

THE STAR.

NOVEMBER 4th, 1848.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The Harrisburg Telegraph rejoices, as well it may, at the election of Johnston, and says it is a great and unprecedented victory; and one that secures the election of Gen Taylor beyond a doubt.

Another Fraud.

There has been an attempt at fraud in one of the wards of Philadelphia county. South Penn is returned as having cast over 1100 votes; whereas a gentleman who kept the poll list of one of the parties, says the whole vote was but 686.

The popular vote of Georgia, as given at the late election, and as added up at the State-house, is a Democratic majority of 252. This is something different from the 1500 majority of the former election.

Hydrophobia.

A cure for hydrophobia has been tried with complete success by Dr Haller, of York Pa. in consultation with Dr McIlvain and Fisher. The patient, a lad twelve years of age, was bitten by a mad dog in April.

"THE OLDEST INHABITANT."

An elderly ch-p, says the Picanoy, speaking of his great knowledge of the western country the other day, said he had known the Mississippi river ever since it was a small creek.

Anecdote.

The following anecdote of General Taylor is related by the Staunton (Va.) Spectator. It is perfectly characteristic of the man:

The old hero was asked on one occasion by a lady what he meant, in saying he was not an ultra Whig. His reply was—"Madam, I have been called upon to pass through three wars since I joined the army. In the war of 1812, I saw both parties represented on the battle field, and even in my little command at Fort Harrison they stood shoulder to shoulder. I saw the Whig and the Democrat fight in the swamps of Florida, and in the morning rise up to their posts of duty; and again I saw them rise up, but together in the embrace of death! I have seen the Whig and the Democrat again, since side by side on the banks of the Rio Grande I saw them both stand together at the cannon's mouth at Monterey—and both looked up to the same star spangled banner. The Whig and Democrat spread the same tent upon the sand banks at Vera Cruz and together marched to the halls of the Montezuma at their country's call. And at last I have seen the Whig and Democrat returning home, with constitutions broken, and health impaired, to sit—and seeing those things, I could not find it in my heart to proscribe men for mere political differences.

Let our opponents, then, twist at us as much as they please in regard to the "No Partyism" of our candidate. We like him all the better for what they so much dislike.—He is an honest man, a good Whig, zealously devoted to the preservation of the checks and balances of the Constitution, and he will give us a pure administration of the Government. This is all we want.

Election of President by the House of Representatives.

In case the people should fail in electing a President on the 7th of November next, the following is the manner prescribed by the Constitution for his election, and the probable result as described by the New York Tribune:

A majority of the delegation from each State casts one vote. Of the thirty States composing the Union, fifteen (a full half) have three delegations, twelve have two delegations, and three are equally divided, so that no choice could be made with each member present and voting. But let any one Whig member from New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Georgia be sick, or absent from any cause, or induced on any ballot to withhold his vote, and Lewis Cass's election is inevitable. On the other hand, the absence of no one, two or three Democrats could enable the Whigs to elect Gen Taylor, while Mr. Van Buren has not a single delegation in the House. There is, therefore, not one chance in a thousand of defeating Gen.

The election of a Vice President, in case of no choice, devolves upon the Senate. As there is now a decided Democratic majority in that body, Gen. Butler would, without doubt, be elected, and in case the House should fail in electing a President, he would be ex-officio President of the United States.

Blessed are they that do not advertise; for they shall rarely be troubled with customers.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

GOLD WATER BATHING.

I HAVE read with much interest the excellent article in your August number on the advantages of cold water-bathing, regretting only that the writer omitted to point out the means whereby people living at a distance from the sea, a clear river, lake or pond, may obtain the much prized luxury of complete daily ablutions. Those who have not noticed the article are advised to turn to page 246, current volume; read it attentively and profit by the advice therein contained. The directions given will be acknowledged to be good by every one who has been accustomed to the health-giving invigorating but much neglected exercise of swimming; which I will add, by the way ought to be considered an indispensable part of every young person's education. Girls as well as boys ought to be systematically taught to swim; thus rendering them more hardy and capable of taking care of themselves when in the water instead of their present fashionable state of dependence upon the ruder sex, and in cases of emergency such as constantly occur at bathing places, and elsewhere making them instrumental in saving instead of endangering the lives of their fellow creatures.

