



#### Foreign News.

By the late news by the Hibernia, it appears that failures in England to the amount of \$100,000,000 had already carried dismay to the hearts of all corn exporters in America. The failures have swept down some of the oldest corn dealing firms in Britain. We prophesied this last May, and told one of our greatest merchants what might be expected, but his mind was too warm in speculation to heed our advice.

Two of the largest literary institutions in London have been broken up and their extensive libraries, museums and collections of philosophical apparatus are to be sold by public auction. We are sorry to hear this.

A vessel had arrived in London with a cargo of bricks from the tower of Babel, and with other architectural curiosities for the British Museum.

The Pope has exhibited a determined spirit of the olden days. "There is a Brutus living yet," to defy Rome's enemies.

#### From Mexico.

Gen. Scott has taken part of the city and commands the whole of it from the heights of Chautulpec. The severe battle for these heights cost our army many a brave man. The Mexicans lost 4000 killed and wounded, the Americans 1700. Santa Anna was wounded but had retired slowly and occupied a strong position at Guadalupe. It was reported that the Mexicans under Paredes had retaken Puebla. No appearance of peace yet.

#### Fair of the American Institute.

The Fair opened at Castle Garden on the morning of Tuesday last, and we congratulate the Institute in regard to the excellent arrangements. We believe that this Fair surpasses all the previous ones, both in regard to the number, beauty and ingenuity of the articles displayed. It is well worth a journey from Oregon to see it. We admired as an article of great utility, No. 277, Cranston's Spring Mattress, a cut of which we shall publish next week with a full description of its qualities.

#### Mechanic's Fair at Utica.

The third annual Fair of the Utica Mechanic's association will be held at their Hall during the last week in December next. Articles of American manufacture only are to be exhibited. These fairs have so far surpassed every thing of the kind previously known, that they have been largely attended, and will no doubt be so on this occasion.

#### The Cambridge Telescope.

The new Telescope at Cambridge is found to answer all the high anticipations which have been entertained with regard to it.—The wonderful nebula in the Constellation of Orion, has recently been subjected to the scrutiny of Mr. Bond through this Telescope, and it has fully yielded to the power of the admirable instrument. The capacity of the Telescope is thus shown to be equal if not superior to the famous instrument of Lord Rosse, which was represented with an engraving in Vol. 2 Scientific American, page 78, the great power of which this telescope so long resisted. May we not expect grand discoveries with this new Telescope in the hands, as it is, of patient and skillful observers?

#### Woman's Influence.

The Legislature of Rhode Island have pledged a certain sum for the erection of a State Lunatic Asylum, on condition that \$70,000 be raised by private subscriptions, Miss Dix, the philanthropist, has set about to raise the amount, and a few days ago procured the handsome donation of \$40,000 from an old miser of Providence, who was never known to give a cent before for any public purpose.

Baron Rothschild drew the highest prize—\$100,000—in a lottery last month, at Frankfurt. Riches ever seek the rich.

#### Association of Geologists.

The Association of Geologists and Naturalists closed their sittings (at Boston) on Saturday last. On the last day of the session, a resolution was adopted, that a committee be appointed to represent to the Secretary of the Navy the importance of deep sea soundings, and suggest the adoption of such measures as to enable us to obtain as soon as possible, correct data with respect to the deeper depths of the sea.

#### Teeming Industry.

On the line of the Providence and Worcester railroad, there are twenty stopping places or way stations: 94 cotton mills; 307,006 spindles, 7,092 looms, making about 1,197,800 yards of cotton cloth per week; 22 woolen mills; 81 sets of woolen machinery; 4 scythe works, and 30 machine shops. The road is a fraction over 43 miles long, and will be in operation by the last of this month.

#### Amherst College.

Another donation of \$12,000 has recently been made to this college by David Sears of Boston. It is to be put out at interest until it has accumulated to a certain sum, or been increased to a certain amount by donations from other sources, and is to be then appropriated for a Library Hall. Mr. Sears has also given the same sum to Harvard College on certain similar conditions. The same gentleman gave \$10,000 to Amherst College several years since, but on such conditions that the college has not yet been able to draw on the fund.

