Miscellaneous Items.

THE cigar-makers of Pittsburgh are about to organize a union.

SHERMAN is receiving cotton at the rate of one thousand bales per week.

THE debt of the State of Virginia is $33,199,325, exclusive of sinking and literary funds.

THE taxable value of property in Texas is now $350,000,000 against $250,000,000 last year.

THE long strike in the iron ship-building trade on the Clyde is estimated to have cost the workmen between $350,000 and $400,000 in wages lost since April.

THE amount estimated for carrying inland mails the coming fiscal year is $20,889,270, an increase over the estimate for the current year of $2,030,297.

Two railroad rioters who pleaded guilty to burning the Lebanon (Pa.) Valley bridge, have been sentenced to five years imprisonment and to pay a fine of $1,000 each.

IT is estimated that over 150,000 persons in this country are engaged in keeping bees. This includes farmers and others who make the production of honey a portion of their occupation.

T. J. ARNOLD, Chief Engineer of the California Board of State Harbor Commissioners, is in Baltimore, for the purpose of studying a system of harbor improvements, construction of piers, etc. He has conferred with engineers of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Portland (Me.) on the subject.

THE Montreal *Journal of Commerce* says a valuable discovery of silver has been made at St. George, N. B., on an island in the river. Some United States citizens secured the property, and have taken out about two tons of ore, each barrel of which is said to be worth $500. The people of St. George are getting excited over the discovery, and the neighboring country is thoroughly searched for the precious metal.

THE quantity of coal raised from the mines of Great Britain reached 100,000,000 tons in a year, for the first time in 1886. In 1876 it amounted to 134,125,166 tons, namely, 115,334,359 tons in England and Wales, 18,665,612 tons in Scotland, and 125,195 tons in Ireland. Durham, the greatest coal field, keeps its lead, its year's product now approaching 26,000,000 tons. Wales produced above 19,000,000 tons.

THE merchants who lost property by the Pittsburgh riot in July, are strongly inclined to hold the Pennsylvania Company responsible for the losses; the railroad company hold the city of Pittsburgh, or the county of Allegheny, responsible, and the latter are disposed to hold the State of Pennsylvania responsible at least for part of the damage, holding that undue and illegal interference on the part of the State authorities infuriated the populace and precipitated the devastation. It is a curious mixture of questions, which it will take years to unravel.

FROM statistics recently published by Norwegian authorities we learn that the number of horses per 1,000 inhabitants is, in the United States, 297; Russia, 225; Denmark, 179; Sweden, 165; Austro-Hungary, 98; Great Britain and Ireland, 85; Norway, 84; Germany, 82; France, 76. The number of horned cattle per 1,000 inhabitants is, Denmark, 687; Great Britain, 300. The number of sheep in Spain, 1,348; in Great Britain, 969; in Belgium, 112. The number of goats in Greece, 913; in Great Britain, 8. The number of swine in the United States, 671; in Great Britain, 112; in Greece, 38.

A Real Evangeline.

The story of Evangeline is repeated with wonderful fidelity in all its details in the experience of a young French girl, a resident of Marseilles. She was engaged to a sailor to whom she was to be married on his return from a voyage to New York. He did not return, and after a year she got a berth as stewardess's assistant on one of the Havre steamers, to come here in search of him. On the passage a rich American lady became interested in her story and resolved to help her find out her lover. In New York she learned that he had gone to Canada. For months she travelled about the Dominion, sometimes close on his track and again losing every clue as to his whereabouts. She returned to New York, and one day while standing at a Broadway crossing waiting her turn to get across, she saw the object of her long search on the other side. She shrieked his name and ran into the middle of the street, but a policeman caught her and saved her from the wheels of the string of vehicles. "Angel of God there was none," and she never again saw the Gabriel she had so long sought and nearly found. She learned then that he had sailed for San Francisco, and so went overland to California to meet him. Arrived on the Pacific coast, she found that her lover had fallen overboard just outside the Heads and been drowned. Meanwhile the body of a young man dressed in sailor's clothes was cast ashore on the beach, carried to the coroner's office and, not being identified, was interred in the public cemetery. A water-sodden pocket-book was taken from the dead man, which contained only a few letters written in French and unaddressed. The girl, hearing of this, went to the coroner's office and found that the letters were hers. The waves had tardily and partially recompensed her devoted search, and she was able to find the grave of her lover.