My object in asking leave to fill a column in your journal published "for the benefit of farmers and others," is to point out some appliances and means whereby the inhabitants of our rural districts with limited means; may, with little trouble or expense procure this great comfort for themselves, their wives, and children when remote from the water, and at seasons when out of door bathing impracticable; for though more pleasant in summer, it is not less necessary in every season, to preserve health by perfect cleanliness.

As to the best time for bathing from long personal experience, I prefer the early morning bath. First because it secures cleanliness for the day, which, if deferred may be prevented in various ways. Secondly; because for persons in delicate health, it is considered most beneficial, being a frequent prescription of physicians for debility and nervous complaints; and thirdly because it saves the time that would otherwise be devoted to a second entire change of dress, which in winter, and moderate weather is seldom desirable.

As this is written for plain practical people I shall pass with a slight notice, the luxury but not infrequent accompaniments, plunging baths, hot and cold, their trained attendant the shower bath, and the sofa whereon to repose after the exercise. I will pass over the neat, modern portable shower bath, with which every house, nay, every chamber, may be furnished for a few dollars; and speak of those only that can be easily and cheaply provided.

Every farm house must have at least, one large tub in it. Those who can afford it should have one made for the purpose, six feet long, two feet wide and three feet six inches deep in order that the shoulders may be covered with water when the sitting posture is used. Those who cannot afford this may use the great tub that is kept for scalding hogs which answers admirably. This placed in an out house, or shed that can be shut from a curtain or temporary screen, should be half filled with water every evening. If a later bath is preferred let it be filled earlier, and, if the water is too cold, let it stand for several hours in small vessels exposed to the sun; or add a few gallons of boiling water. I never take nor advise a bath below 60° F. When the bathers have done with it, the water can be used for washing, scrubbing, or watering the garden. A shower bath can be made at an expense not worth estimating in this way. Enlarge the bung hole of a small barrel (and an old churn will answer finely) lay it on pivots on which it will turn freely, in a box a few inches wider than the barrel; make a whole in this box to correspond with the one in the barrel, cover this hole with a plate of tin, painted, to prevent it from rusting, and perforated with very small holes, or the water will fall, with too much violence on the head. Fasten a rope over the barrel with the ends hanging within reach of your hands, when standing under it; one end to draw it over and the other to pull it back by; then suspend the whole from the roof of a shed, or the ceiling of a room so that you secure a fall of about two feet above the head, and you have one as effectual and complete as if it cost twenty dollars. Two bucketfuls of water is much as ought to be taken at once; therefore the barrel once filled will last for several persons.

The "sheet" bath is preferred by many people to any other method of applying cold water to the person, and is certainly accessible to every one being nothing more than a course sheet and draw it over your head and all, wrap it closely about you for three to five minutes; then throw it off, replace it with a dry one and rub until a glow is produced. As a last resource when nothing else can be procured, take the following method (any thing will do better than allowing you to think you cannot bathe); put on a loose garment, and take your seat in or on the edge of the trough under a pump, and let some one pour over your back and shoulders, two or three buckets of water; then throw over you a dry coarse sheet, drop the wet garment, put on a wrapper, or cloak, if the weather

be not very hot, and run to your chamber to rub and dress.

Before going into a bath always wet the face, breast, and back of the neck; and when you rise from the water put on instantly a loose wrapper of warm cotton, to absorb the water; then wipe and rub your feet and put on slippers. This will prevent the chilliness that sometimes comes on while you are using the rubbers and towels.

During my residence in Ohio, I knew the wife of a farmer who with his boys, worked his little farm and lived comfortably by dint of the most persevering and patient industry. This woman had been born and educated in one of the Atlantic states; and she considered the daily bath of so much importance to health and comfort, that in all her difficulties it was rarely omitted. Her log house was small and inconvenient, consisting only of two rooms and a wood shed below and three small chambers above. The kitchen was in most farm houses the largest room and in one corner of this she had placed for the winter a hogs head cut down and screened from sight when in use, by a bed cover hung from the joists above. In the summer it was the wood shed; and in this primitive kind of bath, she dipped first the children and then herself every morning while the men were feeding the stock and the kettle on the fire preparing for breakfast. Her neighbors sneered, and wondered how she could take so much time, and before break fast, too; but she said good naturedly, that in twenty minutes all was finished and comfort and cleanliness secured for the whole day; and certainly a more healthful, merry set of children never rewarded a mother's care.

