

### Items of Interest.

VIRGINIA has 86,468 farms.

A CHINESE colony will locate at Council Bluffs.

CONGRESSMAN Lynch, of Maine, will decline a re-election.

SEVEN hundred carpenters of Verviers, in Belgium, are on strike.

THE salary of the Governor of California is \$10,000—the largest in the Union.

LEMON juice is used by physicians to effect a cure for some attacks of rheumatism.

It is not perhaps commonly known that tomatoes will make excellent champagne.

A RELIGIOUS sect is announced in St. Louis which compels women to cut their hair off.

CAPT. JOHN C. TODD is the only surviving officer of the navy of the Texas Republic.

Two mock medical shops in Philadelphia have had their charters revoked by the Legislature.

FORTY-SIX thousand persons in Iowa can neither read nor write, and one-third of them are voters.

MORE than five times the usual amount of grain has been sown this year in some parts of California.

At Forsyth, Ontario, some rascal twice destroyed the church organ; not favoring the innovation.

HON. L. P. WALKER, United States Senator from Wisconsin, in 1854, died suddenly of apoplexy.

ADVISED from the Southern States show that planters will prepare to plant more cotton this year than ever before.

THE condemnations by the French Military Commissions of persons in the Commune is thus far 5,624; liberations, 20,910.

JOSEPH WHITTLE was badly torn by lions, while performing at a circus in Frankford, Pa. He is not expected to live.

THE petroleum springs of San Fernando, in southern California, are yielding at the rate of twenty barrels of oil per day.

ENGLISH authorities fix the population of China at 300,000,000, nearly ten times what the United States statistics show in this country.

THE grain coming East is enormous, and lake captains are making contracts at 13 cents per bushel for corn to Buffalo, and 18 to Oswego.

Two persons were killed and twelve injured by the fall of the wall of a building in which a negro festival was being held in Frederick, Md.

A BILL was introduced into the New York Legislature to punish by a fine of \$1,000 newspapers publishing the advertisements of abortionists.

GENERALS SHERIDAN and Auger have been instructed by the War Department to use extraordinary efforts to put a stop to the raids of Mexicans in Texas.

CONGRESSMEN Houghton, Sargent and Coughlan were denounced and burned in effigy in San Francisco, for their connection with Yerba Buena scheme.

THE Sacramento Union predicts that, within six years, the wine product of California, will be 64,546,875 gallons per annum, valued at \$19,364,052.

THE Selectmen of Granby, Mass., offered a premium of a dime for woodchuck heads, and the boys brought in 1,115, which surprised the Selectmen.

A STAY of execution has been granted in the case of Charles Marlow, who was to have been hanged at Maysville, N. Y., for the murder of William Bachman.

THE Pennsylvania Labor Reformers have called a State Convention, to be held in Williamsport, on Tuesday, May 7, to nominate candidates for State officers.

LETTERS from the West state that persons usually plunging at the middle of March, were this year shivering at that time as they gazed upon their frozen fields.

At a meeting of iron manufacturers at Pittsburg, all sizes of iron were increased in price three-tenths of a cent per pound, and nails twenty-five cents per keg.

News from Mexico is interesting. The revolution appears to be in a very bad case. From almost every quarter news of the triumph of the government troops is received.

PRESIDENT GRANT has signed the act to enable honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, their widows and orphan children, to acquire homesteads on the public lands.

It is stated in mitigation of Fejee cannibalism that only boys from 12 to 14 years old are now eaten by educated persons; only the very lowest class eat men and women.

A LARGE number of printing firms in London have yielded to the demand enforced by the strike of the compositors, for higher wages and a limitation of the day's work to nine hours.

The U. S. House Ways and Means Committee have voted in favor of fixing a consolidated tax of 65 cents per gallon on whiskey, and a uniform tax of 20 cents per pound on tobacco.

THE negotiations lately pending between Mrs. Fisk and Jay Gould, through one of the executors of the late James Fisk, Jr., resulted in the transfer of the New York Grand Opera House to Mrs. Fisk.

A RESOLUTION was offered and ordered to be printed in the Ohio Senate, asking the Ohio members of Congress to support a proposition to construct a canal around Niagara Falls, on the American side.

AFTER a protracted trial of curdango in the cancer wards of the Middlesex Hospital, in London, the medical authorities of that institution have arrived at the conclusion that the drug has no effect whatever on cancer.

At the Rhode Island election, the Republican State ticket, except the Lieutenant Governor, was elected. The Senate stands 26 Republicans to 11 Democrats, and the House of Representatives 53 Republicans and 18 Democrats.

