

From the Richmond Christian Advocate.
COLPORTAGE IN VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.

Another year of arduous toil in the work of the American Tract Society has closed. The progress made in the past year is gratifying, and has been the result of the efforts of the colporteurs, all of whom are all on the brink of the grand old year. All that we can give is the arithmetic of the work by a decimal standard.

Amount of books disposed of by sale, \$11,017.08; by gift, 42,472 volumes; and granted to the poor, \$4,716.50, or 28,420 volumes; 2,740 tracts; 100,000 religious papers were sold, 6,022 families were visited, 2,000 religious books were distributed, 2,000 Bibles, and generally supplied by agents, 2,817 families found without Bibles, and 2,817 families supplied by agents; 192 families visited by the colporteurs; 1,645 families, according to their own avowal, actually received the public worship of God. Religious instruction and prayer were attended to in 22,174 families; 62,536 were visited, and 2,000 tracts left at their homes; 27 Sabaths were spent in the work; 1,000 families were visited, and 1,000 families were supplied with Bibles; 1,000 families were visited, and 1,000 families were supplied with Bibles; 1,000 families were visited, and 1,000 families were supplied with Bibles.

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Richmond, Va., March 1st, 1857.
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From the Southern Farmer.
GUANO FOR TOBACCO.

We publish to day two valuable communications from experienced planters on the use of guano for tobacco, which will be particularly interesting at this time when the cultivation will probably be greatly extended, and many persons will plant crops who have perhaps never planted before. While it will be perceived that Peruvian guano alone is capable of producing a fine growth, yet the mixture of Peruvian and Mexican is still better. No other application of bought manure seems to have answered so good a purpose. It is not with a view to serve any interest but that of the planter, that we feel impelled to recommend the use of the "unmanipulated guano," as being a first rate manure for the tobacco crop. The two constituents of Peruvian and Mexican guano, are so thoroughly mixed, and reduced to so fine a powder, that it cannot fail to be more economical than the planter to undertake to mix them himself. Few persons have suitable machinery for the purpose, and besides the imperfect reduction of the lumps, the labor of pulverizing them is fully equal to the difference in price. The cost is only about \$3 more per ton, which we think will be more than repaid by the increase of crop. As long as tobacco continues at the present high price, the planter may well afford to purchase the guano for growing it, and reserve his fertilizer for other purposes. The fertilizing and planting need not confer upon the soil as they are generally admitted to do. And moreover any land—even that which is exhausted and covered with broomstraw—may, with suitable preparation, be brought into a state to yield fine crops the first year.

A LOVE AFFAIR.

The Liberty Herald, printed at Liberty, Union county, Ind., tells the following.
We have been placed in possession of some most melancholy facts in relation to a young man and young lady, the former a resident of Peble county, Ohio, and the latter a resident of Oxford. It appears that the young gentleman is a student at West Point Military Academy, and the lady was his betrothed. Reading about from her a long while, we returned home some two or three weeks since, and found her married, and in her second confinement. Although a correspondence had been regularly kept up between them, she had concealed the fact of her marriage, and of course he was startled to find her mother stood on his return. The young man wisely determined to let affairs pass quietly, and seek his friends and fortune in another place.
In view of this determination he concluded not to see the lady, but unwise counsels of friends prevailed with him, and he went to the house where she resided. While in a room adjoining that of the lady she heard and recognized his voice and expressed a desire for an interview with him. He immediately repaired to the room, where a most affecting scene took place. The young man, who had been regularly kept up between them, she had concealed the fact of her marriage, and of course he was startled to find her mother stood on his return. The young man wisely determined to let affairs pass quietly, and seek his friends and fortune in another place.

THE CURIOUS CASE.

We have been favored by a consoling home of this city, with information from several points of the cotton-growing region, relative to the prospects of the next crop. A letter from Galveston, Texas, dated 9th April, says that Cotton and Corn of the second planting, and just up to a fine stand, were killed, and that there was not seed enough for a third planting, so that the loss would be disastrous to planters, who had made a short crop last year. A letter from Mobile says that the cotton crop is a failure, and the corn crop is a failure. A letter from St. Louis says that the cotton crop is a failure, and the corn crop is a failure. A letter from St. Louis says that the cotton crop is a failure, and the corn crop is a failure.

From the National Intelligencer.
THE NEW SUGAR CANE.