Now Mr Editor I trust I have not written in vain. The article upon which these remarks are founded must have convinced the most prejudiced of the healthfulness of the practice of using cold water daily and freely. This as before stated, will point out the means and leave no excuse but laziness, which few will urge in favor of unclean habits in themselves and others.

GAMING.

Buigh in his dignity of Human Nature sums up the evils of this practice in a single paragraph—

"Gaming is an amusement wholly unworthy of rational beings, having neither the pretence of exercising the body, of exerting ingenuity, or of giving any natural pleasure and owing its entertainment wholly to unnatural and vitiated taste; the cause of infinite loss of time, of enormous destruction of money, irritating the passions, of sating up avarice, of innumerable tricks and frauds, of disgusting people against their proper employments, and of sinking and debasing all that is great and valuable in the mind."

Let me warn you, then, my young readers—nay, more, let me urge you never to enter this dreadful road. Shun it as you would the road to destruction. Take not the first step—the moment you do, all may be lost. Say not that you can command yourselves and stop when you approach the confines of danger. So thousands have thought as sincerely as yourselves—and yet they fell. "The probabilities that we shall fall when so many have fallen," says Dr Dwight, "are millions to one; and the contrary opinion is only the dream of lunacy." —Dr Alcott.

CHEAP PLEASURES.

Did you ever study the cheapness of pleasure? Do you know how little it takes to make a man happy? Such trifles as a penny or smile do the work. There are two or three boys passing along—give them each a chestnut, and how smiling they look—they will not be cross in some time. A poor widow lives in a neighborhood who is the mother of a half a dozen children—send them a half a peck of sweet apples and they all will be happy! A child has lost his arrow—a word to him and he mourns sadly; help him another and how quickly will the sun shine play upon his sober face. A boy has as much as he can do to pile up a load of wood—assist him, and he forgets his toil, and he works away without minding it. Your apprentice has broken a mug, or cut the vest too large; or slightly injured a piece of work; say "you scoundrel," and he feels miserable—remark "I am sorry," and he will try to do better. You employ a man—pay him cheerfully, and speak a pleasant word to him, and he leaves your house with a contented heart, to light up his own hearth with smiles and gladness. As you pass along the street, you meet a familiar face—say "Good morning," as though you felt happy and it will work a miracle in the heart of your neighbor.

Peace is cheap—who will not bestow it liberally? If there are smiles, sunshine and flowers all about let us not grasp them with our hands, but let them pass over our hearts. No, Rather let us take them and scatter them about us—in the cot of the widow, among the groups of children in the crowded mart, where men of business congregate, in our families and every where. We can make the wretched happy—the discontented, cheerful—the afflicted, resigned—at exceedingly cheap rates. Who will refuse to do it?

North Carolina wine.—We learn that Dr. Sidney Weller of Brinkleyville, Halifax, has made this year, from the produce of his vineyard, 50 barrels of wine, besides a large quantity of grapes sold.

EDUCATION.

Would that it were in our power to compose an anthem worthy of the glorious cause of education. Would that we could adequately describe her might and majesty, when she goes forth like a puissant goddess, and speaks deliverance to captive nations from their hereditary and long-transmitted bondage to ignorance when she drives away by myriads the vampires of superstition, that have sucked the life-blood from the hearts of men; when she turns wildernesses and jungles into habitable lands; when she takes the crude and apparently intractable substances of the earth, and turns them into the thousand fold implements of the useful arts, and into all the every day comforts and conveniences of life, when she makes indocility docile, & changes tribes of wandering and homeless savages into happy men loving home and possessing families; when she teaches her disciples that obedience which wards off diseases and pestilences, and makes their days long in the land, when she propels ships across the ocean, speeds locomotives over continents, rears temples, prints libraries, turns her lightning into a vehicle of thought and builds for it an aerial railway to increase its celerity and fix its destination; and when she instructs us how to wrap in unconsciousness each of our nervous filaments so that we can resist like a rock, every form of pain. It is indeed glorious to contemplate education in these sublime manifestations of its power. But scarcely less interesting is it, to trace out and examine any single operation of her divine skill—to see how she can rescue an individual, as well as reform a state; how she can console and bless the poorest and most forlorn wretch upon the earth, as well as ennoble and aggrandize a world. Education is as great in her minutest as in her mightiest operations.—Mass. Sch. Jour.

