DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - - - - May 20, 1868.

SELECTIONS FOR A NEWSPAPER.

Most people think the selections of suitable matter for a newspaper, the easiest part of the business. How great an error. To look over and over hundreds of exchange papers weekly, from which to select enough for one, especially when the question is not what shall, but what shall not be selected, is no very easy task. If every person who reads a newspaper could have edited it, we should have less complaints. Not unfrequently it is the case that an editor looks over all his exchange papers for something interesting and can find absolutely nothing.

Every paper is drier than a contribution box, and yet something must be had—his paper must be out with something in it, and he does the best he can. To an editor who has the least care to what he selects, the writing he has to do is the easiest part of his labor. Every subscriber thinks the paper is printed for his own benefit, and if there is nothing that suits him, it must be stopped—it is good for nothing. As many subscribers as an editor has, so many tastes he has to consult. One wants something very smart and something sound.

One likes anecdotes, fun and frolic, and the next door neighbor wonders that a man of sense will put such stuff in his paper. Something spicy comes out and the editor is a blackguard. Next comes something argumentative and the editor is a dull fool. And so between them all the poor fellow gets the d—l. They never reflect that what does not please them will please the next man; but they insist that if the paper does not suit them, it is good for nothing, and they will stop it right off.—[*Marysville Bulletin.*

FACTS ABOUT DELIRIUM TREMENS.—At the last meeting of the State Medical Society at Albany, Dr. Statts, of that city, said he had been practicing medicine for the last fifty years, and had for a long time been more or less about penitentiaries, where he came in constant contact with drunkards, and he had never encountered a case of delirium tremens in a pure negro. He had spoken and written to many gentlemen about it, and never heard of a case, and wished to know if any member of this society had ever known such a case. The society was silent, and Dr. Statts has yet to discover the first case of delirium tremens in a negro. He only stated this fact, he said, but could not pretend to give the reason. He also mentioned another singular fact that while before the war he used to have under his charge thirty or forty cases of delirium tremens in a year among his patients, during the last two years he had only three cases. He did not attempt to explain this fact either; it might be that the liquor was so dear that people could not get enough of it to drink, or that there was so little alcohol in it that it did not have the usual effect.

The Colonies of France have 3,192,275 inhabitants, of whom Martinique has 159,169; Guadaloupe 138,505; Guiana 18,556; Reunion 205,977; Senegal and its dependencies 189,568; the establishments in India 227,063; Mayotte Nosi-Be and Sante Marie in Madagascar 26,827; Saint Pierre et Miquelon 2,907; Cochin China 1,204,287, and the establisiments in Oceanica 74,441. In the four sugar producing Colonies, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guiana and Reunion, there were in 1856 76,939 hectares applied to the cultivation of the sugar cane; 5,498 hectares in coffee; 1,894 in cocoa; 347 in cloves; 485 in vanilla; 834 in tobacco; 1,165 in rocou, and 50,742 in garden stuffs. The Indian establishments have 16,097 hectares in rice, and those of Cochin China have 215,478 in the same growth. The value of the general commerce of the French colonies and fisheries, with each other and with foreign countries, in 1865 was 287,284,118 francs, of which 143,689,014 were importations, and 143,595,104 were exportations. The colonial navigation employed, in arrivals and departures, 7,492 ships—5,430 French and 2,062 foreign. The French vessels together measured 280,217 tons, and had 74,830 men in their crews. Martinique employed 1,330, Guadaloupe 1,074, Guiana 195, Reunion 582, the Indian establishments 1,039, Senegal, 1,362, Saint Pierre et Miquelon 1,002, Mayotte, NosiBe and Saints Marie 411, Gabon 138, New Caledonia 93, Tahiti 588, and Cochin China, 654 vessels going and coming. Cochin China, the latest of these colonies, now holds the first rank.—*Iron Age.*

ANTIQUITY OF MAN.—At a recent meeting of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, some very interesting facts were introduced to prove the great antiquity of the human race. Deep down in the Nile, in Egypt, it was stated that remains of men had been found, to which the pyramids were young. In 1854 borings were made between Heliopolis and Memphis. They were carried to a depth of 72 feet, and then pierce through the Nile mud. At every foot fragments of pottery were found. The deposit of mud is calculated to have been two and a half inches in a century. The pieces of pottery found at the lowest depths would thus be 38,000 years old. Compared with it, the Thebes of Homer was modern. During the past season in California, deep in the gold drift, had been found the skeleton of a man covered with three overflows of lava. If true, it carried back the epoch of the introduction of man to a remoter time than any European observations. While there were abundant evidences of the glaciation of greater parts of this continent, those phenomena were wanting in California as though the Rocky Mountains acted as a barrier. But glaciers covered vast areas in the Sierra Nevada and crushed up the gold strata and carried them down. That grinding up might be referred to the glacial period. It was probable that comparative tranquility followed those violent phenomena. The gallery was filled with modified drift. Those deposits served mainly as the grave of the fossil elephant, while the mastodon was found in swamps. At Natchez there was a terrace of sixty feet, where Dr. Nixon obtained the pelvic bone of a man intermingled with bones of the mastodon and megalonyx.—[*R. R. Revelle.*

The gravest events dawn with no more noise than the morning star makes in rising.

