



What is doing on the great "Father of Rivers."

On the first day of the assembling of the Chicago Convention, Thomas Allen, Esq., submitted a report drawn up by him at the request of the delegates of St. Louis, relative to the commerce and navigation of the valley of the Mississippi. It is stated in this document that in 1846 the receipts at New Orleans from the upper country amounted to 77 millions of dollars; the steamboats engaged in the trade of St. Louis were 251; and the whole number on the Western rivers near 1200, valued at 16 millions of dollars, to which are to be added 4000 keel and flat boats. The annual cost of transportation is 41 millions. The total value of the domestic products put afloat upon the waters of the valley is 260 millions; and the value of the whole commerce afloat is 430 millions, being double the amount of the whole foreign commerce of the United States. The number of steamboats lost in 1842, was 68; in 1846 the number was 56.—The annual loss of lives is 160. The *snags* it is well known, have caused many of these disasters.

#### Another Comet.

A new comet was discovered on the 14th inst at the Cambridge Observatory, by G. P. Bond, being the fifth comet first seen in this country by this gentleman. It was found with the aid of the excellent comet-seeker recently presented to the Observatory by J. I. Bowditch, Esq. Through the grand refractor the comet shows a bright nucleus surrounded by a diffused nebulous appearance. The comet, having a very great northern declination, does not set in our latitude. Its approximate places were as follows:

July 12, 19h 0m. Right Ascension 16h. 24m. Declension  $85^{\circ} 17' 0''$ .

July 20, 10h. 23m. Right Ascension 13h. 59m. Declension  $80^{\circ} 53' 12''$ .

#### Forgers.

An engraver, named Lovejoy, and two other persons, were arrested in Cincinnati, a short time since, on suspicion of being concerned in counterfeiting, and committed for trial. Upon searching Lovejoy's house, one plate, nearly ready for printing spurious money, was discovered; and in the residence of one of the others, named Sleight, sundry plates, and a large quantity of counterfeit notes, amounting in all to about \$1000, was taken. This is said to be the most important arrest made in Cincinnati for some time past.

#### Copper from the Sault.

By the Schooner Lena 44 tons of native copper was shipped a short time ago for Boston and there are now 90 tons more of the same metal waiting for a vessel. This copper is in masses weighing from 500 to 3,500 lbs. and is of the very richest quality of native copper, and is worth in Boston \$400 per ton. From the mine, we learn that they are raising immense masses of native copper, and that the great difficulty consists in cutting up the masses into small pieces to enable the shippers to get them on and off the vessels.—One mass weighing 3,700 lbs. will be sent to England as a specimen of what Yankees can do in making copper.

#### A Humbug Exploded.

The grand project of raising Capt. Kidd's vessel at Caldwell's Landing on the Hudson, and obtaining vast treasures—a project in which a large amount of money was embarked by credulous men, has proved to be what many suspected, an egregious humbug, originating in fraud. It is now known that a gun which had been taken from the wreck, pieces of gold, coins, &c., were deposited there a few days previous, that this discovery might cheer the hearts of the stockholders, and induce others to purchase shares!

According to an official statement made to the Illinois State Convention the entire public debt of that State is \$14,042,618 22.

#### Something New.

The splendid steamboat Louisiana, running between Buffalo and Chicago, is provided with a number of colored waiters and servants who within themselves compose a band of choice musicians, and every evening the ladies' cabin is graced with a ball, accompanied by their music. They are vocalists too, and treat passengers to some of the best strains of the Sable Harmonists. To add to the harmony of the evening, the lady passengers frequently lend their sweet voices, accompanied by the piano, with which the ladies' cabin is furnished.

#### Ether.

The Boston *Traveller's* London correspondent asserts that the use of ether in England is doing more harm than good. That it has an injurious effect upon the blood, produces tubercular consumption, and in thirty cases of death after its use, recent tubercles have been found in the lungs, believed to be the product of ether.

#### A New Manufacturing Company.

A company has completed a contract with the Water Lot Company, for the purchase of a site, in Columbia Georgia. A building 120 feet in length and 5 stories high, is to be commenced immediately, and the establishment is to be put into operation, as speedily as possible. \$40,000 have already been subscribed, and the capital can be increased to \$100,000 as it may be needed.

