

AN UNNOTICED GOLDEN TIDE.

In the returns which will be made to the United States Treasury of the imports pouring in at this port during the past year, one most lucrative portion will be entirely omitted. A golden tide flows into this harbor, which is estimated by no bureau of statistics, and whose product appears in no reports of the Board of Trade. On Sunday last, as we were the first to inform the public, ten thousand emigrants landed at the Castle Garden depot.

It would be interesting to estimate what was the value of that single importation. Careful investigation, in former years, shows that each immigrant will bring on an average cash and outfit capital with him of \$150 to each person. Here, accordingly, is an unnoticed import of a million and a half of dollars in a day. But this is only a small portion of the import. What is the immigrant himself worth in the market?

The average value of a good field-hand in the South, before the war, was reckoned at \$1,200, and over. A good cook was worth more, and a seamstress was sometimes valued as high as \$2,000. White labor—considered more economically—must be worth much more. One of the former Commissioners of Emigration—Mr. F. Knapp, a well-known historical investigator—has estimated the value of each immigrant from the cost of raising him, which, from various data, he put at \$1,500 for the males and \$750 for the females, or an average of \$1,125 for each.

Another writer on this subject, however, has demonstrated that another element in the value of a human being, besides the expense of bringing him up, is the demand for him; so that, of course, the unskilled, and feeble, and vicious, and minor immigrants must be estimated at less than the skilled, able-bodied, and virtuous. It happens, however, that only about five per cent. of the present importation are vicious or helpless, and only twenty-two per cent. are under fifteen years of age, while fifteen per cent. belong to a class of much more productive value than the common laborer; so that we may safely reckon the whole as worth the cost of raising them—or as much as common laborers cost here to be brought up and educated. Moreover, the labor of nearly all is in demand in this country, so that we may safely estimate from this basis each immigrant as worth at least \$1,100.

Another mode of estimating the laborer's value to the country would be by deducting his expenses and wages—if on a farm—from the value of his labor. A farm laborer now, we suppose, costs at least \$300 per annum for wages, and \$200 for "keep," or say \$500. The value of his labor would be generally estimated at \$275 to \$590, leaving a clear profit to the farmer on each hand of of fifteen to eighteen per cent. This profit is the immigrant's pecuniary annual value to the country, which at seven per cent interest, would represent some \$1,100 to \$1,200 capital. There will then be no exaggeration in estimating each of the ten thousand emigrants who landed here on Sunday last as worth some \$1,200 to the country. There is then an additional import of \$12,000,000 of capital, which no statistician or custom-house officer observes.

Over thirteen and a half millions of dollars are poured into this port in a single day, and then flow over the country in fertilizing rills. It is a silent enriching, golden tide. It is a capital, too, which is continually reproducing itself. The whole west is being opened and cultivated through it and its increase. Now, the imports, of goods, we all see, should be under the control and government of the United States officials. How much more should this human importation? It no more belongs to New York State than to Illinois. It is an interest of the whole country. The charge of emigration, of the ships, of the landing and care of emigrants, of their reasonable protection, ought to be a matter of Federal concern, not State police. The tax on emigrants now paid by the shipmasters, should be a United States tax. New York has no more claim on these hundreds of thousands of dollars than has the great West.

Under the Government, we should have an honest, faithful, and efficient management of this great interest. At present the Bureau of Emigration in New York seems to be run for the benefit of the Tammany Ring and the Roman Catholic Church. With the exception of Mr. Wallach and one or two others, no one ever heard of the present commissioners. And yet they are

to disburse some two hundred thousand dollars, and take charge of the interests of tens of thousands of poor foreigners. We trust Congress, in another session, will take the whole matter into its own hands.—*New York Times.*

The American Voice.

We hear a great deal about it, as well as a great deal from it. Foreigners who come here have a great deal to say about its peculiarity. We ourselves, when we go into other countries, find that no people speak as we speak. When we come home, we are shocked at our instinctive dislike of our countryman's tone. We feel as if universal catarrh had seized the nation; everybody sounds as if he were haunted by an uncanny demon of a steam engine, and were trying to out-scream it; and we too begin to bemoan ourselves over the "American voice." But there is no such thing as the American voice. People may talk as much and as learnedly as they please and can, about thinness of our air, its stimulating quality, the prevalence of disorders of the mucous membrane of American heads and noses, and so on. This is all nonsense. It is only the American habit of speaking which is at fault. It is our national misuse of organs which are just as good as any other organs of speech.

