

Miscellaneous.

PAPER SHIPS AND PAPER GUNS.

We have heard of ships and guns existing only "on paper," but of these means of offence and defence made "of paper," we have some information in a late number of the *London Observer*, which has an account of a kind of paper, experimented upon at Battersea, on the 13th ult.

It seems that rockets were made of paper tubes which stand the test as well as those made of metal. Not less remarkable were the thick slabs and boards made of paper. These boards, of one inch in thickness, had been tested by bullet and ball, and the result showed that their power of resistance was equal to ten inches of solid oak. The bullet, which had passed so far through the paper board as to cause a projecting surface at the rear, would have gone clean through the oak, fracturing and tearing it in all directions, while in the paper board the perforation made was a small, clean, round hole. The *Observer* adds:

These paper boards are admirably adapted for the sides of ships; their specific gravity is somewhat less than that of oak, and they are easily fixed to framework of vessels. They have, however, this additional advantage over timber—they do not require copper sheathing to prevent fouling; they are non-absorbent, and neither animal nor vegetable life flourishes upon their surface, as is the case with timber or iron. They also have this further advantage, that they are incombustible. No amount of heat will set them in a blaze. The application of great heat will produce combustion in the immediate neighborhood of the flame, but anything like ordinary burning is quite out of the question.

In addition; however, to all these good qualities, paper has positively the advantage over timber and iron in the matter of cost. M. Szerlemy, the inventor, well known for the successful manner in which he has arrested the decay of certain portions of the exterior of the Houses of Parliament, has discovered a fibre which grows in the southern portion of Germany, and which may be converted into a rough kind of paper at a cost so trifling as to enable him to compete with the builder of timber and iron ships. Not content, however, with forming the sides of ships of paper, the inventor is now engaged in the construction of light field pieces, specially adapted for mountain warfare, and these, judging from results already obtained by experiments with paper tubes, will be found to answer the purpose admirably. Tubes have already been formed of this prepared paper, and they have stood the test against iron in the most satisfactory manner.

Another application was shown in the perfection of a material resembling flock paper, suitable for carpets, which can be prepared of any color and with endless variety of pattern. A slight alteration in the mode of treatment converts canvas into a description of cloth which will stand any amount of wear, as may be seen from some pieces which have been for several months laid down in the workshops of Battersea. The material of a house are now in course of construction, for the purpose of showing the adaptability of paper boards to the construction of emigrants' houses, temporary churches, and barracks. Already large quantities of a material known as "Panonia," or leather cloth, is manufactured by the use of this extraordinary substance, and made up into boots and shoes, which rival in their durable quality the best kind of leather, and it is equally valuable for preserving stone, brick, works in plaster, or any similar substance.

A SCENE OF DESOLATION IN GEORGIA.—A correspondent of the *Boston Journal*, who has visited the region fought over in Georgia, writes as follows:

"Georgia, as seen from Chattanooga to Marietta—about one hundred and fifty miles—is totally swept of its male inhabitants. In the still standing cottages (mostly near the depots), and selling peaches, apples and pies around the cars, you see the lean, lank yellow-skinned women of the lower class, with their tow-headed children—a few boys under twelve and some unmanageable girls—all clad in the commonest of female or of homespun male garments; but never by any chance, excepting near the lines, and then very rarely, an able-bodied man. Every able-bodied negro in the service of the army. Georgia is abandoned excepting by its

women. All—every man—of the adult male population is in the Southern army.

I have seen in the letters of correspondents accounts of the fields of waving corn and wheat that would perish for want of men to cut them down. These fields were said to exist on this route. I did not see them, nor traces of them. It is a lovely land, with its gentle undulations, gracefully receding toward the forest covered mountains; it is a well watered and fertile soil, capable of being made a paradise in point of beauty, and for fruitfulness another Egypt; but there has been comparatively a very small portion of the ground redeemed yet; and the cultivation that existed, meagre, rude, and limited as it was, has disappeared before the desolating march of the two great armies. Here and there you see patches of corn; but to call the country an uninhabited and uncultivated region, held by the military power, is the truest description to be given of it.