LOOK happy, if you do not feel so. Present a cheerful exterior, though your heart and mind be troubled. Never wear a face which, as Sidney Smith says, "is a breach of the peace." Dr. Johnson used to observe that the habit of looking at the best side of a thing was worth more to a man than a thousand pounds a year, and Samuel Smiles observes: "We possess the power, to a great extent, of so exercising the will as to direct the thoughts upon subjects calculated to yield happiness and improvement rather than their opposites. In this way the habit of happy thought may be made to spring up like any habit. And to bring up men or women with a genuine nature of this sort, a good temper and a happy frame of mind is perhaps of even more importance, in many cases, than to perfect them in much knowledge and accomplishments."

To cure vertigo or dizziness, arising from dyspepsia, eat food that is easily digested, avoiding pastry and fat meat. Sometimes it is occasioned by costiveness, and in this case the remedy is to keep the bowels open with gentle physic. Avoid coffee, ardent spirits, late suppers, and go to bed and rise early. Take plenty of outdoor exercise.

GENIUS, like the sun upon the dial, gives to the human heart both its shadow and its light.

The Largest Volcano in the World.

"How we worked that passage! up hill and down hill, over hard pointed lava that cut through our shoes like knife-blades; over light, crumbled lava, into which we sank up to our knees; over hills of lava that were themselves covered with smaller hills; into ravines, and over steam-cracks, some of which we could jump with the aid of our long poles, and some of which we had to find our way around; steam-cracks whose depth we could not see, and into which we thrust our walking-stick, drawing them out charred black or aflame; over lava so hot that we ran as rapidly and lightly as possible, to prevent our shoes being scorched. Three hours of this kind of work for the three miles, and *Hale-mau-mau*, or 'House of Everlasting Fire,' lay spitting and moaning at our feet!

"A lake of boiling lava is what the column of smoke marked out to us—a pit within a pit—a lake of raging lava fifty feet below us, of which *St. Nicholas* gives you a picture taken 'from life.'

"It was so hot and suffocating on the brink of this lake that we cut eye-holes in our handkerchiefs, which we wore as masks. Even then we had to run back every few moments for a breath of fresher air, though we were on the windward side of the lake. The gases on the leeward side would suffocate one instantly. Oh, the glory! This Hale-mau-mau, whose fire never goes out, is a huge lake of liquid lava, heaving with groans and thunderings that cannot be described. Around its edge, as you see in the picture, the red lava was spouting furiously. Now and then the center of the lake cooled over, forming a thin crust of black lava, which, suddenly cracking in a hundred directions, let the blood-red fluid ooze up through the seams, looking like fiery snakes.

"For three hours we gazed, spell-bound, though it seemed but a few moments; we were chained to the spot, as is every one else who visits Kilauea.

"The wind, as the jets rose in the air, spun the molten drops of lava into fine threads, which the natives call Pélé's hair, and very like hair it is.

"All this time, under our feet, were rumblings and explosions that made us start and run now and then, for fear of being blown up; coming back after each fright, unwilling to leave the spot.

"Occasionally the embankment of the lake cracked off and fell in, being immediately devoured by the hungry flood.

"Terrible as is old Pélé, the volcano's tutelar deity, she is an excellent cook. She keeps a great many ovens heated for the use of her guests, and no two at the same temperature, so that you may select one of any heat you wish. In these ovens (steam-cracks) she boils tea, coffee and eggs; or cooks omelets and meats. You wrap the beef or chicken, or whatever meat you may wish to cook, in leaves, and lay it in the steam-crack. Soon it is thoroughly cooked, and deliciously, too.

