



Faber's Water Gauge.

We have examined this gauge, at the office of J. P. Pirsson, Esq., whose advertisement appears in our columns, and do not hesitate in pronouncing it valuable for the purpose. It is simple and effectual, and can always be relied upon. The float is a sphere in its form, and must resist the pressure in the boiler, tending to a collapse. The float is agitated by the ebullition of the water, consequently conveys motion to the index needle, which, if carefully watched by the engineer, will effectually prevent an explosion.

Russian Army in Hungary.

The Washington Republic says—"We have private letters from Warsaw to the middle of the past month, which give a more distinct idea of the character of the war waged by the Austrian and Russian Emperors on Hungary than any account which has yet reached us. One fact is stated in these letters which we do not remember to have seen published before. It is said a terrible scourge has seized on the Russian soldiers, known as the 'lice pest.' The individual is attacked by vermin under the skin, which increase until the whole body becomes one mass of corruption. Hitherto no remedy has been discovered, and the person attacked is considered as doomed; and the letters say hundreds have, at their own solicitation, been thrown into the river to terminate their sufferings. The cholera also makes terrible havoc on the ill-fated allied army."

Interesting to Mariners.

The following notice from the Superintendent of the Coast Survey is published for the benefit of navigators:

COAST SURVEY STATION, near }
North Dearfield, N. H., July 31, 1849. }
Sir:—I have received from the hydrographer of the British admiralty, notice of a rock off the coast of Patagonia, not laid down upon the charts. The Sirius struck upon this rock on the 10th of March, 1849, and reports it to be in "about latitude 48 deg. 27m. S., and longitude 65 deg. 37m. W., nine miles off Spring Bay." I recommend that publicity be given to this account for the benefit of our navigators. Very respectfully yours,
A. D. BACHE, Super't U. S. Coast Survey.
Hon. W. M. Meredith, Sec'y of Treasury.

Patent Office Building.

A portion of the massive and well-constructed foundation of the right wing of this building having been finished, the contractors, Messrs. Provest and Winter, commenced the setting of marble on last Monday week. Energy and activity seem to be infused into all portions of the work, which is progressing with surprising rapidity. The stone-masonry thus far is of a character to elicit commendations from every mechanic, as being fully equal, if not superior, to any work of the kind ever executed in this city.

Old Wines.

The passion for old wine has been sometimes carried to a very ridiculous excess; for the "thick crust," the "bee's wing," and several other criterions of the epicure, are but so many proofs of the decomposition and departure of some of the best qualities of the wine. Had the man that first filled the celebrated Heidelberg tun, been placed as sentinel, to see that no other wine was put into it, he would have found it much better at twenty-five or thirty years old, than at one hundred, or one hundred and fifty, had he lived so long, and been permitted now and then to taste it. At Bremen, there is a wine cellar, called the Store, where five hogsheds of Rhenish wine have been preserved since the year 1625. These five hogsheds cost 1200 francs. Had this been put out to compound interest, each hogshed would now be worth a thousand millions of money, a bottle of this precious wine would cost 21,799,480 francs; and a single wine glass 2,723,808.

Telegraphic Accuracy.

The telegraph operators, or those who send them communications, make terrible work of names, so that half the foreign news is unintelligible. In the dispatch containing the news from Hungary, we see in the New York papers the island Shutt, at the junction of the Danube and the Raab, is called the island of Hutt; in the Philadelphia papers the island of Hulk; in the Baltimore papers the island of Hubl. The Austrian General Ramberg is called R-inberg, and sometimes Ramberg.

A town which Bem entered in triumph is called Szomber in the New York dispatch, Zomber in the Philadelphia dispatch, and Zomba in Baltimore. Waitzen is called Warzen and Pesth is called Perth. General Grabbe is called Gabbe, and Schlick is called Sheek and Schleek. Yet for all this, we believe that the telegraph speaks as correctly as some authors in *Mss.*

Remarkable Statement.

