a very wet rain." The clergyman, thinking to rebuke such hyperbole, asked if he ever knew of other than wet rain. The boy answered that he never knew personally of any other, but he had read in a certain book, of a time when it rained fire and brimstone, and he guessed that was not a wet rain.—[Concord, N. H., Statesman.]

NEW GUN.—Colonel Colt has invented a revolving shot gun. It is said that upon a late trial of this valuable gun, at a distance of 30 yards, it put 175 pellets in a circle of 12 inches diameter, penetrating 75 sheets of ordinary brown paper, the shot used being No. 6 shot, 1½ ounces and 2 drachms of powder to each charge. The gun is a five-shooter.—[New York Tribune.]