Three facts, open to everyone's observation, prove this. First, all little children, first beginning to speak, speak in low, sweet voices. No observant person familiar with children can fail to find this out. Secondly, a large proportion of the Americans who spend a year or two in Europe return with the fixed habit of speaking on a much lower key than they used before. Thirdly, there are some of our countrywomen and a few of our countrymen who, without ever having been abroad, and without any other training than that resulting of necessity from a fastidious, sensitive, impressionable nature, born to culture and breeding, do habitually speak in a low and well-modulated voice, with articulations which are a pleasure and not a perplexity to hear.

But the fact still remains, glaring, indisputable, mortifying, that the average American has a voice and intonation which torture sensitive ears, which identify him instantly and unmistakably in any quarter of the globe, and which go very far, much farther than his self-esteem lets him suspect, to stamp him as a barbarian in the eyes of refined and courteous people of all nations. "I heard American voices in this room, and came to see if you were here," said a kindly English woman to us once, in a room of the Vatican, little dreaming of the stab concealed under her cordial words. In fact, it was probably so fixed a point of distinction and recognition in her mind, that she had no consciousness of having said an unpleasant thing. There is no reason, not the least reason, why in a single generation, this national fault should not be cured. If people would only take half the pains to teach their children to speak in proper and pleasing tone of voice that they do to teach them to speak in correct language, it would be accomplished. For all the forces of nature are arrayed on the side of the low and gentle tone. It is positively a wonder that so sweet an instrument as the human voice can be in so many instances made harsh and dissonant. But nature does not recognize grammar. Screeching outrages her. Talking through the nose is an impudent violation of her plain intent, but double negatives do not offend her, and of nominative cases she takes small heed.

There are some things, many things, which we cannot have in America; not yet, at any rate. We have not leisure, and our roots have not struck deep enough; but low, gentle, pleasing tones we can have. We come of the stock which has the lowest tones and sweetest voices in the world. We breathe better air than we left behind. Let us put it to a better use, and remove from us this unnecessary but too well justified reproach as to our speech.—*Hearth and Home.*

Oregon.

CLIMATE.—The mean temperature at Astoria is 43° in January and 61° in July; figures that compare very favorably with 31° and 73° in New York, and 37° and 62° in London. Astoria, is, therefore, twelve degrees warmer in midwinter, and twelve degrees cooler in midsummer, than New York; and six

degrees warmer in winter, and one degree cooler in summer, than London. At Port Orford, in latitude 42° 44 min., January has a mean of 48°, and July, 61°. As we go inland, the heat of summer and the cold of winter increase. Thus, at Portland we have 39° and 72°, and at Fort Lane 40° and 66°, as the respective means of January and July. Portland and Fort Lane are nearly in the respective latitudes of Astoria and Port Orford, and about eighty miles farther inland, so the differences in temperature are chargeable mainly to their inland situation, sheltered by the Coast Range. Eastern Oregon generally has a dry year, a hot summer, and a cold winter.

THE COLUMBIA.—The Columbia is one of the great rivers of the world—great in length and width, great in a thousand miles of channel navigable for steamboats, great in possessing a basin with an area of 300,000 square miles, great by its favorable situation in the midst of a rich country and on a line suitable to accommodate an extensive commerce, and great in scenery which for a certain kind of magnificence, is unsurpassed.

The Willamette Valley lies between the Cascade and Coast ranges, is 200 miles long by 40 wide, with a fertile soil, moist climate, and abundant vegetation.

PUBLIC LAND.—The Federal Government owns little fertile land now convenient of access west of the Cascade Range, and the settler must expect to pay something more than \$125 per acre for desirable farm land, even if entirely unimproved. In the Willamette Valley prices range for improved farms from \$5 to \$40 per acre. Many of the people are ready to sell, and those who have the cash to spare can find great bargains. In eastern Oregon, large areas of excellent land can be purchased at the government minimum price of \$125 per acre.—*The West.*

Investigation of Hydrophobia in Russia.

It is claimed that some important discoveries respecting the nature of hydrophobia have been made lately in Russia, and one of the papers contributed to the archives of judicial medicine is devoted to this subject. In this communication it is stated that since the Professor of Pathological Anatomy, M. Kudnow, undertook his lectures on the pathological anatomy of animals, for veterinary students, he has given particular attention to the subject of canine madness, so many cases of which come within the scope of judicial veterinary practice, while hitherto so few firm bases for a satisfactory diagnosis of the disease have been obtained by opening the animals. Being convinced that sure results could only be arrived at by means of the microscope, M. Kudnow continued his researches, and with the aid of that instrument made the discovery which is now announced, namely, that the main cause of rabies is the anatomical alteration of the kidneys through their parenchymatous inflammation. This, he says, differs from other forms of inflammation, in that the whole epithelium of the kidneys is diseased at the same time, and that it easily degenerates, while the lobes of the kidneys fill at the same time with a fatty substance by which the uniformly fatal issue of hydrophobia is brought about.

