

THE LAST SENSATION.

The following extract from a letter received by one of our friends, describes the operation of a pneumatic tube between Glasgow and London. Probably few of our readers are aware of the existence of the process by which messages and packages are almost instantaneously transmitted between these two cities:

"I had occasion to send a telegram to London the other day, and in a few minutes received a reply, which led me to suppose that a serious error had been committed by my agents, involving many thousands of pounds. I immediately went to the telegraph office and asked to see my message. The clerk said, 'We can't show it to you, as we have sent it to London.' 'But,' I replied, 'you must have my original paper here; I wish to see that.' He again said, 'No we have not got it; it is in the post-office at London.' 'What do you mean?' I asked. 'Pray let me see the paper.' I left there half an hour ago. 'Well,' said he, 'if you must see it, we will get it back in a few minutes, but it is now in London.' He rang a bell, and in a few minutes or so produced my message, rolled up in pasteboard.

"It seems that for some months there has existed a pneumatic telegraph between Glasgow and London and between London and the other principal cities of the kingdom, which consists of an iron tube, into which the messages are thrown and sent to their destination. I inquired if I might see a message sent. 'Oh yes,' came round here. He slipped a number of messages into a pasteboard scroll, popped it into the tube and I heard a slight rumbling noise for several seconds, when a bell rang beside me, indicating that the scroll had arrived at the General Postoffice, four hundred miles off! It almost took my breath away to think of it. If I could only go to Boston with the same relative speed, you might calculate my passing an evening every week at 124 Beacon street, and returning home to sleep. Who knows but we may be conveyed in this marvelous manner before many years?

Perhaps you are aware that there has been a large tube between the General Post Office in London and the station in Foston Square in operation for a number of years. The mail bags from the north are all sent by this conveyance, so that the Post Office receives letters up to a few minutes before the train leaves, three miles off. The transit takes less than two seconds! Surely this is an age of wonders!"—Boston Transcript.

CHINESE AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

1. Rules for gathering seed amongst the standing grain.—Having selected the choice and bright heads of grain, pluck and suspend them in a dry place till the next seedling time, then shell and wash the seed; put it into water, when the heavy kernels will sink and the light will rise to the surface, and may be skimmed off and cast away.

2. In the twelfth month, place the seed in a large earthen vessel, fill it with pure water of melted snow, and cover the same with earth. When the seed has sprouted, sow broadcast of in drills; thus you will avoid the breeding of worms.

3. To determine whether the coming year will be good or bad, take one measure of seed in the beginning of winter season, and measure it carefully; then place it in an earthen vessel, and put it in a dark place and leave it for fifty days; then measure it again. If then it fills the measure fuller than before, the season will be bad.

4. Treatment of new land.—First, burn the grass, in order to destroy both the seeds and the roots of grass and weeds, plow, then sow to *sesamum* (an oily grain) for one year. This is for the purpose of destroying more thoroughly the roots of the wild grasses.

5. In the neighborhood of good flowers and good grain, *sesamum* must not be planted, for it will destroy their roots also. The process by which it does this is by the dew or rain falling upon it, running down the leaves and stalks, thus carrying a poison with it into the ground, to affect the roots of whatever plants it may come in contact with.

6. Seeds of flowers and fruits must, in like manner, be selected from the best trees and from those which bear the finest fruits and flowers, and which are free from all disease. Let these seeds be carefully cleansed, dried and stored in glass bottles, or secure vessels, and laid up high from the ground, in dry places, so as to avoid damp and mould. They should be accurately labeled and dated, so as to avoid the mixing of fruits and flowers, and also, so as to avoid the liability of planting of seed which is more than a year old.

7. In planting the seeds of flowers and fruits, let there be no fear of too high ground, nor a fear of too much hoeing and spading. But observe the reason for planting is prescribed in the approved treatises on the subject. In planting put the fruitstones into the ground the right side up. Some seed needs to be soaked before planting—some not. In sowing seed, observe that some, which are large, will bear a considerable depth of earth, while small seeds must not be buried deep. They may be covered with a mixture of ash and earth, so as to kill the worms. After the sprouts have appeared, some may be watered and some not; you must discriminate. If, after three or five days, they must be artificially watered—do it with discretion.—From the "Chinese as Agriculturists," in the Overland Monthly for June.

Five New York ladies are declared to have sailed for Paris, by the last steamer, to have their faces enameled.

The Wilmington (N.C.) Star is responsible for the statement that the names of three gentlemen entered in succession upon a hotel register in that city, on Tuesday, were Root, Hogg and Dye.

One of the letters written by defendant in an English breach of promise case, says: "If I was you, dearest, I would take that beastly flower out of your hair."

Weston walked one mile in nine minutes and thirty seconds, in Steinway Hall, New York, on a late occasion. Over one thousand persons witnessed the feat. Horace Greeley was time-keeper.

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