"She also keeps a tub of warm water ready for bathers.

"She doesn't mean to be laughed at, though, for doing this kind of work, and doing it in an original kind of way. After she has given you one or two round shakings, which she generally does, you'll have great respect for the old lady, and feel quite like taking off your hat to her. With the shakings and the thunderings under-foot, and now and then the opening of a long steam-crack, she keeps her visitors quite in awe of her powers, though she is probably several hundred years old.

"Not far from the little hut where we sleep, close to the precipice, is Pélé's great laboratory where she makes sulphur. We wear our straw hats to the sulphur banks, and she bleaches them for us.

"Well, this a strange, strange land, old many Pélé being one of its curiosities.

"I only hope you may see the active old goddess before she dies. She hasn't finished her work yet. Once in a while she runs down to the shore to bathe and look at the Pacific Ocean, and when there she generally gives a new cape to Hawaii by running out into the sea.

Majestic old Pélé! Long may she live!
—*Sarah Cone, in St. Nicholas.*

The Color of Mars.

Several hypotheses have been advanced to explain the reddish color which characterizes the bright part of the planet's disk. Mr. Huggins comes to the conclusion that this peculiarity is not due to the planet's atmosphere. Indeed, Arago has called attention to the fact that upon this hypothesis the redness should be more decided at the borders of the planet than in the central portions, since the luminous rays traverse a greater thickness of atmosphere, and traverse it more obliquely, in the regions near the limb, when the contrary effect is observed. It has also been remarked that this hypothesis does not explain why the red tint is not general. Mr. Lockyer has suggested that the color may depend upon the cloudy state of the planet, and the spectroscope gives considerable support to this hypothesis. In 1862 the planet was clearer of clouds and more ruddy than in 1864. The explanation of this is that when Mars is clouded the light reflected by the clouds undergoes less absorption than that reflected by the planet itself. The spectroscope indicated this increased absorption on one occasion by showing that the reflected sunlight was without a large portion of the blue rays.

Lambert has attempted to explain the ruddy color of the spots, and their disappearance or indistinctness during the Martial winter, by the hypothesis that the vegetation on the planet is red instead of green. Hence, in the Martial summer the surface has a ruddy appearance, which disappears in winter. As Mr. Proctor remarks, if this hypothesis were true, the rapid changes of color, which have been noted by many observers, would indicate the sudden blooming forth of Martial vegetation, over hundreds of square miles of the planet's surface. Finally, we have the hypothesis, first advanced, we believe, by Herschel—and still accepted as the best explanation of the phenomenon by many astronomers—that the red color is due to the character of the planet's soil.
—*Chas. W. Raymond, in the Galaxy.*

THE editor of a rural newspaper wandered to this city the other day, and dropped into church while the Sunday-school was in session. He fell asleep and woke to find a child's paper on his lap. With the true journalistic instinct he picked it up, and he had read through a column and a half of assorted Bible texts, when the officiating minister lighted on him, and laying a patronizing hand on his shoulder, inquired how he liked it. "First rate!" was the reply; "and I'm glad to see you credit. But where did you strike your exchange list?"

A Case for Indignation.

For many months England has rung with indignant protests against the barbarities wrought by Russian upon Turk, and Turk upon Russian and Bulgarian. Yet these barbarities, terrible as they are, and deserving of the sternest reprobation, are but the ligitimate fruit of a bitter war between nations that are scarcely more than semi civilized. At the very worst, their effects are limited, both as to time and the numbers affected by them.

But indignant England has been, for scores of years, inflicting upon a helpless nation a wrong beside which the barbarities of Turk and Russian sink into comparative insignificance—a wrong which has affected the physical and moral welfare of millions of human beings, and will prove fatal to millions more in coming years. We refer to the opium trade, which commercial England has forced upon the Chinese for more than a century past. That terrible traffic, which has increased from a few thousand pounds a year at the beginning to ten or eleven million pounds at the present time, has proved, like intemperance in our own country, incalculably more destructive than war in its most barbarous forms.