England's New Colonization.

England is steadily advancing in her occupation of the Atlantic coast of Africa. In February, at the Hague, was duly ratified a convention by which the Dutch settlements on the coast of Guinea were transferred to England, and on the 6th of April, at the castle of Elmina, Mr. Pope Hennessy, Governor of the West African settlement of Africa, formally took possession of the transferred territory, receiving from the Dutch Governor, as token of authority, an ancient ivory and gold baton, which had belonged to Michael Adrian de Ruyter, the famous Dutch admiral whose flag swept the seas in the time of Charles II., and who, at one time, sailed up the Thames nearly to London bridge, and threatened to bombard the defenceless city. The seat of government is to be transferred from Cape Coast Castle to the town of Elmina, which has a fine harbor and good landing-place, abundance of fresh water, broad streets, well-constructed roads, massive stone houses two or three stories high; and besides the fort and castle of St. George d'Elmina, the strong fortress of St. Iago. The Dutch have parted with this settlement for

money after occupying it for two hundred and thirty-five years. There is a native King of Elmina, with several chiefs under him. At the transfer his sable Majesty was present, but, of course, they did not mind him.

The Dutch government has pensioned off its officials at Elmina, and the Dutch inhabitants are to enjoy equal civil rights with all British subjects. A new tariff is to come into operation on the Guinea coast, and instead of there being a tax upon every imported article (which was the Dutch way of meeting expenses), only spirits, tobacco, and gunpowder will be taxed. It is expected that, ere long, England will build up in West Africa a colony scarcely less important than that of the Cape, in the southern extremity of the great continent, of which, through all the centuries, so little yet is known.—*Philadelphia Press.*

London Fire Brigade.

The London Fire Brigade consists of 55 stations, 93 escape stations, 51 telegraph lines, 104 fire escapes, 25 steamers, 83 hand engines, 387 firemen. There are also three river engines which lie in the river with the steam always up. The brigade is under the command of Captain Shaw, whose system and general management are highly praised by the London press. Before joining the brigade each man is sent to a training station to test his fitness for the post. Should the aspirant pass successfully through this preliminary ordeal, he is carefully instructed in everything connected with his new profession, nor is he allowed to act as a fireman until he really is one. Most of the men, belonging to the brigade, as well as their families, when they are married, are lodged for a nominal rent in the stations. On entering the service the pay is a little less than \$5 a week. Every man is personally known to Captain Shaw, and promotion, which, of course, involves increase of pay, is by merit alone. Whenever a man is ill, he receives full pay until he recovers, unless he has at the commencement of his illness concealed it. No one is entitled to a retiring pension, but any one who deserves it is aware that it will be granted to him.—*Ex.*

A BACKBONE ENGLISHMAN talks to the *New York Herald* in the following spunky style—

As I am a regular reader of your worthy paper I hope you will excuse the liberty I am about to take in asking you a simple question. Some few months ago, when the Alabama claims were in the height of discussion, you published a number of letters from different parties, who were all going to force that powerful little speck called "Great Britain" to pay all that they demanded, or if she would not they were going to land in Ireland, and invade England, &c. Now, the question I am about to ask you is, now that England has determined not to pay the indirect damages, "Where are all these fellows with their gas; why do they not force her to?" My opinion of the subject is that America dare not go to war with England; for if she did she would make a greater mistake than when she fought the South. Besides England's navy is far too strong for any single Power in the world to cope with. You Americans must not think because the "Lion" has laid dormant that he has forgotten his old game at war; for if you do and arouse his ire you will be sadly mistaken, to your disadvantage. Any sensible man will own that England is still the leading Power of the world. She is the great pawnbroker of the world, and, as you have recently been shown, your statesmen cannot for an instant cope with the English; for Granville was the teacher and Fish the schoolboy. In conclusion I will say that England will do what is right and fair, and that only; but what is not correct you Americans or the whole world could not force her to do. By inserting this in your valuable paper you will greatly oblige yours, truly, —AN ENGLISHMAN TO THE BACKBONE.

Next to the Bolshoi Theatre, St. Petersburg, which seats 5,000 persons, the New York Academy of Music is the largest structure of the kind. That seats 4,790. The La Scala at Milan seats 4,000; the San Carlo at Naples, 3,600; Drury Lane, London, 3,500; Academy of Music, Philadelphia, 2,850; the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, 2,200; the Academy of Music, Paris, 1,950; La Venise, Venice, 2,000, the Opera Comique, Paris, 1,500, and Salt Lake Theatre 1,800.