

Miscellaneous.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD PROGRESSING.—The *Auburn Stars and Stripes* says that the work of grading the Pacific Railroad progresses rapidly. The Company have fifteen hundred men and one hundred and fifty horses and carts employed on the road between Newcastle and Auburn.

AN EXCELLENT MAXIM.—Dr. Nettie Wood adopted the following as a maxim for the government of his life. Do all the good you can in the world, and make as little noise about it as possible.

AN ANVIL JUDGE.—The *Buffalo Express* gives the decision of a Justice in that city who went from his blacksmithing shop to the bench, and who lays down "iron-plated" law. The Justice made a ruling in a case before him, and the lawyer, against whose side the decision was, asked where such law was to be found. He received from the bench the following reply: "I have no law for it. I give it as the opinion of the Court, based upon common sense. I am no lawyer; I never read a law book in my life, and I never will, for the reason that I see so many fools who have read law that I dare not try the experiment."

A LESSON FOR LIFE.—A child went forth into a mountain ravine, and whilst wandering there, he called aloud to break the loneliness, and heard a voice which called to him in the same tone. He called again, and, as he thought, the voice again mocked him. Flushed with anger, he rushed to find the boy who insulted him, but could find none. He then called out to him in anger, and with all abusive epithets, all of which faithfully returned to him. Choking with rage, the child ran to his mother, and complained that a boy in the woods had abused and insulted him with many vile words. But the mother took the child by the hand and said, "My child, these names were but the echoes of thine own voice. Whatever thou didst call was returned to thee from the hillside. Hadst thou called out pleasant words, pleasant words had returned to thee. Let this be thy lesson through life. The world will be the echo of thine own spirit. Treat thy fellows with unkindness, and they will answer with unkindness; with love, and thou shalt have love. Send forth sunshine from thy spirit, and thou shalt never have a clouded day; carry about a vindictive spirit, and even in the flowers shall lurk curses. Thou shalt receive ever what thou givest, and that alone." Always is that child in the mountain passes of life; for every reader is that child.

ERNEST KISS.—One of the most gallant as well as most distinguished of the Hungarian Generals who were taken prisoners and executed by the Austrians, had the singular name of Ernest Kiss. He was a wealthy proprietor, owning thirty-two villages, and was a man of excessive personal elegance as well as of chivalric courage. His coolness was remarkable; and it is told of him that one day within reach of an Austrian battery, making an observation, he ordered his servant to bring him a cup of chocolate. A shot took it from his hand and killed his horse. "Clumsy rascals," said Kiss, "they have upset my breakfast." When taken out with three others to be shot, he was superbly dressed. The order was given to fire, and his companions fell, while he stood untouched. "You have forgotten me," said Kiss, in his usual tone of voice. The Corporal of the platoon stepped up and fired, and the ball striking him on the forehead, he fell dead without a struggle.

A REMARKABLE PROPHECY.—Not long ago was found at Toledo, in Spain, in a monastery, a paper containing the following prophecy:

"In the far West beyond the ocean will rise a nation, which will be great in power and wealth; and Satan, in one of his walks to and fro in the earth, will observe this nation, and, determined to destroy their happiness, will there send two monsters, one to the North and the other to the South, and he will give them strawberries, and they will eat them; and after they have eaten, they will feel a great thirst, not to be quenched with anything else but blood. They will, therefore, cause the brother to slay the brother, the father to slay the son, and the son the father; and they will drink the blood of the slain, and it will bring lamentation and wailing throughout the land. And when the time is fulfilled, there will rise a strong man in the North who will take the monsters

and bind them, and will draw them into the sea where it is the deepest, and peace and happiness will again prevail throughout, and the people will praise the Lord."

It is said the monks in said monastery maintain that this prophecy was written before the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus; that Ferdinand and Isabella were, in the main, induced by it to fit out the ship for Columbus; and that the first part of it is fulfilled in America, and the other part will soon come to pass.—[*Ex.*]

LARGE TELESCOPE.—One of the triumphs of American science is the immense refracting telescope just completed by Alvan Clark, Esq., of Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the Chicago University. The *Boston Traveller* says it is not only the largest instrument of the kind in this country, but the largest one in use in the world. This telescope was originally intended for an institution in Mississippi, but the breaking out of the war interrupted communications, and prevented it from ever reaching its destination. Since then it has been purchased by the University at Chicago, and an observatory ninety-six feet high has been built for its reception. The sum paid for the instrument is \$18,187. Its weight is about 6,000 pounds. The length of the great tube is twenty-two feet. Magnifying lenses will be used, ranging in power from 80,1,800. The cost of the observatory was \$25,000.