#### Ginseng.

As this root commands a very high price in China, where it formerly (before American innovation) sold for its weight in gold, it can without doubt be made a very profitable article to American Commerce in our increasing intercourse with that mighty empire. The roots in their wild state, are usually small, but by cultivation they may be increased to three or four times the ordinary size. The plant will flourish in almost any ordinary soil, and exacts only the simplest culture.

#### Another Improvement Convention.

A convention was held, on the 1st inst., at Bloomfield, Mo., on the subject of reclaiming the extensive swamp lands of Missouri and Arkansas. A memorial to Congress for the purpose was adopted. These lands lie in south-eastern Missouri and north-eastern Arkansas, and are considered capable of being made a productive and prosperous country.

#### McAdamized Roads.

It is not generally known that McAdam, the inventor of the kind of road bearing his name, realized a fortune in New York during the war of independence, by being an agent for the sale of prizes. He had come to America in 1770; and after the war returned to England.

#### George IV.

"This is his most gracious majesty, George the Fourth," said an exhibitor of wax work for the million, at a penny each, pointing to a slim figure with a theatrical crown on his head. "I thought he was a very stout man," observed a spectator. "Werry likely," replied the man shortly, not approving of the comment of his visitor; "but if you'd 'a been here half as long as he has, you'd 'a been twice as thin."

#### Another Line.

Mr. Henry Rogers, Baltimore, has secured the right of the way from the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road, to construct a telegraph line from Baltimore, to connect with the western line constructed by Mr. O'Reilly, either at Lancaster or at Harrisburgh. It has not yet been decided whether Morse's or House's instrument will be used.

#### Historical Fact.

It may not be unworthy of mention at this time that Banquo, the Thane of Lochaber, and who resided in the castle of Inverlechy, was the progenitor of the Stuart family, of whom many of the crowned heads of Europe are descended. So that it is no wonder that our most gracious Queen should select Fort William, the capitol of Lochaber, for her landing place on her visit to this part of her ancient kingdom of Scotland.—*North British Mail.*

#### The Female Army of Switzerland.

We have mentioned in a previous number the two regiments of the women of the Canton of Uri, but we find in a French Paper a notice of them which we translate literally: "The two battalions, numbering fourteen hundred females in military dress, present an aspect at the same time formidable and captivating. In their evolutions and discipline they are drilled to perfection. Curiously enough, superiority of form and beauty has been very much the reason of difference of grade; the handsomest are of the advance guard, and this point of distinction and danger seems willingly conceded them by their companions who are less favored by Nature—Some classification has been guided by temperament also. The more vivid and flighty have been enrolled as voltigeurs, or light-horse—the more phlegmatic as grenadiers. Those who have figures of more *embonpoint* are in the central body, those of slighter forms are stationed at the wings. The coarse and rude are enrolled as dragoons and *centinieres*. The creation of this corps (which, with its discipline and enthusiasm, seems likely, at the first throw of the coming political movements of Europe, to take possession of the Helvetian soil) is an exercise of the powerful genius of Salis Soglio, who has reserved to himself the general command.

#### Virginian Gold.

The people of Louisa County, in Virginia are becoming as excited upon the subject of gold mines as were their ancestors, the first settlers, the first band of whom it will be recollected, were nearly starved to death in consequence of having abandoned the culture of corn for the search of this precious metal. A lump of pure virgin gold valued at eighty dollars has been found upon a farm in Louisa county, and arrangements are making by the proprietor for the prosecution of further researches and for the working of the mine on an extensive scale. Gold, Copper, and Iron Mines are said to abound in the same county, and all the inhabitants are preparing to enter the bowels of the earth.

#### Perseverance.

The Chinese tell of one of their countrymen who had been making strenuous efforts to acquire literary information, who discouraged by difficulties, at length gave up his books in despair. As he returned to manual employment, he saw a woman rubbing a crowbar on a stone, on asking her the reason, she replied she was in want of a needle, and thought she would rub down the crowbar till she got it small enough. The patience of the aged female provoked him to make another attempt, and he succeeded in obtaining the rank of one of the first three men in the empire.

