

toms of backing, such a storm was raised as never was seen. Father and mother-in-law and Squire Darling set up such a yell all together, and poor Hannah, she sat down and cried. My heart failed me, and I made haste to give in and plead sorry as quick as possible; and somehow, in a hurry I let on that Doctor Dingley had set me on; and so I was the innocent cause of his getting a most righteous licking the first time Cap'n Peabody caught him. It wasn't settled short of thirty dollars.

Well, Squire Darling stood and married us about right, and there was an end of trouble. Mother-in-law would not part with Hannah, and she made father-in-law give us a setting out in north end of the house. He could not stomach me very well for awhile, but I have managed to get on the blind side of him. I turned right in to work on his farm, as steady and industrious as a cart-horse; and I kept on pleasing him in one way and another more and more, till he had taken such a liking to me, that he wouldn't part with me for a cow.

SCANDINAVIAN MISSION.

Copenhagen, June 23, 1866.
President Brigham Young, jun.

Dear Brother,—I feel happy in having the privilege of sending you the half-yearly Statistical and Financial Report of the Scandinavian Mission. The fruits of the labors of the Elders have been 728 baptisms, of which, 422 for Denmark, 217 for Sweden, and 89 for Norway, and the prospects for future additions are still bright, and I trust we shall soon fill the decrease caused by this season's emigration. I feel thankful in my heart to the Lord for his mercy and goodness in protecting his servants in their labors throughout the Mission, and I can say with propriety, that the Elders and the Saints have done their best to promote the cause of truth.

The Saints are longing to emigrate, and I have no doubt they will do all they possibly can to release themselves from the shackles of Babylon; and judging from their efforts this year, I think a goodly number will emigrate next season, if the Lord sees fit to keep the way open for the deliverance of his people, which I hope and pray for.

My heart rejoices in the labors of spreading the Gospel and gathering Israel, and my determination is, by the assistance of the Lord, to continue faithful, and do my best to promote his cause and kingdom upon the earth.

The Elders and Saints join me in love and respects to yourself and brother O. Pratt, and all associated with you. Our united prayer is that the Lord may bless you in your high and holy calling. I am, as ever, your brother in the Gospel of peace,
—[Mil. Star] C. WIDERBORG.

FOWLS PLUCKED BY LIGHTNING.—A curious instance of the effects produced by the electric fluid occurred a week or two since to two girls who were on their way to market at Bressuire, with a basket of live fowls slung from their respective shoulders. They went chatting along, when a few great drops of rain, which came pattering down, warned them that a storm was at hand. There happened to be an enormous rock near which projected over the road, and beneath this they took refuge. Presently, without any previous warning, they were half stunned by a loud report, and simultaneously with the report they saw a ball of fire fall into the road a few paces from where they were standing. The only effect it produced on them was as though they had been violently shaken. As soon as the storm had passed over they continued on their journey, not a little agitated by what they had seen and felt. It was not until they reached the market that they became aware of the exceedingly narrow escape they had had. On their baskets being lifted from their shoulders they found that the whole of the fowls had been stripped of their feathers in the cleanest possible manner.—[Dickens's *All the Year Round*.]

THE POPULATION OF LONDON AND PARIS.—The *Journal des Debats*, a French newspaper, draws a comparison between the density of the population of London and Paris, and between that of English and French towns generally. In England as population increases, the houses are free to advance into the country in every direction, but in France the houses are hemmed in by an inflexible belt of fortification, and the new comers are provided for by the erection of houses of greater height. Thus, in 1861 (the last census) there was in London one inhabitant for every 1,220 square feet covered by the city, whilst in Paris there was one to every 500 square feet.

NEWS ITEMS.

A MAN named Porter recently, walked 40 miles against time in Providence, R. I. He accomplished the feat in 7 hours and 39 minutes, 10 minutes a mile. The second mile was made in 8½ minutes, and the 28th in 14 minutes—being the shortest and the longest of the whole. The 40th mile was walked in 9 minutes. Forty-four minutes were allowed for rest and refreshment.

VESEVIUS is showing signs of greater disturbance than has been the case for two years. The volcano is thundering; and the crater emits an enormous volume of fire.

THE *London Times* says the general accounts of the prospects of the harvest, which are now of more than usual importance, owing to the degree in which the continental supplies may be interfered with, are up to the present time satisfactory.

