

the canyon mountains alone its gorgeous frame, the saline crystals of the margins glistening like a rich edging, in which the dwellers in the ambient air might admire their beauty, and trace their swift or soaring flight. The island appeared in the briny element like a bold headland in the mighty ocean, reminding one of the scenes familiar to those who leaving their native land, are about to live on the sea, the sea, the open sea; but in the distance it displayed a softness on the sky, like the touch of a master painter's hand. The scene was so charming and unexpected that some questioned the fairy-like view for an optical illusion of nature, seen as a perfect mirage. After a friendly discussion, and a few pleasant jokes, they concluded that it was the solid island in the real lake, which was corroborated by the testimony of the workman who saw it every day in passing.

On the return to the carriages, the keen appetites of the hungry pedestrians were soon satisfied, after they squatted down to a plentiful repast, spread on the white damask laid on the rugged ground. A pleasant drive of a few hours brought the party again to the 'old folks at home,' and they felt invigorated to resume the usual duties of life.

W. G. MILLS.

### By Atlantic Telegraph.

VALENTIA, Tuesday Morning, }  
August 10, 10 o'clock. }

It is with no small delight that I communicate to you the important fact that the first message passed through the cable at eleven o'clock last night. The electrician was delighted and surprised by the indication of words, instead of previous ship signals.

The instruments at New Foundland are now adjusted, and the intercommunication, though slow, is satisfactory.

The cable will not be open for public purposes for a fortnight or more.

VALENTIA, 5 P. M.

New Foundland has commenced the use and adjustment of their special instruments for speaking. Last night, at 4.15 p. m., we received coil currents from them at the rate of 40 per min. perfectly. They are now sending the usual letters for adjustment of instruments, and we have received from them the words, 'Repeat please,' and 'Please send slower for present,' spelt in full. They have also sent the signals for repeat frequently, proving that the receiving instruments are not yet adjusted with sufficient accuracy for them to get distinctly.

### Official.

HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY, }  
WEST POINT, N. Y., Aug. 10. }

General Orders, No. 19.—The General-in-Chief learning of the arrival of the troops under Brevet Brigadier General Johnston at their destination in the Salt Lake country, after their detention in the valley of Green River during the last winter, takes occasion to commend them in General Orders—as he has already done through their commander—for their exemplary conduct under the trying circumstances in which they have been placed.

Detained, after a long and wearisome march of over a thousand miles, by causes over which their commander had no control, in a most barren and inhospitable region; subjected by the rigors of the season, which destroyed or paralyzed their draught animals—to toils of no ordinary nature; and, on account of the destruction of a part of their supplies, obliged to labor with insufficient clothing; indifferent, and often restricted, rations of food—this fine body of men, instead of giving way to insubordination, irregularities, or murmurs even, went on improving in discipline and instruction, and discharging their accumulating duties with the utmost alacrity and cheerfulness; and, at the order of their commander, not showing the inhabitants of Salt Lake Valley, as they passed through their settlements, either by act, word, or gesture, that they had recently stood towards them in a hostile attitude.

The march—in the depths of winter—of Lieut.-Colonel (now Colonel) P. St. George Cook, commanding the 2d Dragoons, from Fort Laramie, through the South Pass to Green River; and that of Captain R. B. Marcy, 5th Infantry, from Camp Scott, over the mountains to New Mexico, deserve, as they have already received, special commendation.

Brevet Brigadier-General Johnston has had the honor to be supported by officers of great intelligence, zeal, and experience. Yet it is not to be doubted that to his own high soldierly qualities, untiring exertions, tact, and sound judgment, the credit for the condition and high tone of his army is pre-eminently due.

By command of Brevet Lieutenant-General Scott.  
IRVIN McDOWELL,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[A copy of General Orders No. 18 has not been received at this office.]