The Chinese Government has always frowned upon the traffic, and resisted the admission of the fatal drug by every means at its command. Its energetic attempts to do this in the early part of the century brought on the infamous "Opium War," waged by England solely to compel the Chinese authorities to admit opium to the kingdom. All that Christian missionaries have been able to accomplish since their first entrance into Cairns, glorious as their achievements have been, has been a thousandfold overbalanced by the fearful misery and degradation which nominally Christian traders have brought upon the people of that dark land. While Christian teachers have sought to introduce the blessing of the gospel, these merchants, backed by the land and naval forces of Christian England, have succeeded in forcing in their baneful drug, in spite of every barrier raised against it. The Chinese authorities have done their best; but they are no match for the cunning and power of their formidable adversaries.

Recently, according to the London *Friend of China*, the Government has been making a renewed attempt to stem the tide of intemperance in the use of opium. An imperial edict has been promulgated, which points out that although stringent regulations have heretofore been made which forbids magistrates, scholars, soldiers and others to smoke opium, the smokers are daily increasing in numbers. All civil and military officers are therefore enjoined to consider the circumstances, and take such measures as may be necessary to check the growing evil. One of the provincial governors, it is noted, has already entered upon the work of suppression, by shutting up all shops except on the main thoroughfares, restricting these to doors, three feet high, forbidding the use of beds, and compelling smokers to lie on the floor. He fears an uprising, it is said, were he to shut up all the shops at once. But by thus making opium-smoking disreputable from the surroundings, he hopes to deter all who have any regard for respectability from frequenting the shops.

These are laudable efforts on the part of the Chinese rulers, and they deserve in making them the heartiest sympathy of every Christian nation. Especially ought they to receive the sympathy of that nation which is mainly responsible, through its encouragement and support of the Indian opium trade, for the enormous growth of the traffic with China. Some of the righteous indignation so freely poured out upon Cossack and Basil-Bazouk might well be visited upon those who are engaged in perpetrating so foul a wrong upon a defenceless nation.
—*New York Examiner and Chronicle.*

Steam on the Erie Canal.

That steam can be applied economically to canal-boats admits of no question, always provided that the vessel is of a certain size; and just here is the difficulty—*the Erie Canal boat is too small.* No practical man would dream of applying steam to a canal-boat of fifty tons, nor would he hesitate to apply it to one of a thousand tons. Experience alone must be the guide in determining the smallest-sized vessel in which it can be used to advantage, and there has been a large experience in this matter. Steamers have been plying on the Delaware and Raritan and the Delaware and Chesapeake canals for over thirty years, and the result has proved that steam is not economical when applied to boats of two hundred tons, and this is confirmed by recent experiments on the Erie Canal itself.

For steam implies skilled, and consequently, expensive, labor, with additional capital, greater wear and tear and less capacity for cargo, and these the gain in time does not offset. No power for a small vessel has been found so cheap as a pair of horses and a driver. A steamer towing one or more barges has decided advantages, but the serious loss of time occurring at the locks, where each boat has to be passed separately (thus delaying the others), will prevent this plan from being adopted to any extent. The same objection holds to the Belgian system—which involves the laying on the bottom of the canal a wire cable, to which a steamer with a tow of boats is attached—though an economical use of power is undoubtedly attained thereby. But even if the application of steam to the existing class of boats met with partial success, yet the reduction of expense would be too slight to meet the difficulty. To enable the Canal to compete with the rail some radical change is necessary.—*John G. Stevens, in Scribner.*

DIRECT experiments by Dupham, Hammond and others show that sleep in the brain is promoted by absence of blood therefrom. This is proved also, indirectly, by the greater quantity of blood which circulates in the skin and extremities during sleep, because there is a greater radiation of heat from the skin. Whatever tends to abstract blood from the brain favors sleep, hence digestion tends to cause sleep, as do hot drinks, etc., by drawing the blood supply from the brain to the stomach. So, conversely, whatever tends to keep up the activity of the brain cells and the circulation, tends to prevent sleep; this being, therefore, the effect of any stimulus applied to the senses, sights, sounds, thoughts, and anxiety and the like, while the opposite tends to favor sleep.

