

UNITED STATES.

The value of Black Walnut—Terrible Fires in North Carolina—Lake Superior Trade—Prolific Oats.—&c., &c.

English capitalists are reported to have purchased \$5,000,000 worth of black walnut in Ohio, Indiana and Iowa for shipment to England.

New England maple sugar makers are complaining of an exceptionally late and and very unproductive season.

The barbed wire manufacturers of the West, having adjusted their quarrels, are now combining to put up the price, having made two advances in the last sixty days.

Northern capitalists are busy buying up the pine lands of Eastern Texas. As the forests of the north disappear, new sources of supply are being sought.

A supplementary arrangement has been concluded between this country and Spain relative to the removal of restrictions on the trade between America and the Spanish West Indies.

The Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives has agreed to report against proposing an amendment to the National Constitution giving women the right of suffrage.

By the burning of a great distillery at Petersburg, Ky., a few days ago, eight hundred cattle, which were kept upon the premises, and which could not get out, were burned.

The proportions of the exodus from Quebec to the United States are becoming alarming. From one parish in Montmagny alone last week 325 persons left, of whom 200 never intend to return to Canada.

The date of the national wool growers' Convention at Chicago has been changed from May 7 to May 19, in order that the delegates may be present and participate in the proceedings of the national industrial congress, which will be held at Chicago, May 21.

Terrible fires in the turpentine regions of North Carolina raged for several days, destroying hundreds of thousands of trees, and some of the largest turpentine orchards in the State. Several houses were destroyed and a number of families were rendered homeless.

The American Grocer finds that in 1883 3,000,000 cases of tomatoes were packed in the United States, each containing two dozen tins. The exact figures are 70,645,896 cans. Their value at wholesale was probably \$6,000,000. Maryland puts up about one half of the product, and New Jersey over a fifth.

Among the bills pending in the New Jersey Legislature is one to prohibit the manufacture of dynamite and other explosive materials, or any dynamite machine, or the transportation thereof intended for the unlawful wounding of anybody, under a penalty of from \$1,000 to \$5,000 fine, or imprisonment of from thirty days to five years.

They are having trouble in Texas over a man who has just received two sentences one of 50 years' imprisonment and the other to be hanged. They want to hang him now, but the man claims he ought to serve his time first, as that sentence was pronounced prior to the one of hanging. A juror gave it as his opinion that "as the prisoner was a dead sure loser, he'd better close out with the bank and swing to wunst."

The Lake Superior ore trade is reported to be in a worse condition than it has been for twelve or fifteen years. Seven out of every twelve mines in the region are idle, and those which are running are owned by the largest and wealthiest corporations who are restricting the output. At least one half of the ore is of the best quality and is selling at Cleveland for six dollars per ton, which is lower than for many years past. At this price there is only a profit of five cents a ton.

A bill has been introduced in the United States Senate to provide for the creation of a silk culture bureau which shall constitute one of the bureaus of the Agricultural Department and shall embrace in its organization five silk culture stations, to be established as follows: One to be located in the State of Pennsylvania, one in Florida, one in Alabama, one in Iowa and one in California. The bill provides for the appropriation of \$150,000 for carrying on the object of the bill.

In 1881 a Fargo (Dakota) farmer noticed a single stool of wheat in his oat field, which consisted of twenty-two stalks, headed out. These contained 860 grains, of which 760 were planted in 1882, yielding one-fifth of a bushel. Last Spring this wheat was planted and carefully cultivated. The product is seventeen bushels, an increase of eighty five fold, and a yield of fifty-six bushels and thirty-two pounds to the acre. Seventeen bushels from a single kernel in three years is a good growth.

Elephants for Farm Work.

I am pulling along here very well; managed to secure several hundred bushels of coffee more than I had estimated, and this is always pleasant. Value of our crop, about \$3,000. Never had the pleasure before of working with elephants. Sent away our crop with them this season. I did not intrude myself too much upon their attention. You see I did not feel entitled to the honor of an intimate acquaintance, I treated them with great respect and deference, much the same as a street Arab does a policeman. I can't get over my antipathy to that "trunk." The Malay style of feeding elephants has certainly the merit of simplicity. When the day's work is done they are turned out into the jungle to find their own food; and so they go rambling about, all night, pulling and tearing away at any tree or shrub they fancy. When morning comes the drivers, tracing them by their own apparent marks, put the driving hook over their ears and lead them off to work. Elephants seem to graze in a forest quite as contentedly as cattle in a pasture. Their ability to scramble up and down apparently impassable places is wonderful. I never saw any animal before show the intelligence to break a branch off a tree to fan away the flies. They helped themselves to our coffee trees for this purpose.—Letter from India.

