

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Tuesday, January 28, 1873.

THE SEASON.

The winter commenced with unwonted sharpness, but the severity was brief, it soon tapered off to a comfortable temperature, which was maintained with several moderate variations until a few days ago, when the longest storm of the season set in, not very terrible down here in the valley, but heavy enough over the mountains. The cessation of the storm yesterday introduced what is generally regarded as the coldest night of the winter. It was piercing when we consider that we have been lately enjoying the sight of the mercury up to 50 in the day. At ten o'clock last evening the mercury stood at 10 above zero, and we are informed that at two this morning it descended to the classic region of 10 below, which is quite low enough for the present. The covering of snow which the naked earth has now received is a positive benefit and such also the increased cold may be. A few sleigh bells were heard in the afternoon and evening, but unless bull teams are made available there is no likelihood of any great multiplication of the melodious jingle at present, be the snow as deep and the frost as biting as they may.

THE MOST SCIENTIFIC WOMAN.

The *Popular Science Monthly* says but one answer can be given to the question, "Who is the most scientific woman that has appeared?" and that answer would be, "Mary Somerville," a woman of remarkable capacity and prolonged mental vigor. She was born at Jedburgh, Scotland, in 1780, and was the daughter of Vice Admiral Sir William Fairfax. One authority says her first husband was William Gray, Esq., and another Captain Greig, of the Russian navy. Her second husband was William Somerville, M. D. She received her elementary instruction in the mathematical and physical sciences from her first husband. She became known to the public by a paper, published in the "Philosophical Transactions," in 1828, describing her experiments on the magnetizing power of the sun's refrangible solar rays. Her first published book was a summary of the *Mechanics of Laplace*, under the title of the "Mechanism of the Heavens," written, at the suggestion of Lord Brougham, for the "Library of Useful Knowledge." Her work, "On the Connection of the Physical Sciences," followed, and afterward her "Physical Geography," subsequently thoroughly revised. Her last work was on "Molecular and Microscopic Science," published when she was nearly ninety years of age. It was received with great interest by the scientific world.

Mrs. Somerville died at Naples, last November 28. She was made an honorary fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and received a gold medal from the Royal Geographical Society. Her bust was placed in the library of the Royal Society. She kept up correspondence with leading mathematicians and physicists until within a few weeks of her death. Painting, music, lace-work and other light accomplishments were not neglected by her. As a reward for her literary services she was awarded a pension of £300 a year from the British civil list.

With remarkable capacity, Mrs. Somerville combined uncommon industry. She was not considered a great discoverer in science, nor a setter forth of novel and original truths, but with extraordinary mathematical power and grasp of thought, much clearness and precision of statement, though occasionally betraying a lack of sequence and a looseness of logic, she interpreted and expounded, in a popular form, what the great masters of scientific truth had brought to light.

STEAM CULTIVATION.

The cultivation of the land by the aid of steam has made much progress of late years. Mr. John Fowler, of Essex, England, started his first steam plow in 1855. At the present time from 400 to 500 sets of steam plows, owned by individuals or by contract, are profitably worked for hire in Great Britain. A five hundred acre patch of stiff clay near London, that could not be rented at 25 an acre, was bought by an enterprising farmer, of course at a comparatively low price. He went energetically and intelligently to work, removed fences, underdrained, steam-plowed, and put the whole into grain crops. Allowing ten per cent. on the money invested, his clear profits last year were \$18,000. Another tract of 5,000 acres, considered worthless, was purchased by a far-seeing farmer, and steam-ploughed to a depth of three feet. This enterprise was rewarded by astonishing crops.

In England, Scotland, and Germany steam-power is working a revolution in agriculture. Individual farmers invest \$6,000 to \$10,000 in steam machinery and find it very profitable. Joint stock companies invest in land and steam machinery and reap large dividends. The most extensive farmer in the world, the Pasha of Egypt, employs 400 steam plows. He is building 400 miles of railway on his farm and he has ordered 30 locomotives, engines and \$3,000,000 worth of sugar machinery.

In our Southern States steam-plowing has proved a success. Mr. Lawrence, of Magnolia Plantation, Plaquemine parish, Louisiana, says that with steam cultivation he has produced over 2,500 pounds of sugar to the acre.

plowing done by steam is almost exclusively accomplished by a single engine standing at one side of the field, or by a pair of engines, one standing on one side of the field and the other on the other side, and dragging the set of three or four plows or a cultivator, one or more drums. So far, these two methods, both similar in principle, are the only widely demonstrated successful methods of applying steam to the cultivation of the earth.

Whether or not those methods would be sufficiently successful to render their adoption here advisable, is a matter for the consideration of our farming fraternity. But judging by what we learn of the perfect success of cultivation by steam elsewhere and its consequent multiplying use, one would be ready to conclude that it would be successful here. Few of the farmers in the Territory would be able to purchase and keep for their own use steam-plowing apparatus, but by co-operative effort a settlement might own one, or an individual or company might purchase one and keep it for hire by others, as threshing-machines are now kept.

In these western regions, labor and fuel are comparatively high, but perhaps they are held at lower rates than in any other of the Territories. The price of farm produce too is not high. These high figures might be counterbalanced by the fact that farm land is held at lower figures here than in European countries where steam cultivation has proved a decided success.

POSTMASTERS AND MAILS.

