

Utilization of Water Power.

Dr. Siemens, the great metallurgist, in his address before the Iron and Steel Institute, England, made a novel suggestion as to the utilization of water power. He said that all the coal annually mined in the world would only suffice to create a power equal to that continually wasted by the Falls of Niagara; that if this power were applied to a powerful dynamo-electrical machine, an electric current could be produced of great intensity; that, in fact, a copper rod, of three inches diameter, would be capable of transmitting one thousand horse power a distance of say thirty miles, an amount sufficient to supply one-fourth of a million candle power, which would suffice to light a moderate-sized town. The importance of this matter can be appreciated when it is considered that the constant improvements in the methods of heating tend to check the consumption of coal. In twenty years the annual increase in the English coal production has averaged three and a half million tons, while the power gained from the consumption of it has increased much more rapidly. One ton of steel rails can now be made with five thousand pounds of coal, against ten thousand pounds twenty years ago. At the present rate of increase the coal supply of England would necessarily be practically exhausted in two hundred and fifty years.—*New York Sun*.

MORMONISM.—On Tuesday evening, the fifth of a series of open air meetings was held at the Town End, Morley. It was showery all day, and up to the last minute it was thought that no meeting would be held. But, however, Mr. C. D. Evans, of Salt Lake City, at the request of a few friends, came forward to give an address. After a few observations, he proceeded to propound the Mormon doctrine of plurality of wives. He said that some years ago, a great conference was held in India, of the ministers of the various Christian denominations, on this very subject, and their decision was, that they could not find any proof in the Bible against the plurality of wives. Texts from the Bible were then given in support of his assertion, viz., that the patriarchs of the Old Testament were nearly all polygamists. These were men under the special direction and guidance of the Almighty himself.

Mr. Evans then argued at some length as to the social and moral blessings which would accrue to society at large if the plurality of wives were to become of general adoption—in fact, one of the great means, if not the only remedy, of removing the greatest crying evil which at present exist. He dared any man to prove that marriage to more than one wife was physiologically wrong. The general doctrines of Mormonism were next adverted to, and after alluding to the great hubbub which was being hurled against that sect, he ventured to predict that Mormonism would live and ultimately pervade the whole world.

Mr. Thomas Wilkinson then rose to make a speech in contradiction, which, by the bye, had nothing whatever to do with Mormonism. He also read a number of extracts from a book, purporting to be texts from Scripture, which, to all appearances, were in flat contradiction to each other. If we mistake not, what Mr. Wilkinson did was calculated to aid more the cause of infidelity than Christianity. Both the speakers met with some opposition.—*English Paper*.

MANNERS FOR POST-OFFICE CLERKS.—A tall, elderly, refined-looking gentleman recently went into a small post-office in a rural region of England. He asked some questions relative to the registering of a letter, and was very sharply, rudely, and unnecessarily snubbed by a young woman in attendance. He asked her if she thought that was a proper way to answer an inquiry in a public office. She said she thought she had been quite civil enough for him. He asked her, with an ominously increasing mildness of manner, if she would favor him with her name. She emphatically declined to do so. He then said he thought he would tell her his name, which, however, she declined to hear, saying that his name was no concern of hers. He calmly replied that he thought it was, for his name was John Manners, and he was the Postmaster General.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

Correspondence.

Capital and Labor—Mars' Satellites—Alleged Forgery.

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 20, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

It now seems taken for granted that Mr. Hayes' first message will be largely devoted to a consideration of the relations of capital and labor, as found existing between great corporations and their employees. It is known that several members of the cabinet are in favor of legislation creating a commission of arbitration. It appears that Secretary McCrary at the last session urged through the House the passage of a bill investing Congress with a partial control of our great trunk railway lines. It failed in the Senate; but it is believed something of the kind will be recommended. Mr. Sherman's statement that four men practically control the movement by railroad of above 27,000,000 tons of freight, is certainly suggestive.

The announcement has been made that Professor Hall, of the Washington Government Observatory discovered one, perhaps two of Mars' satellites on Thursday evening, about 11 p.m., by the aid of the great telescope; that Professor Newcomb, at first disposed to regard the bodies discovered as asteroids, now agrees with the discoverer that one at least, and probably both, are the attendants of Mars; and Commodore Rogers has notified the astronomical world of the great achievement of the Washington Professor.