M. M. VILLEMESANT and Vitu, editors of the Paris *Figaro*, have been acquitted of the charge of libelling General Trochu, and found guilty of insulting a government functionary. They were sentenced to three months' imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs.

A LARGE proportion of the population of Milwaukee is composed of thrifty, frugal, industrious, productive Germans, each of whom owns a little land about his house, and sports a pig or two, and sends his troop of children to school, and lays up money on \$9 a week.

At a meeting of citizens of Washington a resolution was adopted requesting the people of the United States to meet in their respective towns and cities on a day yet to be fixed upon to give expression to the loss sustained by the world in the death of Professor Morse.

WISCONSIN has just passed a law for the punishment of drunkenness with more than ordinary severity. Hereafter the inebriate is to be considered a criminal, liable to imprisonment for two months, or for as much longer a period as the costs of the action remain unpaid.

PROFESSOR WATSON, of Ann Arbor, reports the discovery in the constellation of Virgo, of a new planet. It shines like a star of the eleventh magnitude. Its position is right ascension, 200 degrees 55 minutes declination. It is moving slowly west in right ascension, and north in declination.

MAZANARES, in Spain, near which the rails were torn up and the trains stopped and robbed by banditti, is within about one hundred miles of Madrid, in the province of Ciudad Real, which has two hundred and forty-five thousand inhabitants, on an area of about five thousand square miles, a population more than half as dense as that of the State of New York.

ABOUT 400 farmers interested in the milk trade met in New York to devise means to protect themselves from the rapacity of dealers and middlemen. It was stated that the dairymen receive 3 cents a quart for milk, while the consumer pays 10 cents a quart for milk and water—3,000 cases of the latter being added to the 10,000 cases daily brought into New York.

### The Earthquakes of History.

It is estimated by geologists that more than one-eighth of the entire surface of the globe has been subjected to the disturbing influence of earthquake shocks. The most disastrous one of which there is any record was the third destruction of Antioch, from this cause in 526 A. D. According to the great historian, Gibbon, 250,000 persons perished at this time, as thousands of strangers increased the population of the city, thronging to the festival of the Ascension, which occurred at that time. The earthquakes and volcanic eruptions which buried the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum are too familiar to require allusion. Of the most disastrous of modern catastrophes of this sort have been those of Lisbon, in 1755, and of New Madrid, in Missouri, in 1811. The former commenced on November 1. A loud rumbling was followed almost immediately by a fearful shock, which demolished the principal buildings of the city, and in the short time of six minutes it is estimated that 60,000 persons were killed. The tide on the seacoast ran out rapidly, leaving the bar perfectly dry, and as rapidly an enormous wave thirty feet in height rushed in again, sweeping everything before it. The mountains in the neighborhood were shaken violently, deep fissures rent in the valleys, craggs toppled over, and rocks were hurled into the abysses, bearing everything with them. Thousands of people rushed for safety to the marble quay which had just been constructed at an enormous expense, when suddenly it sank, carrying its load with it, and over the spot the water stood 600 feet deep. All the shipping of the harbor was sunk instantly, and hardly a vestige of the life and prosperity of the famed capital remained. The most important of the earthquakes which have ever occurred in this country, of which we have any record, was that of New Madrid, Mo. Over three hundred miles of country, from the mouth of the Ohio to that of the St. Francis rose and sank in undulations, lakes and fissures being alternately formed and filled up. These shocks were both perpendicular and horizontal, the latter being by far the more disastrous in their effects. The incessant quakings were kept up for several months, and the loss of life and property was enormous. The City of Caracas, in Venezuela, was overwhelmed in 1812, and 12,000 citizens buried in its ruins. All the Central and South American volcanic regions have frequently of late years been subjected to these shocks, and cities destroyed and thousands of lives lost. In the Caribbean Sea they are common occurrences, and their consequences often appalling.

ATRICK.—One of the oddest April-fool-tricks on record, is that perpetrated by Rabelias. He was in Marseilles and destitute of funds, but anxiously yearned to go to Paris. It was the first of April and an idea struck him. He filled two vials with brick dust and labeled them as containing poison to be administered to the royal family. He put these vials where they would be discovered. He was promptly arrested, and with great mystery. All explanation was refused him. He was at once placed en route for Paris, and conveyed there with great expedition. Carried to the palace as a traitor, he explained the jest. The vials were examined, and he was released amid general laughter.