#### Scarcity.

On Saturday week a merchant at St. Louis filled an order from Dubuque for 200 barrels of flour. The same flour was brought from Dubuque to St. Louis a fortnight previous by the same boat that carried it back. So great has been the demand for this staple, the Reveille says, that many portions of the upper country are completely drained of supplies.

#### Love-Letter Ink.

A Yankee has invented a new kind of ink called "the love-letter ink," which is a sure safeguard against actions for breach of marriage, as the ink fades away, and leaves the sheet blank, in about four weeks after the letter has been written. The truth of this invention so universally noticed, is just about as lasting as the ink.

#### Indians.

A number of Iowa Indians passed through Cincinnati last week, on their way to Washington. Among them was an old chief who had been in Nineteen battles, and had once been scalped. His name is Saw-tu-stob-en-ne-to, or red fire, and his age is upwards of ninety.

#### Copper Ore.

It is not known generally, says the Alexandria Gazette, that examinations are making in Prince William county, Va., for Copper, and that the progress thus far has been favorable. Twenty-five hundred pounds of ore, from an excavation near Brentsville, were brought to town yesterday, to be shipped to Boston for examination and proof of its quality.

#### Pennsylvania Coal.

Pennsylvania alone contains an area of coal land five times the extent of that possessed by Great Britain. Her iron mines are also very extensive—probably equal, if not superior to those of the mother land. And yet the annual product of the mines of Great Britain is computed at £20,000,000. Of this vast sum, £8,000,000 accrue from iron, and £9,000,000 from coal.

#### San Pedro Expedition.

The schooner Cecil, Capt. Binney, arrived at Baltimore on Monday from Cumana and St. Thomas. She brings \$20,000, recovered from the wreck of the Spanish frigate San Pedro, sunk off Cumana. This is the second successful trip of this vessel, having once before brought an equal amount from the same wreck.

#### Curious Fact.

A degree of latitude is equal to a degree of Fahrenheit, and 400 feet of elevation is the same. The fact though curious, is of a demonstrative character, and will go far in enabling us to ascertain facts in reference to climate.

#### Mechanics Mutual Protection.

This order of practical Mechanics, are about forming a Literary Institute, the members of which must belong to the order. It is intended to have debates, Lectures, Library and Laboratory connected with the Institution. The design of it is, to bring about a general intimacy among the mechanics of this city, and also, personal improvement.—Each member to take part in the exercises, and the whole business to be done by Practical Mechanics.

We shall publish a list of the officers of the Protections in this city next week—the names from three being still wanting to complete the list. This Order of Practical Mechanics, is progressing firmly throughout the United States. We have received consoling news from Protection No. 14 of Geneva, which is encouraging to hear. We hope to be able next week to have some news from the Grand Convention at Buffalo. The Grand Secretary, J. Washburn of Troy, has been very sick. R. MACFARLANE, P. G. S.

#### Shingle Palace.

Barnum, the proprietor of the N. Y. Museum, and the Tom Thumb man, has erected a house on the Turnpike west of Bridgeport, which exceeds all his other eccentricities. It is said to resemble Sophia's Mosque in Constantinople. It is a square building of over a 100 feet in length, and four stories high, with circular wings at the end, having piazzas to each story, filled in with lattice work. The roof and wings are surmounted by turrets and minarets, and every part of the building is covered with elaborate work.

#### Accident to a Professor of Chemistry.

On last Tuesday, Rev. Wm. Aldrich, professor of Chemistry in Washington College, Pennsylvania, while performing in the laboratory a very interesting experiment with the compound hydro-oxygen blowpipe, was severely injured, in consequence of the flame passing back into the tube, igniting the gases, and causing the vessel to burst into fragments, several of which, in their passage, struck Prof. Aldrich, laying him on the floor stunned, senseless, and to all appearance, lifeless. Medical help was immediately called in, who pronounced him very severely, though not dangerously wounded.

#### Wonderful Cave.

There is a cave in the Green Mountains which is said to be of wonderful beauty, from the dropping of crystals. It is composed of 4 compartments; the outer one being in the form of an Ellipse, 53 feet by 37 and 18 feet in height; the second compartment is somewhat smaller than the first and of a more irregular form, and so also is the third; the fourth is the grand hall of a circular form, the diameter of which is 321 feet, over-arched by a magnificent dome, the extreme height of which apparently exceeds the diameter of the floor; the walls are composed of brilliant iron ore, and the light of torches reflected in a thousand hues lighting the whole with the brightness of a Summer's day.