THE CROPS IN TEXAS.—G. W. Kendall writes to the New Orleans Picayune the following statement regarding the corn and Chinese sugar-cane crops in Texas:

There is to be no want of corn in Western Texas for every field which escaped the ravages of the grasshoppers is yielding abundantly, and many localities escaped these pests entirely. The crop of Chinese sugar-cane, which laughs at grasshoppers and droughts, is at the same time immense, and the first heads of ripe seeds are already gathered. Some of my neighbors are having it ground, and are making bread of it, speaking of it in commendable terms, while everywhere they are preparing to grind the stalks and convert the

juice into syrup or molasses. That this is to be a valuable addition to our crops in this section there can be no doubt: it stands a drought better than any other plant—is no more affected by dry weather than is a salamander by fire. The grain makes a good article of bread—so many say; the leaves make an excellent fodder; while the stalks can be converted into molasses, and perhaps sugar—nothing is lost. I have often heard it stated that the grain is hurtful to horses, and this may be so; yet if any one has any of it to spare, I am willing to feed it out to my work animals as an experiment, and will run all risks of its injuring them. In fact, I fed out no inconsiderable quantity of it last year, and would have used it more freely had I had it to spare. A bushel of it weighs some 48 pounds less than a bushel of corn. We have not as yet learned all its uses.

HARD TIMES IN KANSAS.—The Herald of Freedom, published at Lawrence, Kansas, says:—

Men in the East having money to invest in Western property, should send it to Kansas, and invest it now, during the present ruinous times, when men would almost sell their hopes of immortality for a few dollars to enable them to realize means to pay their debts, and thus preserve their earthly honor. Unless a change for the better comes over the country by autumn, it will become necessary for the Legislature to take action on the subject, and suspend the laws for the collection of debts until the times get easier. From all parts of the Territory we hear complaints of the stringency of the times, hence it is evident it is not limited to this locality alone.

THE HOG CHOLERA IN GIBSON, INDIANA.—The Princeton Clarion continues to describe the ravages of the disease as unabated, in that section of country, cutting down big and little, fat and lean, with but few premonitory symptoms. It says:

"The heaviest hog raisers have lost from three-fourths to four-fifths of their stock. We hear of a few cases where recovery is expected of the remnant of a drove infected, but left in a condition not very flattering for the making of pork this season. Every public road seems to be strewn with the stench from the rotten carcasses left to moulder and decay near them; and some of the branches are running with the greasy water where the carcasses have been thrown in, as a convenient place to get rid of them.

LOCK AT THE FIGURES.—The New York Times publishes the following table of annual national expenditure:—

1849—General Taylor.....	\$46,798,667 82
1850—Fillmore.....	42,506,892 82
1851—Fillmore.....	40,504,422 12
1852—Fillmore.....	36,552,080 37
1853—Pierce.....	43,544,202 82
1854—Pierce.....	51,018,249 60
1855—Pierce.....	56,365,393 00
1856—Pierce.....	60,172,401 64
1857—Buchanan.....	64,878,828 85
1858—Buchanan.....	81,000,000 00

MEXICO.—The London times reviews editorially the lamentable condition of Mexico, and concludes as follows:—

It seems there is nothing left for the United States but to consummate the work they have begun, and annex the land of Montezuma and Cortes, which, even under the lash of the slave driver, will not regret the illusion of the liberty of the Mexican republic.

HOG CHOLERA.—The Claboma (Miss.) Citizen says, the hog cholera is making sad havoc among the hogs in this country. Dr. A. Whitaker had 147 in a pen, and all but 30 died in a few days. Dr. B. L. Rovell has lost a great portion of his, and Finia Shelby has lost about 80. The disease is general throughout the country.

EATING DISEASED BEEF.—It is stated that one or two deaths have occurred in two families in Pierce county, Ga., from eating the meat and milk of cattle afflicted with the murrain or black tongue—and that several other members of the same families are sick and likely to die from the same cause.

IT IS NOT HIGH CRIMES, such as robberies and murder, which destroy the peace of society, so much as the village gossip, family quarrels, jealousies and bickerings, between neighbors—meddlesomeness and tattling, which are the canker that eats into all social happiness.

An attempt to sink an Artesian well at Columbus, Ohio, has developed a fact in Geology which is new to the devotees of that science. The well has already reached the depth of 1,708 feet, more than one thousand feet of which are through solid limestone.

The 30,000 plates which form the hull of the Great Eastern are bound together by 3,000,000 rivets. These bolts hold together the framework of a structure which would carry 10,000 troops to India, with 18,000 tons of coal and cargo.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Queen Victoria and Prince Albert embarked at Gravesend on the 10th of August, to visit their daughter, the Princess Frederick William.

THE YELLOW FEVER.—New Orleans, Aug. 17.—The deaths from yellow fever last week were 285. Yesterday they were 58.

WHAT is better than presence of mind in a railroad accident? Absence of body.