#### Extraordinary Blast.

A blast was made on the 11th inst., at the Gneiss Quarry of Hon. Geo. Leiper, Rialto township, Delaware county, Pa., which cut out a block of the following dimensions:—Depth 13 feet 6 inches, with 56 feet at one end, and 24 at the other; length, exteriorly 146 feet, interiorly 110 feet. By a rough estimate the solid contents may be set down 75,000 cubic feet, with a weight of 5,770 tons. The bore was 13 feet deep, two inches in diameter at the bottom, and two kegs of powder were employed.

#### A Tough Story.

It is stated that a man in Illinois, named Wilson Corey, while cutting down a large oak a flash of lightning came down the tree, tore off all his clothes, made a hole in the earth five feet deep, and buried him in it up to his neck, so fast as to make it impossible for him to get out. He was rescued by his friends next morning. It is added, as strange, that four panthers had been in the tree which Mr. C. was cutting down, but gave no intimation of their presence, which was discovered only by their being found dead in the upper branches where they had been concealed, and were killed by the lightning.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Cleveland and Cincinnati Railroad held some days since, \$100,000 new subscriptions were reported, and ten miles of the road ordered to be put under contract.

#### Wealth of Harvard College.

The bequests made to this institution are enormous. In the annual report of the overseers of that institution, we notice no less than nineteen bequests which average more than \$20,000 each. The available funds of the College given for specific purposes, the interest of which only is used, exceed *six hundred thousand dollars!* The Law Department has funds exceeding \$40,000. And the Theological School more than \$30,000! This opulence is the result of individual liberality of citizens in Massachusetts.

#### Rum and Crime.

Of 138 males in the Connecticut state Prison, 84 declare intemperance to be the cause of their present confinement and degradation, 13 have been engaged in the sale of intoxicating drinks and 4 in its manufacture.

#### A Sad Affair.

A short time since, at Sandlake, (N.Y.) a woman cut off the tongue of a boy, to whom she was step-mother. The reason she assigns for so doing, is to stop his telling lies.

As the ferry boat was crossing the river with passengers from Bathurst, Canada, a few days since, a fine salmon sprung out of the water into the lap of a lady. It struggled desperately to escape, but ultimately realized feelingly the amazing short distance there is between the frying pan and the fire.

A merchant examining a hoghead of hardware, on comparing it with the invoice, found it all right except a hammer less than the invoice. "Oh! don't be troubled my honey," said the Irish porter, "sure the nager took it out to open the hoghead with."

A dove which was kept in a cage at Pottsville, Pa., appearing desirous to escape, was set at liberty and flew away. After three weeks absence it returned, wounded by a shot and one leg broken, and clamored to be admitted to its cage again. This was done, and the bird cured, and it now remains contented and happy.

The 25th of November has been set apart by the Executives of Missouri and Massachusetts, as a day of general thanksgiving throughout those States.

A tobacconist of Rochester, prepared three thousand cigars for exhibition in the State Fair, the tobacco of which was entirely raised in Ondaga, and it is said to be of the best quality.

The Tribune says that a number of our countrymen have tendered their services to the Pope, to raise companies in defence of his territories, threatened by the troops of Austria.

Mr. Gillet Stillman, proprietor of a grist-mill and chair shop on Colebrook river, Conn., was caught in the machinery and carried through two iron cog wheels, and horribly mangled. He died immediately.

The Sault St. Marie Ship Canal is to be 4,500 feet in length and sixty feet in width, and when completed will make the entire chain of lakes navigable.

Great quantities of copper ore continue to arrive from Lake Superior. Two masses weighing 100 lbs. were lately melted with only a loss of two per cent.

A species of cotton worm has made its appearance in some of the Southern States and has done much damage to the cotton crop.

A new shaving soap has been invented, which takes off the beard by merely rubbing the soap on the chin. The only fault our informant says it possesses, is, that it takes off the skin too.

"I will give you my head if you are not wrong," exclaimed a dull and warm orator to the President Montesquieu in an argument. "I accept it," said the philosopher; "any trifle among friends has a value."

The Detroit Free Press has an account of 31 new flourishing mills in that State that will go into operation. Of these nine are in Macomb county.

Roger Sherman's Plough was exhibited at the late Mechanics Fair at Boston.