

mated liabilities of Morgan's Sons is over three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It is also stated that the Grangers of California and Oregon are not sufferers by the failure, although there are ugly reports to the contrary.

The Nevada State Fair opens today, at Reno.

FOREIGN.

BAYONNE, 19.—Francis Jerrard, representative of the English Carlist committee, and Cecil Buckland, correspondent of the New York Times, started yesterday for the Carlist headquarters and, from reports at hand, it is believed that both have been shot by the republicans.

VIENNA, 19.—The *Tage's Presse* says that Germany has given friendly and satisfactory assurances to Denmark in regard to the expulsion of Danes from Schleswig; she has admitted the possibility of mistakes through the excessive zeal of the local authorities, and has intimated her readiness to examine each case and give full satisfaction where wrong has been done. Her fervent desire is expressed for the maintenance of good relations with Denmark.

RIO JANEIRO, 19.—News from the Argentine States continue warlike. The insurgent leaders Rivas, Borges, and Airedordo have joined General Mitre. Several vessels of the navy have gone over to the insurgents. Sarmiento has taken command of the troops to defend Buenos Ayres. The Argentine government has requested the authorities at Monte Video to prohibit enlistments and the export of arms for the rebel forces.

LONDON, 20.—The *Morning Post* reports that Germany has definitely proposed to the Powers the adoption of an international maritime code.

A special to the *Times* says there is a famine in the Russian provinces of Kherion and Bessarabia.

A despatch says that Captain Mayne Reid, the novelist, is dangerously ill.

PARIS, 20.—Fifty seven of the recently elected councils have organized, twenty three choosing republican presidents.

The Mayor of Nice has been dismissed for recommending the election of persons favoring the separation of Nice from France.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Field, Lawn and Garden says: In Europe, the safe and growing of mushrooms constitutes a regular branch of trade. The meadows of England, the old pastures of Normandy, and the caverns in the vicinity of Paris, are the sources to their owners of considerable income in the production of this edible. Mushrooms are not only a luxury, they are nourishing, refreshing, and afford an excellent catsup, capable of giving a highly pleasant flavor to many a meal otherwise tasteless and uninviting.

Road dust should be gathered before the season closes. This is often the most convenient absorbent the farmer can command, and a few barrels of it will save a large amount of ammonia in the henery, the privy and the stable. Hens should have a large open box full of it under cover, where they may dust themselves at their pleasure. It is an excellent thing to have in the stable, and, when saturated with urine, makes a valuable fertilizer. The fineness of the dust, continually ground by the iron tires and horseshoes, is one cause of its favorable action upon crops. That gathered from clay soil is best—indeed, sand whether from the road or elsewhere, is of but little use as a deodorizer or absorbent.

The water which runs into drains dug in tough clay soil, enters from the sides and bottom, and not from immediately above the drains. The toughest clay is sufficiently permeable to water to allow it to pass through readily, and after the drains have been in operation some time, regular and permanent water channels become established in the soil leading from above to the bottoms of the drains. In digging drains in tough compact clay, numerous small veins of water are cut, which show very clearly how readily the water will pass through such soil as soon as outlets are provided. The advantage of the deeper drains is thus explained, and it is readily seen that their influence extends further in proportion to their depth.

In the breeding of poultry, as in all other pursuits, says the *English Farmer*, a little care and forethought invariably return an apparently disproportionate result. In the rearing of poultry, where the expenditure of each fowl is small and the material provided comparatively inexpensive, we are apt to overlook the small wastes which occur in the transformation of the different grains into poultry, but which aggregate quite a respectable sum. The opinion that corn is very nourishing food for fowls is so universal that no further thought is given to the matter. If any one should suggest that corn would be easier of digestion if soaked or boiled, he would very likely receive the answer that corn was nothing hard to digest for birds, which swallow stones and other hard substance without detriment. A moment's thought, however, will convince that the mill-stones and grist are very different things, and feeding hard grain, although not exactly like feeding the mill stones with pebbles, bears a certain likeness to it. The trouble attendant on the preparation of food, if it is to be cooked, may indeed seem very disproportionate to the advantage to be derived from such treatment, but in reality little time need be spent, as before going the rounds of the nests, a little hot water may be poured over the grain, a tight cover put on the kettle and the whole placed over the stove, where by the time your rounds are completed the corn will have become steamed and mellow, and have lost none of its good qualities. Remember each hen has a certain amount of animal force to be expended every day in some direction, and the less she has to give to digesting her food, the more she will have to be expended in egg-producing. The advantages of warm food in winter, when much food goes toward producing animal heat to withstand the cold, are twofold—from the direct action of the warmth and the slower action of the food itself, to say nothing of the fact that the content produced by nourishing food will result in more eggs, for a hen thoroughly at home will lay many more eggs than a discontented one. We have performed the experiment ourselves, and know that feeding boiled corn does pay, and it is as a result of experience that we offer this plan to our friends.

The Last News from the Comet.

In my belief, many readers of the News will read with interest and amusement some details as to the emotion produced by the Coggia comet in China, where it shone with extraordinary brightness. The following, on this subject, is from *Le Temps*, a republican paper of Paris:

The apparition, as sudden as offensive, of a comet with a sparkling tail, caused, as usual, a most intense fright among all classes of Chinese society. The Coggia comet first showed itself during the night of the first of July, at an angle of about forty-five degrees.

As soon as the news, which spread as rapidly as the explosion of a train of gunpowder, was known, the people from all towns, fled to the hills, in order to watch the march of "the wandering and dishevelled Dragon," the precursor of dreadful calamities.

When the most learned Mandarins among the literary class had verified that the head of the monster was threatening China, and that its tail displayed itself in the direction of Formosa Island, they predicted—in *cauda venenum*, in the tail is the poison—that when the shining appendage was extended an invasion of the Barbarians was imminent. Did these malicious prophets know that a portion of this island was already occupied by a Japanese army? It is extremely probable. But they no doubt remembered—not without terror—that Northern China had been occupied, in 1860, by a Franco-English army, a very damaging occupation, which was foretold by a comet as brilliant as the last one.

LOUIS A. BERTRAND.

Bishop Walsh, of Canada, held confirmation service the other day, and made all the boys who were confirmed take the pledge, whereat the girls smiled. The situation was changed however, when on confirming the girls the good Bishop made them take a pledge to abstain from "excess in dress."

The New York *Republic* includes high bonnets in its list of "outrages."

Rev. Dr. Deems says choir-singers should be as moral as clergymen. Why not?

The Chicago *Times* remarks that the intended bride of Col. Fred. Grant is "a brunette with a face exquisitely tinted."

The "spirits" have broken out in Watertown, N. Y., where "a tall, ghostly form" is said to appear to the mill hands as they wend their way homeward from their day's work, occasioning a serious amount of atmospheric disturbance in the way of female screaming.

The Hives, a secret organization of rebels of a military character, similar to the White League, and supposed to be subordinate thereto, were completely organized, disciplined and equipped, and only waited an opportunity to avenge the disaster and defeat they met with in the recent difficulty in New Orleans.

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