At the great Hungarian meeting in London, Mr. Robertson Editor of the Westminister Review, said that it was his duty to state to the meeting a fact that had but just come to his knowledge. He had been reading three Russian documents, which very few gentlemen in the meeting had had an opportunity of perusing; and they explained the reason why the Russians were now in Hungary. The Czar Peter had left a will addressed to all his successors, in which he declared that they, the Russian people, were destined, foreordained, by Heaven, to the conquest of Europe. That was one document. There was another, which was less of an historical fact. It was a memoir of the policy adopted by the Russian Cabinet, a copy of which fell into the hands of Count Tekeli, in 1848; the idea of the Czar Peter was the idea of the Czar Nicholas.—And it was in furtherance of that idea that he had issued his memorable proclamation before advancing into Europe. He appealed in that to the God of battles. He declared that Russia would fulfill her mission. And he began with Hungary.

A Trading Princess.

The Journal au Havre, of July 17, says:—"For some days every one has been able to perceive in the roadstead in front of the bathing establishment of Erascati, a large steamer. This vessel, named the William, belongs to the Princess of Orange, who is at present at Dieppe, for the benefit of bathing. Thence she is about, it is said, to proceed to Palestine. This Princess is an intrepid tourist, and proceeds where she pleases in her yacht. Independently of this steamer, the Princess possesses, we are informed, eleven steamers which trade for her with England, Russia and the Netherlands. Her revenue is estimated at three millions of francs."

Cincinnati Observatory.

The Cincinnati Gazette announces the reception at the Observatory which does so much honor to that city, of a sidereal clock of the most approved construction, which was selected in London by Mr. Airy, the Astronomer of the Greenwich Observatory, and has been tested at that Observatory. It is the donation of Wilson McGrew, Esq. of Cincinnati.

A Noble and Daring Act.

One of the steam-boats recently burnt at St. Louis, had aboard thirty kegs of powder when the fire broke out. Mr. Lewis Brown, one of the pilots, was aware of this fact, and at great personal hazard went down into the hold of the vessel, and threw twenty-nine of the thirty kegs into the river. He had barely time to escape when the fire communicated to the hold, and in a few moments the remaining keg exploded, stunning several firemen in the neighborhood.

Two Monsters Captured.

Last week, an attempt was made to throw the 9 o'clock train of Dedham, Mass., cars off the track, near the toll-gate station, by placing a couple of telegraph poles across the track. The gate-keeper noticed two men place the poles, procured assistance removed the poles before the cars reached the spot, gave chase to the villains and captured them.

An injunction against the building of the Wheeling Bridge, Va., has been applied for, in the United States Circuit Court (Judge Grier) Philadelphia. This is a very interesting case.

How to get rid of Bad Smells Infection.

A scientific gentleman states, through the Boston Journal, that for a disinfecting agent for general use, for the surfaces whence noisome exhalations arise can be reached, one pound of common copperas, dissolved in one gallon of water, forms a fluid which, when sprinkled on decomposing matter, or any changing surfaces, immediately destroys putrescent exhalations. In extreme cases, two pounds of copperas, in one gallon of water may be used, and in some situations, the addition of so much ground, plaster as will form a thin paste, will be required. The weekly sprinkling of cellar floors, paved yards, drains, and all filthy receptacles, with this fluid, will render the atmosphere above them perfectly salubrious. In sick rooms and confined spaces, the colorless liquid should be placed in shallow vessels, freely exposed, when its power of absorption will soon change the character of air around it. [We described copperas, as being a good disinfectant, in volume 3, Scientific American, it is good—there is no doubt about it, but the chloride of Zinc is better. It is made by dissolving zinc in muriatic acid.]

A Descendant of Sir Isaac Newton.

Mrs. Newton, of Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, who is descended from the great mathematician and astronomer, and dwells in his birth-place, was lately visited by a mulatto sybil, who believed the children of Mrs. Newton to be heirs of a large estate, and could enable them to recover their heritage. The lady therefore retained the swart Egyptian, and entrusted her with two silk gowns, two petticoats, two garments still further removed from observation, two silk handkerchiefs, a shawl, and her wedding ring, to enable her successfully to "work the planets." The planets, however, were unaffected by the enterprise, save that Venus almost lost her "gravity," when, for such an object, she saw a descendant of Newton denuding herself of her chemise!

Poisons and Antidotes.

If by accident any person should drink nitric, muriatic, or sulphuric acid, some alkaline substance should be administered as soon as possible. Ammonia and calcined magnesia are good. For oxalic acid, chalk is a good antidote; for corrosive sublimate, the white of eggs; for an over dose of tartar emetic, a strong decoction of hyson tea, or oak bark is good, or the leaves of the black berry.

Heights of Localities in the Holy Land.