### Trial of Breech Loading Carbines.

The following is an extract from the report of the Board convened at West Point, July 12, for the trial of breech-loading carbines:

By act of Congress under which the Board was appointed, and which provides for the purchase of breech-loading arms of the best model, to be selected and approved by a board of ordnance officers, the board understand that they are not only to select the best one of the arms presented to them, but they are to express an opinion as to the fitness of the arm thus selected for the use of the military service.

Having made a careful examination and trial of the several models presented to them, so far as this can be done without actual service in the field, the Board are led to the conclusion that none of these are free from serious defects which would render them unsuitable for use when subjected to the ordinary accidents and exposure of military service.

The Board do not feel themselves called upon to express the reasons for this opinion with reference to each of the arms.

Nearly all of them possess essential qualities of precision of firing at as great a range as can be required of such arms; but none of them combine with this quality the requisite strength and solidity, simplicity of construction, certainty of action of the moveable parts, convenience of use, ease of loading and security from accidental derangement, which a military arm should possess; and the Board are consequently unable to give any of these arms an unqualified approval.

Being required, however, by the terms of law, to select the 'best model' of breech-loading arms, the Board are of opinion that among the arms offered for their examination the Burnside carbine is the least objectionable for use in the hands of mounted troops.

The construction of this arm seems to be sufficiently strong; it can be easily and safely loaded and handled on horseback; the movements are simple and easily understood; there is no escape of gas from the joint; the chamber and barrel are kept clean and not subject to be clogged by fragments of the (metallic) cartridge case; its range and accuracy of fire are very satisfactory, with a moderate charge of powder, and no inconvenient recoil. It has been before stated that none of the arms submitted to the Board are free from serious objections. The principal defects observed in the trials of Burnside's gun are:

1st. If in hasty loadings a new cartridge is inserted without removing the case of the old one from the chamber, and the chamber is closed under these circumstances, the cartridge will be stuck fast in the chamber, and cannot be released without a blow on the end of the moveable cone seat, which closes the bottom of the chamber.

2d. When the arm is exposed to rust, the cone seat becomes fixed, and prevents the closing of the chamber.

The first of these difficulties may be avoided by practice and dexterity in the use of the arm. The second appears to be an inconvenience which is inseparable from the use of the machinery necessary for breech-loading, if the parts are made to fit together with the requisite accuracy.

The necessity of using a special and expensive metallic cartridge case is also an objection to the extensive use of this arm, the cost of the case alone being greater than the whole cost of a cartridge for the new United States rifle-musket. But, as the most successful contrivances for breech-loading which have been submitted to the Board involve the use of a metallic or India rubber cartridge case, the experiment of using such cases in the field may be worthy of a trial. The cost of these cases must be included in estimating that of the cartridges, as it is not to be supposed that they will be preserved in the field and returned to the arsenals. If any of these arms should be purchased for trial in the hands of the troops, which is the only efficient test of the fitness of any arm for service, the alterations of detail proposed by Mr. Jackson (see appendix N.) are recommended as improvements.

The Board are indebted to Col. Delafield, Superintendent, for the facilities given for making the trials, and to Capt. Benton, for assistance in determining initial velocities by the electro ballistic machine.

Respectfully submitted:  
A. MORDECAI, Major Ordnance,  
T. J. RODMAN, Capt. Ordnance,  
T. T. S. LAIDLEY, Brevt. Major,  
Capt. of Ordnance.

To Col. H. K. Craig, Ordnance Office.

THE TAX ON OFFICIALS.—We see it reported, we do not care upon what authority, that a tax is levied upon persons employed in the Government service and the payment thereof exacted. We are quite ignorant of the authority upon which this payment is demanded or to the purposes to which it is applied when received. We trust, however, that whatever may be thus collected may be wisely and economically applied to advance the interests of the Democratic party in its great struggle with the opposition. It is said that from one-quarter to one-half of one per cent on the salaries of officials is thus exacted.

Now, without knowing anything of the alleged tax, and with no belief in its existence as a general thing, we have just this to say on this subject. If there is a person in the public service who does not voluntarily contribute the amount, at least of two dollars and a half a year on each thousand dollars of his salary to support the cause of the democracy, he should be dismissed at once, and his place filled by one who is patriotic and liberal enough to double the contribution. We believe

the cause to justify its support, and those who refuse to aid in that patriotic work should be the last to complain if they are deprived of the special favors of those in power.