Some fruit raisers keep a book in which they register the age and variety of every tree in their orchard, together with any items in regard to its grafting, productiveness, treatment, etc., which are thought to be desirable.

A CALIFORNIA WELL.

That Supplies Good Drinking Water and Good Fuel at the Same Time.

Catlar Salmon of French Camp, not far from Stockton, Cal., sunk a well with a seven-inch tube to a depth of about 840 feet, and struck a copious stream of excellent water. Desiring to learn whether he could increase the flow by going deeper, and fearing that, should he continue the well the same size, he might injure the quality of the upper strata of water, Mr. Salmon hit on the plan of sinking a four-inch tube inside the seven-inch one, and thus making what might be called the experimental well four inches in diameter. This inner one he bored to a depth of 1,250 feet, and then came to water again. This lower stream came to the surface, and, indeed, rose in a tube twenty-two feet above the ground. The last water found was unfit for drinking, and but for an accidental discovery of its wonderful properties might have been considered a nuisance. It was found that there was a large amount of gas in this water from the lower depth. This came bubbling to the surface, making one think of a gigantic soda fountain.

Some one suggested the idea of seeing if the gas would burn. A coal-oil can was put over the top of the tubing, and having a few holes punched in it, an improvised gas fixture was at hand. Only a match was required to complete the preparations. The match was lighted and applied to a hole in the can, and flames shot up three or four feet in the air and burned steadily. The gas would burn. Mr. Salmon had fire and water coming out of the same hole in the ground. The tube of the outer well, that which was only 480 feet deep and furnished the good water, was tapped and sufficient water for all domestic uses and for the stock &c., was led off in pipes to the house and other localities. A curbing was built around the twin wells in such a way that it formed a reservoir for the water from the 1,250-foot level and that portion from above which was not conveyed away in the pipes. All through this water in the reservoir came bubbling up the gas, generated somehow, somewhere down below. When Mr. Salmon next went to Stockton he had a gasometer made with a stop-cock in the top, and this he took home and fastened over his wells. The bottom was beneath the surface of the water in the reservoir, and the gas speedily filled the bell-shaped receiver. The next thing was to attach a gas pipe, and connect his home-made gas machine with the house.

He put a pipe perforated with small holes across his large open fire-place, turned on the gas, applied a match, and the problem of cheap fuel was instantly solved. After that gas pipe was put into the fire box of the kitchen stove, and now the meals are prepared with the new fuel. Mr. Salmon has also used this gas for illuminating, but it does not seem to entirely fill the bill, although it is a great improvement on a tallow dip. It has been suggested that, as this gas seems to be almost pure hydrogen, it might be carburetted and its illuminating quality improved. The gas throws off a great amount of heat, and, without a doubt, such a well would supply a large number of families with the means of warming their houses and preparing their food.

How to Mind a Baby.

First, a man need have one to take care of. It isn't every man that is fortunate enough to have one, and when he does his wife is always wanting to run over to the neighbor's only five minutes, and he has to attend the baby. Sometimes she caresses him, but oftener she says sternly,—

"John, take good care of the child till I come back."

You want to remonstrate, but cannot pluck up courage while that awful female's eye is upon you; so you prudently refrain and merely remark,—

"Don't stay long, dear."

She is scarcely out of sight when the luckless babe opens its eyes, and its mouth also, and emits a yell which causes the cat to bounce out of the door as if something had stung it. You timidly lift the cherub and sing an operatic air; it does not appreciate it, and yells the louder. You try to bribe it with a bit of sugar; not a bit of use, it spits it out. You get wrathful and shake it.

It stops a second, and you venture another, when, good heavens! it sets up such a roar that the passers by look up in astonishment. You feel desperate; your hair stands on end and the perspiration oozes out of every pore as the agonizing thought comes over you, what if the luckless child should have a fit. You try baby talk; but "litty, litty lamb" has no effect—for it stretches as if a red hot poker had been laid upon its spine, and still it yells. You are afraid the neighborhood will be alarmed, and give it your gold watch as a last resource, just in time to save your whiskers; though it throws down a handful of your cherished moustache to take the watch, and you thankfully find an easy chair to rest your aching limbs, when down comes that costly watch on the floor, and the cause of all the trouble breaks into an ear-splitting roar, and you set your teeth and prepare to administer personal chastisement, when in rushes the happy woman known as your wife, snatches the long-suffering child from your willing arms, and sitting down, stills it by magic, while you gaze monotonously at the remains of your watch and cherished moustache, and muttering a malediction on babykind in general, and on the image of its father in particular, vow never to take care of a baby again—until the next time.