AMOUNT OF BUTTER AND CHEESE IN MILK.—According to the reports of several of the associated cheese dairies, an average of ten pounds fourteen ounces of milk is required to yield a pound of cheese. One pound of butter requires on an average about fifteen quarts of milk. This would give from the same amount of milk about three pounds of cheese to one of butter. A dairyman in Western New York, after repeated trials of making cheese and butter from the same quantity and quality of milk, has found the above proportion to be pretty uniformly maintained; occasionally the cheese slightly exceeds the given rate.—[*American Agriculturist.*]

OUR WASTEFUL HABITS.—The *N. Y. Times* says foreigners are astonished at our habits of waste. We waste enough in this country, of food and clothes, in one year, to sustain the whole population for five. The times are hard, the currency is deranged. We know not what lies in the future. The whole country should begin to learn habits of economy. And it is a virtue which, if it ever is to become national, should at once be begun to be practiced by individuals. The English don't waste half as much as we do; and the Germans, while in Germany, don't waste at all. Hundreds of leading hotels here and throughout the country, prepare daily from twenty to fifty dishes for dinner, and out of these from a half to two-thirds are regularly wasted. Thus not only is food wasted, but also labor at the same time. In ordinary families unwholesome meals of half a dozen dishes are gotten up, where a plain meal would at once be more economical and wholesome. We gorge ourselves with a great number of articles, which are neither nutritious or delicious, but simply costly. Men buy four hats a year, where one ought to last them four years; they throw away coats and pants when they are but little the worse for wear; and instead of having their shirts mended and their stockings darned, they purchase new ones, and fling away the old. Women wear very expensive articles of dress without wearing them out.

DIVORCES.—The *Newburyport Herald*, speaking of divorces, says:

In this little State of Massachusetts one per day would be a mere fraction of what annually occur. There are probably more in this little city, in one year, than there were in a generation, in the whole State, prior to a century ago. There is a single law office here that does up more than one a month; and it is not uncommon to have fifty or a hundred upon the docket of a county court at one term. Go into the Court, and one perceives that sundering the ties is not considered of any consequence. The whole process does not often consume more than a half hour, and perhaps not half of that. The cases are run off, as an old Judge in a city Police Court will the cases of confirmed drunkards and night walkers, where he will half hear the complaint and guess at the rest, glance from the officer to the offender, and degree—two months, House of Correction—three months—six months; and so run through with a dozen who are on their way to punishment before they can wake up to a defence. It may be the prevailing opinion that this is all right,

and tell well on the community; but we cannot help believing that our entire action in the divorce business is demoralizing and degrading to the utmost extreme.

LEARNING AS A BREAD-WINNER.—Men have wondered how, in a country such as China, where the tone of morality is low and the government is corrupt, education should have such honors and privileges attached to it, that it forms the sole means of rising into place and affluence. The true secret of the matter is to be read in the fact that China, with its three millions of inhabitants, is the most populous country on the face of the earth. Ignorance, therefore, cannot be tolerated in China; and knowledge, including, as a matter of course, a thorough acquaintance with the arts by which men live, is at a premium there. However, unacquainted with what most nobles man, the Chinese cannot be left ignorant of how to use their own homely phrase—"men are to get their rice." Were the case otherwise, they would of necessity have to eat one another; and so in this vast nation, still in some respects a semi-barbarous one, a certain measure of education is universal, and its cheap literature, notwithstanding its block printing and its difficult character, is the most immense in the world. And, on a similar principle, the growing population of Britain will force upon the country the question of an adequate education for the people. It is difficult to over-people any nation with a taught and industrious race of men. China is not over-peopled with its three hundred millions. Ireland, that has not half the number of inhabitants to the square mile, and the Highlands of Scotland, that have not the one-fortieth part the number to the square mile, are on the contrary, greatly over-peopled; and the difference consists mainly in this, that whereas the Chinese have, with all their many faults, been taught how to "get their rice," the poor Highlanders and the Irish have not.—[*Hugh Miller.*]

NEW YORK.—If any one is desirous to witness the mutations of fortune in New York—to see how the princely merchant of one year is the subordinate salesman of the next—how the show and glitter of equipage and servants in livery in the Central Park one season is followed by almost absolute want the next—he need only enter some of our mercantile establishments. One of our most noted merchants in this city has in his employ over twenty men as salesmen who within ten years commanded a fortune, lived in style, whose families gave tone and law to fashion. This store is regarded as a sort of hospital for decayed merchants. The influence and talent of the land find here employment in subordinate positions. The treacherous sea of mercantile life engulfed their barque with its richly laden freight, while they cling to the masts and spars thrown to them by the more fortunate adventurers. One house, almost as noted as Stewart's six years ago, who in imitation of that gentleman, built a marble palace, has gone by the board, and the head of it are clerks in the wholesale stores of the city. You will find men about our streets or hiding in the multitude of our people, doing a little brokerage, whose families find a humble home in one or two rooms in the better class of tenement houses, who a few years ago, in neighboring cities, rode on the top wave of popular favor who never imagined that they or theirs could come to want. I met men every day in New York on whom the hand of reverse has been laid very heavily; seedy in dress, whose dwelling place cannot be known, who in other days I have often envied as they rode by me in their sumptuous carriages, whose position and living were among the wealthiest of the land. It is sad to think it so. Nor will the number be lessened. The experience of the past goes but a little way with the present generation. The speculators and stock gamblers of the day are spreading sails when prudent men are reefing.—[*Burleigh.*]