The summit of Horeb, 7,097 Parisian feet above the sea, Jericho, 717 below the sea; bathing places of the pilgrims in Jordan 1,291 below the sea; summit of Tabor, 1,755 above the sea; surface of the lake of Tiberias, 625 below the sea; the highest point of Lebanon, 8,800 feet above the sea; the cedars of Lebanon about Eden, 6,000.

A Droll Comparison.

A learned and ingenious foreigner, having visited England, and being asked how he liked the English, said; "They resemble a butt of their own favorite beverage, ale—frothy at top, dregs at the bottom, but the middle part excellent."

Cholera at Sandusky.

The cholera at Sandusky City Ohio, has been very severe, almost all the inhabitants deserted it, and the living were not able to attend to the sick, some physicians from Cleveland and other places, have performed the offices of good Samaritans.

Coming It Strong.

There are 8,300 poor house officers in England, whose salaries are more than £500, 000 per annum.

Insectual Leaping.

The flea, grasshopper, and locust, jump 200 times their own length, equal to a quarter of a mile for a man.

The Five Points.

The five cardinal points for a drunkard are a face of brass, nerves of steel, lungs of leather, heart of stone, and incombustible liver.

Effects of Sugar Diet.

In seventeen experiments on dogs it is ascertained that in some cases, sugar tends to fatten the animal, and in others it turns to bile.

Abd el Kader.

This gallant Moorish chieftain is still kept in durance by the French Government. The violation of promise committed by the former dynasty is continued by the present one, and in answer to his petitions for release, he has been answered, that the Government is afraid he will not keep his word. It must, therefore, by this peculiar fear, continue to violate its own.

"A Tinner" enquires through the National Intelligencer, whether any body has ever known or heard of a house covered with tin being injured or struck by lightning.

The Washington Globe says that it was not the celebrated aeronaut, Mr. Green, that was drowned in Wales, but another Mr. Green.

A fellow at Newark, N. J., attempted to rob a Mr. Wright, but although the rascal was armed with pistol and dagger, Mr. Wright succeeded in capturing him and brought him a prisoner to the jail. Well done Wright—he did the right thing.

Valuable mines of lead silver ore have been discovered at Little Rock, Arkansas. The vein is 15 feet in thickness and has furnished 500 ounces of silver to the ton of ore.

The Artesian Well at Charleston, S. C., which has been bored to 800 feet in depth, has resulted in disappointment, and the work in all likelihood will be abandoned. We are sorry for this.

The Supreme Court of Alabama has decided that sight drafts and bills are entitled to days of grace, just as any other draft or negotiable paper.

Every pound weight of cochineal contains 70,000 insects steamed to death; so that the annual sacrifice of insectual life, to procure our scarlet and crimson dyes, amounts to about 40,000,000 of these small members of the creation.

An eminent meteorological observer in Manchester England, says, that the air was fully charged with electricity around places where the cholera greatly prevailed, and with the greatest intensity in England since its reappearance there, last June.

A tornado at Cincinnati, on the 8th instant, threw down the steeple of St. Philemon's Church, a structure 250 feet high, which was not entirely finished. It fell along the street, and did no damage to other property.

It is stated that three clergymen in succession who were appointed chaplains to the Liverpool Cemetery, England, have become mentally deranged. The circumstance is attributed to their repetition (sometimes as often as six times a day) of the funeral service, and the impressiveness of the sad spectacle of which they were habitually spectators.

A letter has been received at Snow Hill, Md., calling for the heirs of John Watkins, Moses Chaille, Solomon Long, and Eli Dorsey, Md., Cont. Line, Army of Revolution, who are entitled to commutation and county land. It is from Gen. John P. Duval, at Tallahassee, Florida. Some of the heirs are said to be in Washington.

A person who undertakes to raise himself by scandalizing others, might just as well sit down on a wheelbarrow and undertake to wheel himself.

A singular recovery from partial derangement is mentioned by the Easton Whig, in the case of a man at Nazareth, Pa., whose mind had been deranged for eight years, during which time he had not spoken a word till last week, when his reason suddenly returned, and he attends to business as usual, though he is entirely unconscious of the events which occurred during his mental aberration.

The Iceland cod fishery this year has been very successful. A smack lately arrived in the Thames with 19,000 cod on board, and reported that one of the French smacks on the coast of Iceland had taken as many as 50,000 head.