

DREADFUL SUFFERING ON THE PLAINS.—In a letter that was published in this paper last week, from Joseph Zumwalt, of California, it was stated that John Cameron, Gustavus Pearson, Fred. Kritzner, Sheldon Young, Wm. McGinnis and Mr. Wolfdiver, emigrants from this place, had probably stopped at Salt Lake, as they had not arrived. From Mr. Kritzner, by his wife, residing in this town, that some of the persons whose names are mentioned above, instead of being in comfortable quarters at Salt Lake, were lost upon the plains, where they suffered everything but death. Four of the lost company died, but the names of the unfortunate men who fell victims to starvation, are not given.

The company, it seems, left the Salt Lake for California, but lost their way and wandered southward. After wandering in that dreary region for months, struck the Pacific ocean 400 miles south of San Francisco. Mr. Kritzner's letter is dated the 27th of February, and was mailed at San Francisco, where he had just landed. He says that Messrs. McGinnis, Young and Wolfdiver had arrived safe with him. The following is an extract from his letter:

"We have had a severe time of it. Four months and two weeks we were lost in the wilderness—wandering around, and trying to find our way out. We travelled over roads where no white man had ever been before. We lost all we had—wagons horses, oxen, cows, and everything. Three months we had to live on our horses and oxen. We killed them, and eat them, intestines and all. Four of our company starved to death. We were six days without water. You cannot think how much we suffered. We all look like death, and are nothing but skin and bones." [Joliet Signal.

May Day.—Victoria added another prince to England.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

The Alta California has received information of a very decided character that preparations are being made to work the coal mines situated on the Pacific coast, a short distance above the Russian settlement of Sitka. It says.

A company has been organized for the purpose in the above possessions, and if the scheme succeeds we may expect to have constant and abundant supplies at low rates, furnished. This when accelerated by steam communication with the oriental world, and additional consumers on this coast, will be an advantage of considerable strength. The mines are easy of access from the seaboard.

COLD WATER SAFETY STEAM ENGINE.—The numerous explosions of steam boilers of late years, have put to work the ingenuity of mechanics and others, to invent a machine affording the same power as the steam engine, or to make such improvement in the application of steam as will render explosions less numerous. An invention has been made by a person in Virginia, and a model produced, that justifies the hopes of the inventor that his invention will meet with favor, and be brought into general use. This invention dispenses entirely with boilers. The steam is raised by means of a small jet of cold water injected upon a large plug of iron fixed in the furnace, and of sufficient bulk to retain the heat that might be dissipated. By a very simple, but perfect contrivance, this steam enters the cylinder and moves the pistons in a manner similar to a common engine. The amount of power is limited only by the strength of the materials. The inventor says it is infinitely less complex than the common engine, and it is believed that for a given amount of power, it can be more economically worked. But the great beauty is its immunity from accidents, it being utterly impossible for an explosion of any extent to occur, for the

simple reason that there is nothing in it larger than a cylinder to explode. The inventor has taken out a patent for the invention, and it is contemplated, this summer, to construct a boat and fit her up with one of the engines as an experiment. We wish the inventor success, if his invention is calculated to lessen explosion, and consequent diminution of loss of life and property.—Cin. Com.

DOG EXPRESS.—The Minnesota *Pioneer* gives the following account of a "dog train" which recently arrived at St. Paul, from the extreme North-west:

"The Train arrived on Monday last, with a heavy mail from Pembina and the Selkirk settlement, distance five hundred miles. Snows are reported very deep in the North. The three dogs were very much fatigued at the end of their journey, having made fifty miles a day some days; after being fed, they laid down in their harness and slept several hours, but moving their feet, while sleeping on their sides, as if they were still traveling. Their sledge is a light board, with sides to it, of green hide, making a sort of open shoe, with a prow turned up in front, skate fashion. The sledge contained the mail and provisions for the dogs and two men, pemican, &c., there being no dwelling for several hundred miles.—One of the men, half breeds, travelled ahead of the dogs, and the other, with a stick to drive them, and a rope to hold back the sledge, when descending a hill, came behind. The dogs are sharp eared, a little above the medium size, and looked much like wolves. We have been thus particular in describing this travelling equipage, knowing that it will seem novel to our readers in the States."

A machine has been invented in North Adams, Mass., to sew a firm stitch with two threads at the rate of a yard a minute.