"All along the railroad you seldom lose sight of the great fact of the war. The country is cut up with breastworks and dotted over with rifle pits. Had the 'Chivalry' and the 'poor white trash' united in doing as much work in ploughing and otherwise cultivating the fields as they have done in their vain but persistent attempts to stop the progress of civilization as represented by Sherman's army, Georgia, instead of being now way down in the list of wealthy States, would have run up like gold—suddenly and far. But that would have been degrading themselves, while to ruin their State is ennobling!

All along the railroad you see the black embers and charred timbers, and chimneys standing alone, that show where houses have been burned down by Johnston's or our army. The few little villages that there are on the road are utterly deserted. You see large hotels, all open, with broken panes of glass, doors and blinds, (of these last a few only,) off their hinges, emptied of furniture from cellar to ceiling. So of all the stores, excepting those occupied by our troops or the Sanitary Commission.

At every bridge, however small the stream it crosses, there is a block house or stockade, built or building, and a guard of soldiers.

CHECKING PERSPIRATION.—A merchant, in "lending a hand" on board of one of his ships on a windy day, found himself, at the end of an hour and a half, pretty well exhausted and perspiring freely. He sat down to rest. The cool wind from the sea was delightful, and, engaging in conversation, time passed faster than he was aware of. In attempting to rise, he found he was unable to do so without assistance.—He was taken home and put to bed, where he remained for two years, and for a long time afterwards could only hobble about with the aid of a crutch. Less exposures than this have, in constitutions not so vigorous resulted in inflammation of the lungs, "pneumonia," ending in death in less than a week, or causing tedious rheumatisms, to be a source of torture for a lifetime.

Multitudes of lives would be saved every year, and an incalculable amount of human suffering would be prevented, if parents would begin to explain to their children, at the age of three or four years, the danger which attends cooling off too quickly after exercise, and the importance of not standing still after exercise, or work, or of remaining exposed to a wind, or of sitting at an open window or door, or of pulling off any garment, even the hat or bonnet, while in a heat.

It should be remembered by all that a cold never comes without a cause, and that, in four times out of five, it is the result of leaving off exercise too suddenly, or of remaining still in the wind, or in a cooler atmosphere than that in which the exercise has been taken.—[*Edinburgh Paper*.]

ACCLIMATIZING BIRDS AND FISH.—The thrush, black-bird, sky-lark, starling, chaffinch, various sparrows, and the wild-duck, are already domesticated in Australia through the efforts of the Acclimatization Society of Victoria, and encouraged by their success in introducing the salmon various, other fresh-water fish will be tried.

SWEATING FRUIT.—Many persons expose fruit for a time before packing, "to let it sweat," or leave openings in the packages for the escape of moisture. Horticultural writers of repute sometimes recommend such practices, and even assert that sweating is a natural process to which all fruit is subject. We are not prepared to say that there is no utility whatever in any of the processes that pass by the name of "sweating,"

though we think most of them injurious; but we are made sure by science and practice that the term itself involves an essential error. Sweating, properly speaking, is the exudation of moisture through the pores of the skin in such quantities as to moisten its surface. This is commonly, if not always, what is meant by those who apply the term to fruit; and, in this sense, sound fruit cannot be made to sweat except by pressure. This conclusion is supported not only by a general knowledge of the different methods of preserving and marketing fruits; but also by the results of special experiments carried on for several years.

Moisture from the air is frequently condensed so as to give the appearance of sweating, as upon the outside of a pitcher of ice-water; the requisite condition being that the body exposed should be colder than the surrounding atmosphere.

A slight difference of temperature is in a damp place; and it is frequently very difficult to avoid the inconvenient effects of this natural law.

Fruit picked in cold weather can hardly be brought into a warm room for sorting and packing; and barrels that were perfectly dry when packed on a cool day in the interior, will reek with moisture immediately after being opened in a New York fog.