### The Telegraph and its Inventor.

On April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, Mass., Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born. He was a son of the Rev. Jedediah Morse, D. D., pastor of the First Congregational Church, leading light of the Orthodoxists of the day in their fight against New England Unitarianism, and author, too, of that many-volumed series of text books from which the passing generation studied geography. His historical works, also, are numerous. He was a graduate of Yale in 1783.

Of course the invention of the telegraph was, like all the greatest things, in some measure a growth, but the world has recognized Prof. Morse as at least the contributor of the greatest share of the origination, and the one successful promoter of its realization. His first idea was to pass a strip of chemically prepared paper in contact with the wire, decomposing the chemicals so as to form marks of different lengths which should form a sign alphabet. Next he thought of the action of electricity upon a lever as a mode of using pens and ink, but this he abandoned for the indenting steel point on the end of a lever which is now in use. In 1835 he completed a rude apparatus, all made by himself, with an experimental wire of half a mile in length around a room, but this only transmitted in one direction. By 1837 he had ready an improved apparatus, which he exhibited at one of the rooms in the University. This year he went to Washington, filed his caveat, and asked for a Congressional appropriation for a line thence to Baltimore. The session passed without action, and he went abroad. England refused him a patent, Wheatstone having in the meantime got to work; in France he obtained a *brevet d'invention*. But he met with little encouragement abroad, and came back to struggle through poverty and ridicule for four long years.

At last came the close of the session of '43. On the evening of March 3, the Professor gave up in despair, returned to his hotel "broken in spirit and bankrupt in purse," to start for New York the next day. "At the midnight hour of the expiring session," by a vote of 89 to 83, the bill was passed, and in the morning the inventor knew the dawn which follows the darkest hour.

But there were more difficulties. The first plan was of burying the wires in lead pipes. Ezra Cornell devised a machine drawn by oxen, which opened the trench, laid the pipe, and closed it again; but the expense was great and the plan failed otherwise. It is said that Cornell saved him confession of failure by "accidentally on purpose" smashing the machine against a rock. Only \$7,000 of the appropriation then remained; but Cornell suggested the use of poles, and on the 27th of May, 1844, "What God hath wrought!" flashed the praise and victory from Baltimore to Washington. The first information given by the telegraph was that of the nomination of James K. Polk for the presidency by the Baltimore Convention.

### A Huge File of Paper.

On the 31st of March, 1871, the United States House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish an estimate of the number of pounds of paper that would be required to replace the national bank circulation; also the number of pounds made up into greenbacks, fractional currency, and bonds, with the cost thereof. The report of the Secretary in response to this inquiry has just been made public. It states that "it would require 5,603,274 sheets of paper to replace the national bank circulation, which, at 18 pounds per 1,000 sheets, the weight heretofore used, would be 100,858 pounds. The average cost of the paper used for the circulation of national banks is 78 cents per pound, or a total cost of \$78,669.24. The number of pounds of paper manufactured into legal tenders or greenback notes is given as 206,637 pounds, costing \$175,341.45; manufactured into fractional currency, 316,176 pounds, costing \$243,406.94; manufactured into bonds, 110,873 pounds, costing \$91,387.63; manufactured into internal revenue stamps, 78,062 pounds, costing \$36,689.14; making a total of 812,608 pounds of paper, at a cost of \$625,494.40. There is a reserve of paper, to be manufactured into greenbacks, fractional currency, bonds, and revenue stamps, amounting to 257,183 pounds, costing \$204,812.36; so that the grand total of paper used or to be used in the paper money is 1,069,791 pounds, costing \$830,306.76.

### A SUBMERGED BRIDGE.

Mr. Halsey of New Jersey will report favorably from the sub-committee having charge of the matter to the U. S. House Committee on Roads and Canals the bill incorporating the New York and Brooklyn Submerged Turbulent Bridge Company, whose object is to lay a tunnel or tube under the East River, between the cities of New York and Brooklyn. The bill authorizes the laying of a tube of wrought iron 2,640 feet in length, 60 feet in breadth in the clear, and 24 feet high, at a cost of \$2,500,000. The tube will accommodate not only foot passengers and vehicles, but also railroads. The tolls allowed are to be one cent for foot passengers, three cents a head for cattle and horses, five cents for single wagon and horse, twelve cents for double wagon and horse, and twenty-four cents for loaded double wagons. Mr. Halsey will report an amendment that the tube shall be so laid in the bed of the river as not to obstruct or interfere with navigation.

THE Spaniards are again agitating for the recovery of Gibraltar. Naturally it is galling to them to find that their principal fortress should be in the possession of the foreigner, but it is not probable that they will succeed in regaining it.