Mr. Leonard Wray, of London, the intelligent gentleman alluded to in the foregoing article, was in this city some days ago, and in the course of a conversation on the interesting subject of his visit to this country, he showed several specimens of sugar cane which he had procured from the species of cane which he recommends. Having explained which he views pretty fully to the editor of the Intelligencer, we avail ourselves of the statement of them published in that journal as an authentic exposition for our readers. It is as follows:

It is probable that none of our readers are ignorant of the fact that a new and important addition to the agricultural products of our country has been made within the past two years, under the auspices of the Patent Office, through the instrumentality of D. J. Browne, Esq., who visited Europe in 1854 for the purpose of obtaining new and improved varieties of plants, &c. nor that he has secured the great value of the Chinese sugar-cane procured by Mr. Browne in France is very generally acknowledged, and are yet not wanting those who still doubt the fact or are disposed to persist in disparaging the useful effects of this important branch of the Department of the Interior. The arrival of Mr. Wray is therefore particularly interesting.

The evidence of the great value of this new sugar-cane, but with the seeds of new varieties, specimens of sugar, and alcohol manufactured from its juice, the testimony of ample experience in its cultivation, and the information and skill in relation to its manufacture which an experienced and intelligent mind alone can possess at this early period in the history of these new products.

Referring to the Cape of Good Hope from India in 1851, for the purpose of a temporary sojourn only, Mr. Wray was induced to ascend to Caffraria by the representations he had received respecting the soil, climate, and products of the country, and there found a number of persons engaged in the cultivation of the ordinary sugar-cane, but was surprised also at finding among the spontaneous products of the soil sixteen varieties of a plant rich in saccharine juice, but which he was informed all attempts at crystallizing had proved unavailing. Yielding to the temptation, however, he at once constructed in a retired place some rude machinery and appliances for extracting the juice and reducing it to sirup, and thence to sugar, and found but little difficulty or delay in the performance of his purpose.

At once changed the plan for the future that he should lead him to Africa, and resolved upon introducing to the civilized world this plant of insatiable value. How far he has already succeeded, may be understood when we state that the temper, as Mr. Wray prefers that this plant should be called, is now known in the product of the cane and manufacture of sugar, alcohol, and other products from its juice in England, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Turkey, Mauritius, Cayton, Tunis, the East Indies, the West Indies, Brazil, Canada, and the United States.

We have stated that Mr. Wray has found sixteen varieties of this plant, and we may add that the variety hitherto brought to this country from France constitutes a seventeenth. How widely these varieties differ from each other we are not fully informed, but we understand that they differ in size, in the strength of the stalk, the period of growth, &c. Every agriculturist acquainted with the various uses of the staple crops of the country, and the adaptability of each to its special use, locality, season, &c., will readily comprehend the probability and the value of the same arrangement with respect to this novel product.

In answer to a question respecting the propriety of applying the name "Chinese Sugar Cane," Mr. Wray stated that, although it is doubtless indigenous to Africa, he yet found no difficulty in identifying it with specimens formerly obtained in China, in which we believe, however, the seminal principle had been destroyed by the time consumed in transportation and the attendant vicissitudes, but, strangely enough, so far as can be learned, even the Chinese have failed to crystallize sugar from its juice through there, as well as in Africa, this sweet and limpid juice is doubtless universally rich.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Much discussion having taken place in various parts of the country in relation to the original appointment of Brigham Young, as Governor of Utah, the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser has drafted an article on the subject. Such an explanation, says the Advertiser, is justified by the circumstances, that on looking back to the time when the appointment was made, many people associated with the Mormons at that period the views which have since caused so much scandal, but which, if they existed at all in 1850, were sedulously concealed. It appears, too, that the appointment was confirmed without the slightest opposition by the Senate. The Commercial states that Mr. Fillmore did not permit Brigham Young until he had taken pains to learn, from authentic and respectable sources, whether the character of the candidate was such as to justify the act. At the time the act organizing Utah was passed, there was probably no gentleman in the country to whom the President could have more appropriately applied for information on the subject, than the well-known philanthropist, Col. Thomas A. Smith, of Philadelphia. He is a brother of the late Dr. Elias Kent Kane, whose explorations in the Arctic regions have endeared his name to the whole civilized world. Col. Kane had a few months before delivered a discourse on the Mormons before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, giving the results of his own personal observation of their character. He had visited Navajo about the time the Mormons left it, had spent months in their country, and had spent their arrival at their land of promise, and was able to describe the scenery about the Great Salt Lake from his own recollections. Before Mr. Fillmore appointed Brigham Young he received a letter from Col. Kane expressing an excellent opinion of his character. There is no doubt, however, that the development of Young's character, and of the heathen and immoral teachings and practices of the Mormons have proved the appointment a most unfortunate one. The present administration cannot act too promptly in correcting the error.