We would recommend no system of espionage, no mean efforts to hunt out the miserable scavengers who devote four or five hours of indolence at their desks, and the balance of time to assaults upon the democracy; but that forbearance which keeps them in office a moment after their treachery is known is sadly misplaced. It is a notorious fact, that more than half the patronage of this Government is bestowed upon such unworthy and untrustworthy men. We hold it to be certain that a traitor in politics only needs an opportunity to betray his trust and sacrifice the interests and character of the Government. Political immorality and personal morality are impossible elements in the same individual.—[Washington Union, Aug. 12.]

THE 'HELIPSOMETER.'—We were shown yesterday a newly invented instrument by which the altitude of the sun is taken at sea, as well during foggy or hazy weather, as when the sky is cloudless. It is the Helipsometer, and consists of a half globe, hung in gimbals, and the equator cutting the horizon. On the equator is placed a brass plate, pierced in the centre with an indefinitely small hole, through which the sun's rays pass and strike upon the hollow concave of the half globe, leaving an impression upon a prepared sensitive coating. A circular protractor is then applied to this impression, and the number of degrees and minutes of the sun's distance above the horizon ascertained. The peculiar virtue of this instrument is shown in its capacity to take the sun's altitude when the horizon is obscured, an accident which often happens on the Banks of Newfoundland, the northern and middle coast of Europe, and the northern Pacific, and which for the time being renders the sextant and quadrant useless. With the Helipsometer, there is but one instrument and no observer to contend against the motion of the vessel, and whatever motion is communicated to it while in the gimbals is self-corrected. If the instrument swings, say one degree below the horizon, it will swing one degree above the horizon on its return. The measurement is taken at the lowest and highest points, which are added together and the sum divided by two, giving a quotient which indicates the true angle of the Sun's centre above the horizon. The instrument is extremely simple in its construction, and is worthy the attention of nautical men. Mr. JOHN OAKES is the inventor.—[Courier and Enquirer, Aug. 7.]

AN EXTRAORDINARY FACT.—Mr. Joseph Potts, an intelligent miner, at work, on Monday, in his room in the Bedlam mines, 300 feet below the surface of the earth, had thrown down, by a blast, a large mass of coal, and was engaged in breaking it up to fill into his car, when from the body of it, through one of the fractures, leaped out a living frog, beautifully formed and active, about the size of one's two fingers. This extraordinary curiosity we have now before us, pert and active as a youth of his species six months old.

Over the vein of coal in which this little animal lay imbedded are two other strata of coal, separated by solid sandstone of 100 feet in thickness from the bottom one, and by 50 feet of like rock between each other. Between the seam from which the frog came and the surface there are 200 feet of solid sandstone and coal and about 40 feet of coal, slate, and common clay. These are all regular stratifications, that must have required ages beyond the power of human comprehension to compute to have formed them. Below them all, comes forth a living, breathing, sensitive animal, clothed in flesh, with all the organs of his species perfect, that had its existence before the slow processes of their formation began.—[Evansville Journal.]

HE HAS NOT AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD.—Hasn't he? Well, we are sorry for him! for he has mighty little character who has not got pluck enough to get an enemy. Give us rather as our idea of virtue and manliness, one who has many enemies—one who has made them by his downright sincerity, candor and fearless love of the things he sees to be right.—The man of earnest purpose, strong will and love of principle, for its own sake, must have enemies! But this, so far from being ill, is to him a good. The tree must be more strongly rooted and fastened in the soil by the winter blast than the summer breeze. A man never knows how much there is in him until he has confronted and braved bitter opposition.

THE ULTIMATUM OF IMPERANCE.—No man and no woman is safe that has once formed the fatal habit of looking to drink for solace—or cheerfulness—or comfort. While the world goes well they will likely be temperate; but the habit is built, the railroad to destruction is cut ready for use, the trains are laid down, and the station-houses erected; and the train is on the line waiting only for the locomotive. Well, the first great trouble or hopeless grief is the locomotive: it comes to us, it grapples us, and away we go in a moment down the line we have been years constructing like a flash of lightning to the devil.—[From Cream. By Charles Reade.]

DISPUTATIOUS PEOPLE.—Mr. Emerson, in one of his recent lectures, in describing various classes of people, pithily says:

There are disputatious people—talkers for victory—dealers in contradictions—who contradict your first word, without waiting to get the scope of your meaning, and who appear to think that nothing is doing unless an argument is going on.