Every one, rich and poor, takes a dip once a day in a caldron of hot water in Japan. The rich bathe before dinner and at night. The whole household dip in the same water. Precedence is given to visitors, then the elders, followed by the young people according to age, and then the servants. On getting out of the caldron each bather gurgles mouth and throat with cold aromatized water. They then fan each other until they are all dry.

Meissonier had the good taste to refuse the banquet offered to him as a protest against the destruction of one of his works by Mrs. Mackey, though the list of tenders included E. Renan, Alexandre Dumas, Berthelot, and Pasteur. "I shall soon be starting for Italy," he wrote. "If people wish to give me a dinner, let it be later, on the occasion of the exhibition of my works; but on the morrow of the Mackey affair I cannot accept it."

In the Public Garden, Boston, there will be planted this year 500,000 pansies. The first floral display will continue through April, May and June.

HOW SHAKESPEARE WORKED.

The Methods of the Great English Dramatist—Definitions of Genius.

Of one conception of genius (a very low one, in my judgment) Shakespeare's work is totally destructive, says Richard Grant White in the *Atlantic* for May. Genius has been defined as the ability to take great pains. Genius is rather the ability to conceive and to do, with or without pains, that which is admirable and which is peculiar to the doer. The former definition seems as if it were contrived for the comfort and countenance of that large body of men who regard themselves as undeveloped, or at least possible geniuses,—men who could have written "King Lear" "if they had a mind to do it," and who have been prevented from elaborating that tragedy, or one equal to it, by adverse circumstances. Nevertheless, it has been growing in favor of late; probably because of the daily increasing importance of science, which proceeds by the careful collection and comparison of facts, and which demands that the most daring and imaginative theories shall be advanced by the slow and patient steps of toil and caution. However true this conception of genius may be in science, it is not true in art, in literature, the annals of which are studied with splendid lights, which have been spoken into existence by the creative will, it not by the creative word of omnipotent genius, exercising its native powers almost unconsciously. Of Shakespeare, at least, it is to be said that great pains were no condition of the working of his wondrous. On the contrary, the achievement of this genius was always in directly inverse ratio to the height of his aim and the greatness of his endeavor. When he toiled, when he wrought with deliberate effort, when he set up for himself a high standard of attainment, he was comparatively feeble and dull and insignificant, with no fire in his prophecy, no truth in his fable. It was when he was doing his journey-work, with small trouble to himself, with the lowest purpose and the least possible labor either in planning or in finishing, that he was splendid and beautiful and strong, with a splendor, a beauty, and a strength that are beyond the conception of any other man who has left the mark of his hand upon the ages. When he set out to be a poet, to do something that would bear criticism and give him a place in literature, he produced "Venus and Adonis," and "The Rape of Lucrece," which would have been utterly forgotten long ago had they not been his. When, with lower purpose, he undertook only to please "his private friends," he evolved the marvelous mystery of his fascinating sonnets. But, when grinding in his daily mill, he blindly put out his hands, and took for grist almost any old play or old tale the story of which he thought would interest a miscellaneous London audience, he turned out such job work as "Romeo and Juliet," "As You Like It," "Hamlet," "King Lear," "Othello," "Antony and Cleopatra." Nothing is made clearer by a study of his work than that at the times when he wrote those dramas, it was in him to write them in the way in which they were written, and in no other. It was just as easy for him to turn them off as he did as it was for any minor journalist of nowadays to elaborate his little paragraphs.

Dangers of Gambling.

The Canada Presbyterian says:—With some people gambling seems to be an infatuation. In all cases it is a dangerous and a ruinous one. Others try to make it a means of livelihood. As a trade, it would be difficult to find one more disreputable. Rag-picking is an honorable occupation compared with gambling. Professional gamblers are about the worst scoundrels that prey on society. It is no mitigation to say that were there no dishonest simpletons, there would be no pigeon-pluckers. There are degrees of wickedness; the fools who make a habit of gambling are descending rapidly, but the knaves who live by it have little further to fall. In a recent trial in Buffalo several gamblers sought to evade justice by corrupting the members of the Grand Jury. This coming to the Judge's knowledge, they were told that if there was any violation of the law, its penalties would be rigidly enforced. The Judge was in earnest, and the jury felt it. They gave the names of those who approached them, and speedy arrests followed. There is no good reason why an American judge should not be just even though the judiciary is elective.

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