THE peculiarity of the fly is that he always returns to the same spot; but it is the characteristic of the mosquito that he always returns to another spot. Thus he differs from the leopard, which does not change his spots. This is an important fact in natural history.

The "Bone and Sinew"

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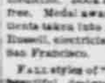

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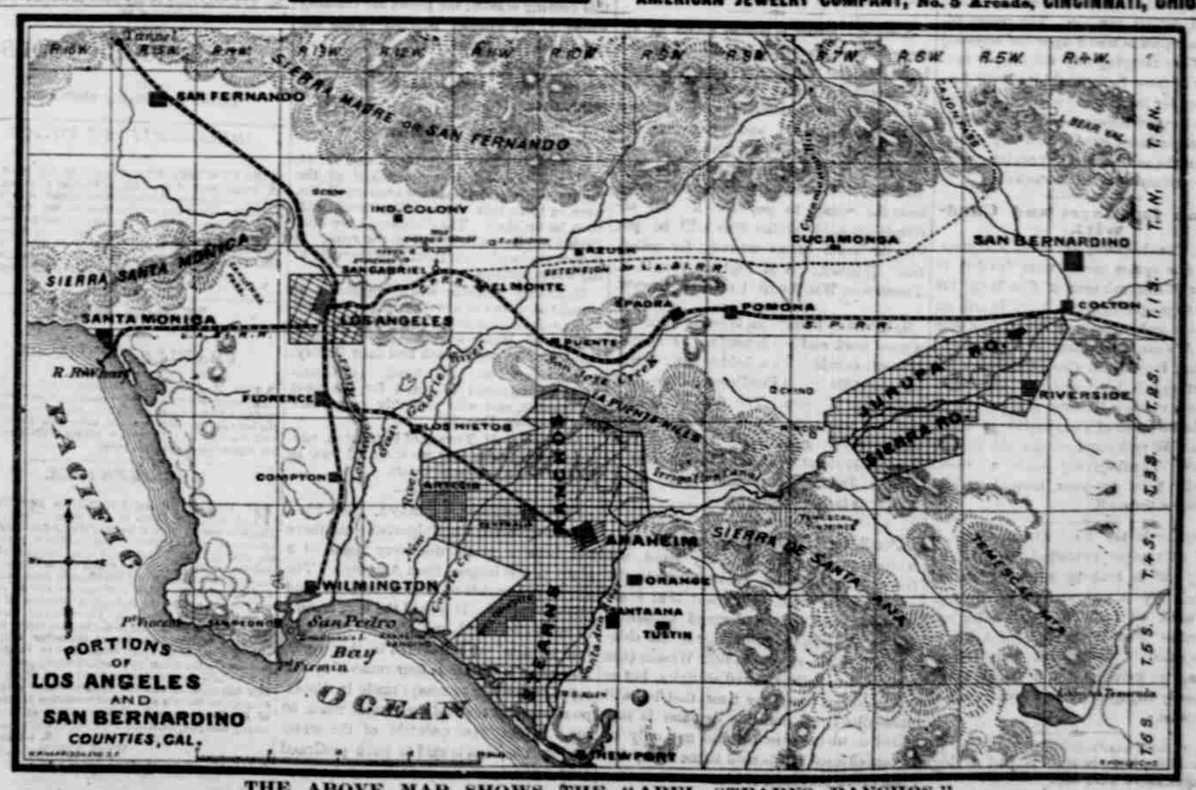

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