#### Free Navigation of the St. Lawrence.

On Monday night the House of Assembly of Canada passed an address to her Majesty, that the free navigation of the St. Lawrence be granted to them; and also that the Navigation law be repealed, or at least modified, so far as regards this colony. There were 59 ayes, and only two dissenting voices, Messrs. Aylwin and Ermatinger.

#### Shipment of Bread Stuffs.

15,000,000 bushels of corn, 2,700,000 bushels of wheat, and 2,500,000 barrels of flour—the whole valued at \$33,000,000—have been shipped this season to Great Britain and Ireland alone.

#### An Earthquake at Glen's Falls.

The *Republican* states that on Friday morning the 9th inst. a severe shock of an earthquake was felt in several towns in that county, the effects of which extended for fifty miles distant.

#### Home Manufacture for Foreign Use.

Messrs. Knapp & Totten, of Pittsburg have been largely engaged during the past year in casting canon, shot and shells for the U. S. Government. Mr. Jesse Marden, of this city, has a machine for casting bullets, which can be made to manufacture from one to two thousand rifle balls per minute.



#### LATE FROM MEXICO.

Santa Anna was about sending a number of the American prisoners from the City of Mexico to Acapulco, on the Pacific. It was rumored at Camargo and Matamoras that Urrea was in the neighborhood with a strong Guerilla force ready to fall upon the trains. The news from Santa Fe was exciting. Fears were entertained that the Mexican inhabitants would rise and butcher all the Americans—so deep is their hatred towards them. There had been an engagement between Major Edmonston and the Taos Indians, the latter claiming the victory. There were but few killed. The Comanche Indians were very troublesome.

#### The Sun and Moon in Danger.

A letter written from China, and addressed to a person in the city of Nantes, in France, by a French Missionary, states that several captains of vessels, belonging to the marine of the three nations, of France, England, and the United States, had been received into the presence of the Emperor of Japan, from whom they had solicited the opening the ports of his kingdom to the commerce of Europe and America. We'll next hear of the august person of the celestial Emperor of the Sun and Moon, himself, being contaminated by contact with outside barbarians. Trade and commerce are, indeed, great levellers.

#### Interesting Geological Discoveries.

The *Journal des Debats* publishes the following letter, dated Odessa, the 4th inst.—"The Counsellor of State, Erdmann, Professor of Geology at the Imperial University of Dorpat, who at this moment is travelling in the south of Russia, has discovered in a property situated to the north of Odessa, several skeletons of fossil animals of enormous dimensions. The skeletons are 83 in number, viz: 6 elephants, 1 rhinoceros, 2 oxen, 4 stags, 1 antelope, 61 bears, 2 hyenas, 2 dogs, 3 cats, and a ruminating animal, species unknown. Those skeletons, together with the bones, were found under a thick layer of calcareous earth. The discovery made by M. Erdmann is the more remarkable, as hitherto there never have been any remains of the antediluvian animal reign discovered in Russia."

#### Scientific Examination of the Potato Disease.

The French Government has ordered that scientific men in all the departments shall examine microscopically every fortnight, the growing potatoes in the several districts, with a view to discover if the plant be again tainted and the cause, if such a calamity again arise.

Charles Murray Nairne, a Scotch Clergyman—one of the most profound and accomplished scholars of the age—an intimate friend and associate of the late Dr. Chalmers, was on Monday evening last, initiated as a member of the Mutual Alliance Division No. 130 of the Sons of Temperance, of Albany.

It is stated that a young lady, who is a great admirer of Gen. Taylor's epistolary style, received a letter the other day from a sweetheart enquiring if she would have him. She immediately sent him in reply, General Taylor's answer to Santa Anna, "Come and take me."

The Galveston, Texas, News, estimates that the quantity of sugar which will be made in Brazoria county alone this year, will not fall much short of 2000 hogsheds. The quantity raised in the whole state last year was but little over 200 hogsheds.

Charles Ellett, Esq. has been selected as engineer of the wire suspension bridge over the Ohio, at Wheeling. This will be the largest structure of the kind in the world, being a span of upwards of 1000 feet, whereas that of Friburg in Europe, the largest now in existence, is but 800 feet span.

A law was enacted at the last session of the New Hampshire Legislature, establishing ten hours as a day's work.