Messrs. Peugh and Grow, respectable members of the Washington bar, are under heavy bail for the grand jury action, for alleged forgery. In 1873, Peugh, as attorney of one Tompkins, of Georgia, secured an award of \$1,343.86 by the court of claims, for property taken by the government during the war. Two drafts were issued, one for \$1,008.15 the other for \$335.71, the amount of fee claimed by Peugh, and both payable to Tompkins. It appears that Tompkins was slow in paying his attorney, and he, to get the money, disposed of the drafts to Grow. One was paid last December, the other in January, both endorsed by Tompkins and Grow. The treasury officials afterwards decided that Tompkins' signature was a forgery and Grow refunded the money. Grow now states that he entrusted the drafts to a party who engaged to get them signed by Tompkins; that they were returned to him duly signed, and that he never doubted the genuineness of Tompkins' signature. It is now claimed that evidence has been discovered that the claims are either greatly exaggerated or wholly fraudulent, and as a statute is said to be in existence giving the treasury accounting officers the right to review awards and to refuse payment under such circumstances, it may, after all, turn out that it had been better for the trio had Tompkins promptly paid his lawyer. The case is of great local interest on account of the social and professional standing of the lawyers, and of some general interest because of the novel points involved. K.

Mars' Satellites—"Too Many Hogs for the Swill"—The Telegraph Companies—Cornell's Attitude—The Workingmen's Party.

WASHINGTON, August 22, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

Rear-Admiral Rogers, of the Washington Naval Observatory, in formally notifying the Secretary of the Navy of the discovery of two satellites of Mars, last Thursday night, by Prof. Hall, of the Observatory, says: "The satellite which was at first discovered, and which he supposes was seen for the first time Aug. 16th, at 11 hours, 42 minutes, had been, in fact, observed Aug. 11, at 14 hours, 40 minutes." Its apparent distance from Mars' centre is given as 82°; time of revolution around the planet, 30 hours; estimated magnitude, 13th or 14th degree; plane of orbit has now quite an inclination from the line of sight from earth to Mars at its elongations; angles of position, 72° and 252°. The second satellite was discovered Aug. 17th, at 16 hours, appearing quite as bright as its fellow. Its elongations have nearly the same angles of position, corresponding to Mars' equator; ap-

parent distance at elongation, periodic time, not yet definitely ascertained.

On a certain occasion, when a well representative of an "old Washington family" (he being the only member without an office), called on "Honest Abe," to correct that oversight, the President made a complimentary allusion to the young man's family connections by the remark that "there were too many hogs for the swill." An idea of some such porcine redundancy in our internal revenue system might have moved Commissioner Raun to make inquiries of above a hundred collectors. His apprehensions were discovered to be well founded, a very few only were found guilty, a large majority reporting the family revenues in a most healthy condition from the joint productions of from two to twelve of the immediate household; all saddled on the government. Out of over thirty employees in one Tennessee district, but four families were represented.

The action of the Western Union and the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Companies in agreeing upon a "divvy" of the spoils is regarded here as certain to result in a material advance in the rates for messages. But it is a bad time for such demonstrations on the part of monopolies and can only add to the provocation for Congress to step in and take control.

Mr. Cornell's contemptuous attitude relative to the President's civil service order elicits a good deal of comment in official circles. If it is true as is frequently alleged, that Mr. Hayes would be willing to eat one square meal of crow as the price of Conkling's adhesion, there are several precedents for accepting the mutinous New Yorker from the civil service reform programme. But the prominence of the parties to this contest stop the President from hiding his light under a bushel in case Mr. Cornell comes off conqueror. On the other hand we have abundant evidence that the decapitation of the contumacious official will be regarded as a declaration of war.

The strategists of the two old parties are watching every new phase assumed by the workingmen's party, with a good deal of interest; with a view, no doubt, to active interference when the proper time comes; and there is not wanting advisers among the crowds of political adventurers and freebooters, who hope to be able to mould the plastic mass in a way that will best subserve their own selfish aspirations. K.

Dodder.

SPRINGVILLE, Aug. 27, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

In your issue of August 25th inst., is a short piece on "Dodder." It has no root in the soil but springs out of some other plant or grass. I have seen it spring from weeds, and it seems to draw nourishment from every twist or turn it takes on other plants or grasses.

It will be found most on ground of a dry, warm nature, that has been exceedingly well watered, thus causing an excess of sap in the grass, when the dodder shoots out from the stalk, and becomes apparently a distinct vegetable kind. It prevails more in young lucern because we bestow upon it more pains and water to give it a good start. A scarcity of water brings no dodder. Respectfully yours,

FARMER.

SERVIAN DRUMMERS.—A curious thing connected with the Servian army is the manner in which nearly all the regiments carry the big drum. Instead of being slung in front of the man who plays it, this instrument is put upon a small two-wheeled cart drawn by a large dog, the latter being so trained that he keeps his place even through the longest marches. The drummer walks behind the cart, and performs on the instrument as he goes along. A correspondent says that each regiment has two or three drums, but that there is not a single band in the whole army.—*Ladies' Journal*.

The total number of postage stamps of all kinds and denominations, stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers issued during the year ending June 30th last by the Post Office Department, was 1,060,253,909, valued at \$23,525,886.

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