HUMAITA.

This formidable fortress, which has held out so long and so gallantly against the Brazilians and the allies by the Paraguayans, is thus described:

Humaita stands on the left bank of the Paraguay. At the distance of 18 miles from the mouth of the river the Paraguay makes an abrupt bend, which has received the name of Vuelta (or elbow) de Humaita. Just at the curve the stream becomes very narrow, being not more than 220 yards across. Towards the right bank the water is rather shallow, but toward the left bank it is of such great depth that it admits of vessels of considerable tonnage passing easily. With a view to command the navigation of the river, the first President Lopez, father of the present President of Paraguay, selected this point for a fortress, and work was commenced about 14 years ago. The original plan has been gradually enlarged upon, and Humaita has grown into such mammoth proportions and immense strength that it may now be justly regarded as the Gibraltar of South America. Along the whole extent of the curve described by the river, a series of batteries have been constructed, some of them casemated and others *a barbette* and unclosed at the top, the whole being united by a palisade covered with gabions and pierced by embrasures for the reception of flying cannon. As far back as the year 1858, nearly 200 pieces had been mounted on the batteries, about 80 of them having been brought from England, and their number has been greatly increased since that period. On the second line of defenses, and in the inclosure circumscribed by the fortifications, a number of buildings have been erected for the accommodation of the different services of an entire army—general quarters, parks, magazines, etc. A church has also been built, and its consecration to St. Berromeo, on the 1st of January, 1861, was the occasion of grand fetes and services in the presence of the President of the Republic. The works are so constructed that every vessel passing up or down the stream is covered by a cross-fire of their terrible artillery. Since the war with Brazil, torpedoes and other obstructions have been sunk in the stream opposite Humaita, and the garrison has numbered for the last two years from 8,000 to 10,000 men. The allied troops have made several desperate efforts to capture the fortress, but in every instance they have been repulsed with heavy loss.

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BUCK & WRIGHT AHEAD.

As may be seen by the following article, which we copy from the New Orleans Times of 15th inst., Buck & Wright have borne off the highest premium in the stove line at the New Orleans Fair. Six entries were made with Buck's "Brilliant," away ahead of the heap.

The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over that of preceding days. The utmost good order seemed to prevail; both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old P. R. principle of "may the best stove win." Promptly to the time the committee appeared on the judges' stand, Messrs. Carpenter & Fleming with excitement and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the engineers had not been changed.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lighted up. Norton's Furnace, run by Mr. R. Wood Perry, led off in smoke, amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Do it, old one." Charter Oak followed, and the vast gave vapor immediately after. In five minutes, just as they were (as we might say, rounding the quarter-stretch) "Cotton Plant" popped its bread; all followed suit as quickly as though life depended on the issue, but Buck's Brilliant had started fire with bread already in the stove. Then came the tug; the cooks' countenances glowed like the stoves, a perpetual snapping of opening and shutting doors resounded over the arena. Stoves were patted, coaxed and petted as though they were human beings. All seemed confident of winning, and the crowd enlivened the scene with numerous and encouraging comments from time to time. Mr. Perry's efforts seeming to please greatly favored.

At twenty minutes past one "Cotton Plant" threw open its throttle valves, and announced that it wanted no more fuel. All the others "shut up" and "keeping dark." As the time for the bread to be baked approached, excitement had increased to a baking heat, both within and without the arena. At last Peerless turned out its bread in 43 minutes; Norton's Furnace followed suit, in 43:15; Cotton Plant next, in 43, then Charter Oak, in 43:2, then Good Samaritan, 44:20, and lastly Buck's Brilliant, in 47. The grand result of the trial was as follows:

Norton's Furnace, R. Wood Perry, bread weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7¼ lbs.
Charter Oak, Rice, Bros. & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6¾ lbs.
Peerless, Dampman & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6¾ lbs.
Good Samaritan, bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 7½ pounds.
Cotton Plant, Levi & Havra, bread weighed 7 lbs 1 oz; burned fuel, 7¼ lbs.
Buck's Brilliant, Buck & Wright, bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 8¼ lbs.

At the conclusion of the trial the stove was taken charge of by the Awarding Committee and locked up for an hour, at the expiration of which it was all eaten by the fire, in accordance with their duty, and the gold medal awarded for best wood stoves to Buck & Wright, of St. Louis, honorable mention being made to the Peerless, Campman & Co.—New Orleans Times, Jan. 15.

d116 & a17-1m & w9-1

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