### Arthur O'Connor.

The trial of young O'Connor for his assault upon the Queen has just been held. A medical examination was made of the prisoner, and the report of the officer seemed to render it unlikely that the plea of insanity be sustained. The report says:

The boy is a slight, delicate lad, 18 years of age, pale, and strumous-looking; his general expression being calm, thoughtful, and intelligent, the eyes particularly expressive of determination, fearlessness, and enthusiasm. The mental capacity is good. He answered all questions respectfully and to the point, and was quite consistent in all his statements, and particularly as regards his motives for committing the offence. He stated that he had had a good deal of sickness, and was a long time a patient in King's College Hospital, where his foot was operated upon by Mr. Partridge. He stated that his life had not been a happy one, and that he would gladly sacrifice it for the good of Ireland; that he was a gentleman by birth, and would feel insulted if any one spoke disrespectfully of his great uncle Feargus O'Connor; that there was no insanity in his family, although Feargus O'Connor was thought to have died mad; that he had read a great deal, and not sensational novels, as they were not to his taste. He further declared himself a republican, sympathizing strongly with the Irish people; he thinks it an honor to be a Fenian, the murder of the Manchester policeman justifiable, and being grieved that the Fenian prisoners are still unreleased, feels that since peaceful measures have failed, any violence is justifiable in order to effect their release. He said he was a free thinker in religion, and believed in God, but not in denominational religion or clergymen. He declared that he was not unhappy at the thought of being punished, but that his efforts to release the Fenians have failed. Dr. Bond, as the result of his examination, certified that he was perfectly sane, and this opinion has been confirmed, after a lengthy interview by Dr. Sutherland. The lad had at first contemplated the use of firearms against her Majesty, but considered that as the Prince of Wales would come to the throne, and the monarch still remain as an institution of the country, it would be better to attempt by intimidation, to gain the immediate object he had in view. The boy had been ill-health, and we know that Feargus O'Connor died of general paralysis of the brain in an asylum. But for all this, so far as the facts are on record as regards the boy himself, there is no evidence of insanity in his case.

### Served Her Right.

The following incident in the life of Mlle. Aimee, the opera bouffe prima donna, is related by a United States officer, who vouches for its truth: In 1869, Mlle. Aimee was playing a successful engagement at Rio Janeiro, Brazil. Among her many admirers was a wealthy planter, who resided some distance from the city, who had bestowed many a costly present upon her, and received many a shower of Aimee's smiles in return. One day, while out shopping, her eyes encountered a magnificent diamond necklace. This she bantered her adorer to present her with, which he promptly promised to do, but on inquiring the price and finding to be 7,000 milreas—nearly \$8,000—he concluded it too costly, and so informed Mlle. at the same time telling her that he had offered the jeweler 5,000 milreas, which he was willing to pay, but the jeweler refused to sell at that price. Aimee being determined to have the jewel, visited the owner and explained the situation, at the same time paying him 2,000 milreas (\$2,240.) with instructions to the merchant to let the planter have it on paying the other \$5,000. On his next visit Aimee coaxed him to make one more trial to obtain for her the coveted necklace. He did so, and secured it, but just as he was leaving the store a confidential friend entered, to whom he showed the costly present, at the same time telling him who it was for. His friend persuaded him to take the necklace home to his wife, who loved and cared for him. He did so, and Mlle. Aimee lost her \$2,240.

### CAPEES.

The rage for capes, says a fashion journal, seems to have reached its height, and may be expected wholly to subside. Double capes and sacks with capes have been imported in light cloths, in the fashionable gray and brown tints richly braided or embroidered and bordered with fringe. They are also made in cashmere and even in silk. Dresses are made with small pelerine capes, real or simulated, and linen polonaises are completed by large capes, which take away all idea of dress from their appearance, and make them look like traveling wraps, nothing more. The cape is the only addition which the past four years have made to the street costume. Two skirts and a jacket, or the skirt and the polonaise comprehend the list of modern ideas upon this subject.

### ORANGE GROWING IN CALIFORNIA.

A California paper says that the average yield of California orange trees is set down as 1,500 for each tree. If 1,000 oranges be assumed to each tree, however, and seventy trees be assumed to the acre, the product of 70,000 oranges results: Calculating that these sell at \$20 per thousand, the result of \$14,000 for an orchard of ten acres is given. Cutting off one-half to allow for all contingencies, \$7,000 still remains as the off-spring for a single crop. The proceeds of a recent crop at Los Angeles are reported at \$20,000, while \$500 included the entire outlay due to pruning, taking care of the ground, and so forth.