WOMAN AS A PHYSICIAN.—The Irish patriot, O'Brien, in his work on the Principles of Government, says: "The medical art is an occupation peculiarly adapted for female practitioners. That women, when suffering from disease, should be under the necessity of consulting men, is a practice obviously repugnant to every natural sentiment of delicacy. Women, therefore, instead of being excluded from the medical profession, ought rather to be encouraged to qualify themselves for its exercise, and to practice it under a diploma, with the same sanction that is accorded to medical graduates of the male sex."

From the Fayetteville Observer.
GREAT CONTRACT FOR IRON ORE.

The reader will find in the letter which we publish from John H. Haughton, Esq., of Pittsburgh, a statement of a contract which he has concluded for the purchase from which it comes, viz: that a Northern Company has agreed to furnish on Deep River, within two years after the completion of the contract of Messrs. Duncan, Cartwright & Co., seven millions of dollars worth of black sand iron ore. And this ore is to be manufactured on the spot, by which its value will be increased of course, how much we are unable to say, but doubtless at least a million more. So that there is to be brought into market, by one company in two years, say fourteen millions of dollars worth of iron alone, from this depositary of undeveloped and untold wealth of North Carolina. We had heard of this contract, but not with any certainty as to its accuracy, before we received Mr. Haughton's letter; and our information was that the Northern Company proposed of expect to furnish all this ore from a tract of less than 300 acres of land which they have purchased.

What a prospect does all this open to our State, and especially to this part of our State! Whose imagination can compass its full extent!

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TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA—THE LATEST FROM GENERAL WALKER.

New Orleans, April 27.—The steamer Empire City is now coming up, with dates from California to the 15th instant. The steamer Illinois has taken forward nearly a million and a half of gold for New York.

The Empire City brings 100 of Lockridge's men, and 70 others, including Generals Wheat and Hornby, who go to New York on the steamer Illinois. The rest of the officers remain at Aspinwall.

The steamer of the Lockridge retreat are continued. The Costa Ricans had taken possession of Punta Araya, and the steamer Rose, with a great amount of ammunition, and six pieces of artillery.

London had been taken to Aspinwall by the British vessels. Walker's dispatches received at Aspinwall state his position at Rivas to be impracticable. He had plenty of provisions and was likely to hold out until the north transit was open to the Pacific. The same dispatches confirm reports that the British and another attack was expected on the 20th.

General Walker's brother died on board of the Empire City yesterday. Senator Hayes has been returned by the Democratic party.

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["Correspondence of the Register."]
THE FIRE IN OXFORD—HEROD'S EXERTIONS OF THE CITIZENS.

Oxford, N. C., April 27, '57.
Mr. Herod.—Yesterday morning (Sunday) at about 2 o'clock, the alarm of fire was given in this place, and our citizens awoke to find the store of Messrs. R. N. & D. U. Herndon in flames. This house formed a part of a large block of buildings on the west side of Raleigh Street, and in the fire was rapidly communicated to the adjacent buildings, and but for the almost superhuman efforts made to arrest its progress, the whole street would soon have presented one vast conflagration.

The store and entire stock of Messrs. Herndon (insured for \$10,000), a building belonging to Gen. Wm. S. McClellan, the law office occupied by T. L. Hargrove, Esq., and the jewelry store of Mr. T. M. Lynch were burnt to the ground.

While all who had property at stake, gratefully acknowledge their indebtedness to the labors of Messrs. James T. Goob, Wilson M. Baxford, James T. Crutcher, John Jim. Wm. A. Johnston, L. A. Panchall, Jr., J. M. Griffin, D. A. Panchall, Jr., Geo. W. Allen, and many others, special attention

is due to the exertions of Mr. A. F. Spencer, on several previous occasions has saved them from heavy losses, and on this, wholly reckless of danger, wrought his way through the upper joint and roof of Col. R. J. Mitchell's Drug Store, and there almost in the midst of the flames from the next building, which were constantly taking hold of the roof upon which he stood, for more than an hour, with heroic energy, gave desperate and finally victorious battle to the most tyrannical element that ever gained the ascendancy over man.

The fire extended about sixty yards on the street. The Oxford Hotel owned by Mr. R. N. Herndon, and the Drug Store of Col. Mitchell on the one hand, and the Hotel owned by Dr. S. A. Williams on the other were saved.

The total amount of loss is supposed to be about \$40,000, sustained principally by Messrs. Herndon. There is no certainty how the fire originated, but it is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

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