We have confined our remarks to sound fruit, not because unsound fruit is really an exception, but because decay is commonly accompanied by heat, which causes evaporation, and the vapor is apt to be condensed upon the inside of a package or the outer (and cooler) layers of fruit. In such a case the package, as a whole, may be said to sweating.

A GOOD SMOKEHOUSE.—We lately observed a well-planned smokehouse on the premises of a good farmer, worthy of a brief description. It was about six feet square, the lower half built of brick, furnished with an iron-lined door, and serving as an ash-house and place for the fire. The upper part, about four feet high, besides the ascent of the roof, was made of wood. It was separated from the lower part by scantling joists, a space of two or three inches between them, through which smoke and air could freely pass, but sufficient to catch any ham that might accidentally fall, and thus save it from the fire. The upper part, as well as the lower, was entered by a door from the outside; this upper door may be kept locked, except when admitting or withdrawing hams; but the lower may be left unlocked, for the hired man to build fires, without any danger of the contents above being stolen, as the thief cannot pass through the openings between the joists.—[*Ex.*]

INDIAN AGRICULTURALISTS.—The Nez Percés, in the vicinity of Lewiston, have made better advancement in the art of farming than many suppose, than those at a distance have any idea of. Of course, all is accomplished through squaw labor. They have been recompensed this year with fine crops. They are constantly coming into town with animals packed with potatoes, cabbages, onions, and all varieties of vegetables incident to the latitude. Last year they produced a surplus of wheat over their own consumption amounting to twenty thousand pounds; and this year the quantity will probably double that. In quality some of their products will compare favorably with the more thorough and scientific cultivation of their white superiors. They should receive every encouragement in their efforts in this direction.—[*Golden Age*.]

FROM OUR DIXIE.

ST. GEORGE, NOV. 6, 1864.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

DEAR SIR:—Being instructed by our Southern Convention, to forward to you their proceedings for insertion in your valuable paper, I submit to you the following:

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE, HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL, NOV. 4, 6 P.M. 1864.

Prayer by President E. Snow.

Upon motion of President Snow, Bishop R. Gardner was elected chairman, pro tem., and Bishop Henry Eyring, secretary pro tem.

The chairman appointed Messrs. Hosea Stout, John W. Crosby and J. T. Willis a committee to examine credentials.

Messrs. D. D. McArthur, Ellis M. Saunders and John Nebeker, a committee on permanent organization.

The committee on credentials reported the following:

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention:

GENTLEMEN:—The committee appointed on credentials beg leave to report that they have discharged the duty assigned them, and report the following persons as being duly accredited and entitled to seats in said convention.

Hosea Stout, Chairman.

Erastus Snow, Delegate at large.

Amos Davis, Springdale.

Oliver de Mill, Shuburg.

Zemira Draper, Rockville.

A. P. Winsor and Miles Romney, Grafton.

Wm. Theobald, Duncan's Retreat.

A. J. Workman, Virgin City.
J. T. Willis and John Nebeker, Toquerville.
James Lewis, Harrisburg.
R. D. Covington, Henry Harriman, R. L. Lloyd, Jas. Richey and Peter Nelson, Washington.

Wm. Fawcett, J. W. Crosby, D. D. McArthur, E. M. Saunders, W. E. H. Stout, Robt. Gardner and Wm. Carter, St. George.

Wm. Crosby and Jacob Hamblin, Santa Clara. The report was accepted.

The committee on permanent organization reported the following:

The committee respectfully recommend that one President, one Secretary, one Assistant Secretary, one Reporter, one Chaplain and one Doorkeeper be elected as a permanent organization for this convention.

D. D. McArthur, Chairman.

After accepting the report,

John Nebeker was elected President.

Asa Calkin, Secretary.

Henry Eyring, Assistant-Secretary.

Geo. H. Bargon, Reporter.

Henry Lunt, Chaplain.

Taylor Bird, Doorkeeper.