A PLAN TO PROLONG LIFE.—M. Robin an eminent French chemist, in a memoir recently presented to the French Academy, expresses a belief that human life may be greatly prolonged, and enters into an argument to show that his opinion is based upon sound reasoning. He gives the result of his personal observations on the subject, and proposes to demonstrate the truthfulness of his position by actual experiments upon animals whose lives are of short duration. His argument is, that the mineral matter, which constitutes an ingredient in most of our food, after the combustion, is left in our systems to incrust and stiffen the different parts of

the body and to render imperfect many of the vital processes.

He compares human beings to furnaces which are always kindled; life exists only in combustion, but the combustion which occurs in our bodies, like that which takes place in our chimneys, leaves a detritus or residuum which is fatal to life. To remove this, he would administer lactic acid with ordinary food. This acid is known to possess the power of removing or dissolving the incrustations which form on the arteries, cartilages and valves of the heart. As buttermilk abounds in this acid, and is, moreover, an agreeable kind of food, its habitual use, it is urged, will free the system from these causes, which inevitably cause death between the seventy-fifth and one hundredth year.

HOW TO TAKE A SHOWER-BATH.—Doctor: "Well, how did your wife manage her shower-bath, deacon?" Deacon: "She had real good luck. Madame Moody told her how she managed. She said she had a large oiled silk cape, with a cap to fit, like a fireman's that came all over her shoulders, and—." Doctor: "She's a fool for her pains—that's not the way." Deacon: "So my wife thought." Doctor: "Your wife did nothing of that sort, hope?" Deacon: "Oh, no, doctor, she used an umbrella." Doctor: "What, used an umbrella!—What the mischief good did the shower-bath do her?" Deacon: "She said she felt better. Her clothes wasn't wet a mite. She sat under the umbrella for half an hour, till all the water had trickled off; and said twas cool and delightful, and just like a little shower-bath in the summer."

WHAT SIZED POTATOES ARE BEST TO PLANT.—Mr. George Maw, an English experimenter, has made some careful trials of the effect of planting seed potatoes of different sizes. He planted in rows 2 feet apart and 1 foot in the row. In one experiment, 20 potatoes weighing 2 ounces, and the same number weighing 4 and 8 oz each, were tried. The yield was as follows:

The 20 of 2 oz. each (2½ lbs.) yielded 21 lbs. 5½ oz.
The 20 of 4 oz. each (5 lbs.) yielded 20 lbs. 0½ oz.
The 20 of 8 oz. each (10 lbs.) yielded 35 lbs. 3½ oz.

Extending these results to an acre, shows, after deducting the weight of the seed, that there is a gain of 5,060 pounds in using the 4 oz. in preference to 2 oz. sets, and in using 8 oz. sets the gain over the 2 oz. was 6,942 pounds. Experiments with the above different sorts show even a larger gain than this, from using large seed. Mr. Maw is of the opinion that the use of larger sets produces larger potatoes, and believes that not only the quantity but the quality of the crop may be improved by always planting the largest and best, and that the potato producing power of land may be increased one-third by using large seed.

BLOCKADE RUNNERS CAPTURED.—During the year 1864 the number of blockade runners captured was 88; of these 78 were captured by merchant-built steamers commissioned by the Navy Department to perform blockade duty. Ten were captured by regular naval vessels. One was taken by the *Sassacus* and one by the *Metabasset*, assisted by other vessels. One was caught by the *Minnesota*, a frigate of the old navy, and one by the *Pequot*. Four out of the 88 were caught by the new navy in the open sea, and when the vessels were unaided in the capture, and six were taken in the open sea whether aided or unaided.

HORSE WISDOM.—Anything a horse can touch with his nose without being harmed, he does not fear.—Therefore the hand, the halter, saddle, harness, umbrella, buffalo robe, or whatever is brought in proximity to him should be introduced and touched by that delicate organ. A knowledge of such important facts, as we learned by attending a course of his lectures, is the main secret of Rarey's success of horse-taming.

THE STORY OF CERTAIN HYMNS.—Hymns have sometimes been curiously used in stirring times, especially about the Reformation period. More than once the Romish preachers have been compelled to abandon the pulpit by the vigorous singing of one of Luther's. "They have played their part in battle." At the famous battle of Lutzen, one of Heermann's hymns was raised by a regiment before going into the fight, and one after another took it up, until all the column were singing it as they advanced. "Shall I silence them?" the general asked as he rode up to stern, tobacco-loving, heroic King Fritz. "No, with such soldiers God will give me the victory," and leaping down among the ranks, crying, "Now children in God's name," he led them into battle. When