THE Supreme Court of Michigan in a case brought before it recently, decided that a man with only one-fourth negro blood in his veins is to all intents and purposes a white man, and entitled to the right of suffrage.

WE learn from the *Taranaki Herald*, a New Zealand journal, that oil had been struck there at 60 feet. It is stated that 5,000 gallons were obtained daily, and that £10,000 had been offered and refused by the six workmen who started the enterprise.

THE Postmaster at Hartsville, Mass., recently witnessed an aerial fight between a crow and a hawk, for possession of a rattlesnake which the latter held. In the struggle the snake fell and it was found to measure 4½ feet long and had seven rattles.

SOME of the shoemakers on strike at Newark are forming a co-operative association, and are going to start work on their own hook, and with a good prospect of plenty to do.

THE extensive peat bed near the Hartford and New Haven Railroad track in Berlin, on the Meriden line, proves to be immensely valuable. The bed is forty acres in extent, and from 15 to 60 feet deep.

THERE are unfavorable reports about the apple crop in Western New York and the Eastern States. The *Boston Gazette* says apples, though not so great a failure as last year, will be in very short supply, especially the winter varieties.

It is told in connection with the sad story of the Portland fire, that the engrossed copy of an old tax of that city was picked up after the conflagration, at the village of Brunswick, twenty-seven miles distant from Portland. It had been kept in the Portland City Hall, which caught fire, and it was carried by the current of air created by the fire and the wind that great distance.

RUSKIN abates not a jot of his sharp, biting, sarcastic style in his new essays. This bit from one of them is exceedingly pungent: "You women of England are all now shrieking with one voice—you and your clergymen together—because you hear of your Bibles being attacked. If you choose to obey your Bibles, you will never care who attacks them. It is just because you never fulfill a single downright precept of the book you are so careful of its credit. The Bible tells you to dress plainly, and you are mad for finery; the Bible tells you to have pity on the poor, and you crush them under your carriage wheels; the Bible tells you to do judgement and justice, and you do not know or care to know so much as what the Bible-word justice means."

SIGNIFICANT statements are made by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, in discussing the woman's rights question, which indicate a future of degeneracy for the pride and manhood of Great Britain. That journal says:—"But it is growing daily more difficult to become a wife, and, if we may believe Dr. Farr, to become a mother also. With regard to the first point, it is demonstrably impossible for all our women, nay for more than two-thirds, or even less to marry, because there are many more women than men, and there are many men who cannot and many who will not marry; and, as to the second position, Dr. Farr has announced that there are in England and Wales alone more than one million of childless families, while other authorities affirm that our race is so far less prolific than in former times that in our large towns two children to each married couple has come to be the average number."

DEGRADATION.—In a work from the pen of M. Jules Simon, entitled "Le Travail," which has just appeared in Paris, appear the following statements of the condition of the children of workmen in some parts of France.

Even in France there are towns where women rival men in habits of intoxication. At Lille, at Rouen, there are some so saturated with it that their infants refuse to take the breast of a sober woman. In the mountains of the Vosges infants drink eau-de-vie. On Sunday, in the churches, the air is literally infected with the smell of eau-de-vie made from potatoes. In those mountains there are no more frequent causes of idiocy and imbecility, for in general the dwellings are healthy, and the water is excellent. The great misfortune is the children of habitual drunkards are idiots, so that the punishment follows from generation to generation, from the guilty and degraded father to the innocent children. In the manufacturing towns the Mayors are obliged to take measures against the cabarets that supply eau-de-vie to children, for there are drunkards of fifteen as there are laborers of eight; and morally and physically they present a melancholy spectacle.

THE NEEDLE GUN.—The correspondence from the seat of war in Germany abounds with proofs of the efficiency of the Prussian needle gun. The wounded Austrians brought to Vienna state that there is hardly any interruption in the fire of the Prussian Infantry, the bullets continually rattling about ones ears like hailstone during a storm. The *London Times*, in a leader, says: From first to last it is the needle gun that has apparently carried the day, and the needle gun is simply a breech-loading rifle of very indifferent quality. In principle as well as in construction it is not to be compared with several breech-loading rifles manufactured by English makers, but, imperfect as it is, it has proved quite good enough to secure victory for the Prussians in almost every encounter.

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