A Detroit dying man grasped a watch and held it so firmly that after death the fingers could not be unclasped, and the watch was buried with him.

### A Song Ill Sung.

Dead thistles on the morning wind,  
Still sending forth their white-winged seeds  
Bare boughs above, dry leaves below;  
A brook half choked with rotting weeds.  
The scene and I too well agree;  
This dreary day is kin to me:  
This Autumn in my heart as well,  
But faint I'd dream of Spring.  
"Dear Memory! wake for me again  
The song Hope used to sing."

"Nay wait! you have not caught the tune;  
Hush! you are out of time:  
And now you've changed the words, I miss  
The sweetness of the rhyme.  
Cease, Memory! try that strain no more,  
The lay's old witchery is o'er!"  
Ah! saddest of our Autumn thoughts,  
The mocking dream of Spring,  
As Memory vainly strives to wake  
The song Hope used to sing!"

### Facts and Fancies.

A late flood in Oregon drowned 1,000 coons.

A millionaire is worth about two ton of gold.

There are about 2,400 disorders incident to the human frame.

Some one significantly defines war as being murder set to music.

English speculators are beginning to ship paste diamonds to South Africa.

The great lakes swallowed up 110 lives and \$10,000,000 worth of property last year.

There is a Mormon society of fifty members among the miners at Scranton, Penn.

The largest city park in the world is in Philadelphia. It contains over two thousand acres.

The Cleveland *Leader* says that potato bugs are healthy, and will poll a full vote this summer.

A country editor says that when he looks at a woman's head he is puzzled to tell which is switch.

A public schoolteacher near Aurora, Ill., dislocated his shoulder while "correcting" a big pupil.

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder—of somebody else," sensibly adds a young lady friend of ours.

A San Francisco tobacconist gives a copy of the morning or evening paper to every customer spending ten cents for cigars.

Between 10,000 and 11,000 operators—men, women, and children—at the Leeds flax mills are on a strike for nine hours' work as a day's labor.

The largest lake in the world is Lake Superior, which is truly an inland sea, being four hundred and thirty miles long, and one thousand feet deep.

A wedding took place at La Crosse, a day or two ago, at which "the bride was given away by the city, and the city was mighty glad to get rid of her."

A lot of five hundred house sparrows has been imported into Louisiana, in order to try them as exterminators of the cotton worm and caterpillar.

Five hundred million of dollars is said to be the combined capital of the banking houses of the Rothschilds in London, Paris, Frankfurt and Vienna.

A cautious old bachelor, who knows that the present is leap, says: "If you meet a young lady who is not very shy, you had better be a little shy yourself."

An editor describes a rival as a "wasplish traducer who subsists on ginseng, sassafras and goose eggs, and wears sprigs of pennyroyal in his boots in summer."

The only way to keep all your friends and make no enemies is to speak well of people when names are mentioned to you, but never to speak of any one to a third party.

The clear, balmy moonlight nights are cutting down our young people like sheep, says an exchange. Twenty-eight couples went under at one sitting, Sunday evening.

A large volcano has suddenly sprung up in Mexico on the Chickahua road, about a hundred miles from Vera Cruz. No volcano has been observed before so far from the sea.

The Indianapolis *Commercial* says a poor man who owns a potato patch in the suburbs of that city cannot be down at night without danger of getting up rich in the morning.

A gentleman in Cleveland has been making experiments in extinguishing the flames of petroleum, and has found that sand and aqua ammonia thrown on the flames will quickly extinguish them.

"Poor thing," observed a tender-hearted Bridgeport lady, in speaking of the death of a young friend, "she had just got a forty-dollar set of furs, and beauties they were; but she don't need such things now."

Saxe says that Vermont is famous for four staples, "Men, women, maple sugar and horses. The first are strong, the last are fleet, the second and third are exceedingly sweet, and all are uncommonly hard to beat."

The New Jersey *Register* has this: "Mr. Scott, have you any ambition to be President?" "President of what?" "The United States, of course." "No, sir, the term is too short. I might take a lease on it for ninety-nine years."

There is consumed annually in the United States about 500,000 tons of sugar, with a constant and steady increase. Of this enormous quantity but a small percentage is from the sorghum or the maple tree, nearly the whole being cane sugar.

"Susie," said a teacher to one of her pupils, "you shouldn't make faces. You'll grow up homely if you make faces." Susie looked thoughtfully in the teacher's face a moment, and then innocently asked, "Did you make faces when you was a little girl?"