Hosea Stout moved that a committee of two from Washington County and one from Kane County be appointed by the chairman to report to the convention at its next sitting a list of prices for our produce, and expressive of the sense of the convention, as to the proper course for us to pursue in developing the resources of this country. Carried.

The President appointed Messrs. Wm. Crosby, J. T. Willis and H. P. Winsor, said committee.

After various speeches from some of the Delegates, the Convention adjourned to Nov. 5th, 6 p.m., at the First Ward School House.

Nov. 5, 1864.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

The committee appointed to prepare a list of prices, made the following report, which was received, amended, adopted and ordered to be sent to the *DESERET NEWS*, for publication.

To the Chairman and Delegates of the Convention:

GENTLEMEN:—Your committee would respectfully submit to the consideration of the Convention the following:

Whereas, the people of Washington and Kane Counties, are limited by natural obstructions, to a small area of land for cultivation, and,

Whereas, our cotton crop, through the coldness of the spring and the ravages of worms and flies, has been materially lessened, so as to yield scarcely on an average 10 lbs. and ginned cotton scarce, and,

Whereas, other crops have produced but a limited remuneration to the husbandman, and,

Whereas, from the experience of our best informed cotton growers, it is clearly demonstrated that the cost of raising and getting ready for market one acre of cotton is equal to the cost of producing four acres of wheat, and,

Whereas, we have been obliged the past season to freight the major portion of our breadstuffs from the north at a great cost, reducing our available means, in the shape of wagons, oxen, horses, mules, cows, tools, clothing, etc., to an extent quite inconvenient to the prosperity of the mission, and,

Whereas, we are again obliged the present season to depend upon our northern brethren for a portion of the staff of life and owing to the still greater advance of northern products, we can ill afford to purchase our supplies without receiving an advanced price on our southern products.

Therefore, we would recommend to the consideration of the Convention the following list of prices, based upon the relative value of products as fixed by the General Convention, recently held in Great Salt Lake City, viz:—

Ginned Cotton, \$1.25 per lb. in gold or its equivalent.

Molasses, \$4 per gallon, " "

Tobacco, \$3 per lb. " "

Preserves, \$6 per gallon, " "

Resolved, that we recommend that one or more competent and trustworthy men be selected in each settlement to receive the products of this country from those in need of breadstuffs, exchange them and receive a reasonable remuneration for their labors.

Resolved, that we use all possible exertions to raise our bread, and employ the time that heretofore we have spent in the search of bread, more usefully and certainly more satisfactory to ourselves, to the upbuilding of this southern mission, and thereby enable us to raise more cotton hereafter, than we have been able to produce hitherto.

WM. CROSBY.
J. T. WILLIS.
A. P. WINSOR.

Upon motion of Mr. J. W. Crosby, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that under the advanced prices of spun cotton and cotton fabric, in the judgment of this Convention, one-third of the staple is an ample remuneration for spinning.

E. Snow offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, that we recommend that the men of means in each settlement of Washington and Kane counties form themselves into mutual relief associations to relieve by loans or otherwise those who can ill afford to hold on for convention prices.

Convention adjourned to meet at Toquerville, on the last Saturday in November, at 10 a. m.

Benediction by the Chaplain.

JOHN NEBEKER, Chairman.

A. CALKIN, Secretary.

QUICK TELEGRAPHING.—The Constitution of the State of Nevada was telegraphed to His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, last night, the operators, Messrs. Hodge and Ward, sending it from Carson to Salt Lake in the short space of twelve hours. There were seventeen thousand words, ten thousand of which were sent in six hours; which, when we consider that twenty hours for the whole would be accounted good time, is decidedly fast work. Mr. Hodge finished up this morning at half-past five. This is said to be the first instance in which such a document has been sent to the Department by telegraph.—[*Carson City Post*, Oct. 27.]

—It is becoming the custom in many localities through the West for newly married folks to send a year's subscription to newspaper publishers along with their marriage notice. This fashion will be followed by every couple that intends to commence the world aright.—[*Hawk Eye*.]