The following which we find in an exchange, will be read with interest by the public:

"The United States Attorney General has given his opinion to the Postmaster General in regard to Postmasters opening and examining mail matter with the view of preventing the transmission of obscene or indecent publications. He says the Postmasters have the right to open any letter or mail package, even though there may be good reasons for believing that they contain an indecent publication, unless said letter or package is put up in such a manner that the Postmaster can see that the contents are of an obscene character, in which case the package may be opened and the contents, if such, detained; but in all other cases mail packages must be held sacred."

Without intending any reference to the special circumstances which elicited the above opinion, we may say that many complaints have been made and published concerning the condition of the mail service in various portions of, or connected with, this Territory, some of the complaints, it may reasonably be presumed, having three foundations, at least, in unpleasant fact. Per contra, we have one statement to make, which it is a pleasure to hear and to be able to publish. We heard a gentleman say that, during a two years' visit to Europe, ending a year and a half ago, all letters and papers, not less than one weekly each way, passing between him and his family in this city, reached their proper respective destination, without a single exception. Not one was lost either way. This security in six thousand miles transit across continent and ocean and this certainty of delivery are highly creditable to the postal authorities of the two countries. Praise where praise is due.

BY TELEGRAPH.
LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES.

WESTERN.

LOS ANGELES, CAL. 27.—A heavy storm this morning reached this city this afternoon, and is still blowing hard from the north.

Mr. Shrewsbury, supposed to have been fatally injured by being run over by a wagon at Wilmington, is slowly recovering.

The residence of the Rev. Atherton Edwards was burned on Wednesday morning last. The building and all the furniture was destroyed. No insurance.

Latest from the Wallapai District, Arizona, says Colonel Baker's furnace at Mineral Park are in full blast and work well. The Elder and Cover furnaces have not succeeded in smelting ore. A considerable depth has been reached and several of the richest ledges, among them the Apar, Fairfield, and Lone Star.

TO-DAY'S DISPATCHES.
WESTERN.

SAN FRANCISCO, 28.—The board of supervisors will not permit the building of the Hercules powder works on the old site, five miles from the city.

The material for the construction of a gas metre will be shipped for Portland, today.

The Bay City Sugar Refining Company has increased its capital to \$500,000.

SANTA CRUZ, 28.—A nearly successful attempt to burn the town was made last evening. In an empty building on Anthony's Block the plaster and lathe had been removed from a portion of the lower room, and the place saturated with inflammable matter and set on fire. The fire was discovered, however, before serious damage was done.

YREKA, CAL. 28.—From a letter received this morning by Dr. Beane, from the surgeon in the field on Lost River, we learn that on the morning of the 25th the Modocs attacked Col. Leonard's camp, on the south-east corner of Tul Lake. They were repulsed with the loss of one killed and three wounded and their horses captured. No casualties on the part of the troops.

SPAIN, 28.—Ramon Mota, the Frenchman who was stabbed by one of his countrymen on Sunday night, is very low, and the hospital surgeon says he cannot recover.

Thomas Gibson, who was arrested and convicted for beating and grossly abusing his daughters, was sentenced by the court to ten days to 90 days imprisonment in the county jail and fined \$300, with the alternative of 120 days in jail. As Gibson is wealthy he will probably pay the fine. The daughters were kept in a high school.

This is the second time they have been obliged to procure the arrest of their unnatural father.

Says the Times of New Orleans: "When a flock of vultures wish to devour the Louisiana pelican they commence proceedings by calling their bill in the Circuit Court."

Correspondence.

BEAR RIVER CITY, JAN. 24, 1873.

Editor Deseret News.

Dear Sir:—The people here are mostly from Scandinavia, and are a peaceable and quiet community, as is characteristic of those nations. They are also very religious and enjoying the spirit of the Lord.

We have had frequent visits of home missionaries from the neighboring settlements this winter, and last Monday, Jan. 10th, we had two meetings, which were largely attended by the people, and addressed by Elders J. S. Brown from Salt Lake City, D. J. Smith and T. Larsen, of Logan, Cache Valley; and H. P. Jensen and A. Christensen of Brigham City. Both the Danish and English languages were used; good instruction was given and an excellent feeling existed.

We have a large day and Sunday School here, which compares to the satisfactory to all concerned.

Yours, &c.,
N. P. RASMUSSEN.

MINING STOCKS.

STOCK BOARD.

San Francisco, Jan. 27.

50 Valley, 104; 105; 106; 107; 108; 109; 110; 111; 112; 113; 114; 115; 116; 117; 118; 119; 120; 121; 122; 123; 124; 125; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 132; 133; 134; 135; 136; 137; 138; 139; 140; 141; 142; 143; 144; 145; 146; 147; 148; 149; 150; 151; 152; 153; 154; 155; 156; 157; 158; 159; 160; 161; 162; 163; 164; 165; 166; 167; 168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173; 174; 175; 176; 177; 178; 179; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 186; 187; 188; 189; 190; 191; 192; 193; 194; 195; 196; 197; 198; 199; 200; 201; 202; 203; 204; 205; 206; 207; 208; 209; 210; 211; 212; 213; 214; 215; 216; 217; 218; 219; 220; 221; 222; 223; 224; 225; 226; 227; 228; 229; 230; 231; 232; 233; 234; 235; 236; 237; 238; 239; 240; 241; 242; 243; 244; 245; 246; 247; 248; 249; 250; 251; 252; 253; 254; 255; 256; 257; 258; 259; 260; 261; 262; 263; 264; 265; 266; 267; 268; 269; 270; 271; 272; 273; 274; 275; 276; 277; 278; 279; 280; 281; 282; 283; 284; 285; 286; 287; 288; 289; 290; 291; 292; 293; 294; 295; 296; 297; 298; 299; 300; 301; 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