How far the Provision of Food is due to the Labor of Man.—The number of human beings of the earth is calculated at nearly one thousand millions: all of these are fed from the produce of the ground; for even animal food is itself the produce of the ground. It is true that, for this result, man in general must labor; but how small an actual portion of this immense productiveness is due to man! His labor ploughs the ground, and drops the seed into the furrows. From that moment a higher agency supercedes him. The ground is in possession of influences which he can no more guide, summon or restrain than he can govern the ocean. The mighty alchemist of the atmosphere is at work; the rains are distilled, the gales sweep, the dew clings, the lightning darts its fertilizing fire into the soil, purifies the fermenting vegetation,—perhaps a thousand other agents are in movement, of which the secrets are still hidden from man; but the vividness of their force penetrates all things, and the extent of their action is only to be measured by the globe; while man stands by, and has only to see the naked and drenched soil clothing itself with the tender vegetation of spring, or the living gold of the harvest.—the whole loveliness and bounty of Nature delighting his eye, solacing his hand and filling his heart with joy.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

The number of passengers, says the London Railway Chronicle, according to the return recently published, who have travelled by railway during the half year ending on the 30th of June last amounted to 26,530,492,—which is just about the population of England Scotland and Ireland, and some idea may be formed of the tide of human being who have passed over the country as Mr Locke says, "by means of two parallel pieces of iron," when we reflect the official numbers actually represent the transmission of every man woman and child in the United Kingdom a certain distance, within the short period of six months at a speed previously unattainable, and reduction of danger, considering the mass of human beings thus transferred, almost infinitesimal. Archimedes is recorded to have said, if he had standing ground he could move the globe, and though our modern engineers have not exactly attempted to work out that problem, they have satisfactorily solved another, which a few short years since would almost have been thought as visionary. The number of accidents figure 186; 90 resulted in death, and 99 in injuries more or less severe. Of passengers 6 unfortunately were killed and 60 hurt from no fault of their own, a wonderfully small proportion when we consider the enormous aggregate who now use this mode of locomotion; the remainder of the casualties is made up from accidents to railway servants, laborers on the lines in construction, and persons who have taken this novel mode of committing suicide, by precipitating themselves from trains or into their way who have been crushed to death, or whose safety of railway travelling as a man blowing out his brains has to do with the safety of fire arms.

GAPES IN CHICKENS.

A writer in the Ohio Cultivator, recommends the following remedy for this disease in chickens: "Steep lobelia and red pepper in hot [not boiling] water, and mix the food with this liquor as strong as they will eat it until the chickens "gape for certain." It is both a preventive and a remedy. We tried it to see if it would kill some hopeless chickens, but they would live in spite of it and now we have no trouble with this disease.

A VALUABLE DISCOVERY.

BLAKE'S ARTIFICIAL SLATE.—One of the most useful discoveries of the day appears to be a substance discovered some four years ago in Sharon, near Akron, Ohio, by Mr William Blake and since very largely introduced as a substitute for slate and iron in fire proof roofs, and for other purposes. It is a metal, which when taken from the mine has the appearance of the finest indigo, and is about the consistency of cold tallow, but exposed to the atmosphere, in a few days becomes as hard as stone. Previous to being used, it is ground to a fine powder and mixed with lardseed oil and applied with a brush, to either wood, tin, iron, canvas or slate, protecting whatever is covered both from the action of the weather and from fire; as the weather serves only to turn it to stone, and the longer the exposure the harder it seems to become; and fire only chars the wood which has been covered by it, but it does not ignite if the covering remains unbroken it keeps out the atmosphere.

Slates for schools are made from it by covering thin boards, or thick paper with it, and after it gets hard, it will show pencil marks equal to the best slate. It is also susceptible of the highest polish, resembling the highest Egyptian marble, and it may therefore be found valuable for chimney pieces, centre and pier tables, etc as you have only to make the wood and cover it with this paint, and after it hardens, polish it down as you do marble. But its greatest value and consumption we think will be for roofs of buildings, steamboat and car decks, bridges—especially railroad bridges—fences etc., where we want them both fire proof and weather proof. Mr B. sells it we understand at his mill in barrels, ready to mix with the oil at \$3 per 100 lbs. This quantity will cover a roof 35 feet square, 1,000 superficial feet, the cost of the oil and putting on, is the same as for ordinary painting. It may be applied to tin, iron, zinc or shingle roofs, already on. If your roof has been long shingled you need not take them off but sweep off all the moss and dirt with a stiff broom, and cover them with this artificial slate, and in a few months you have what is equal to a perfect slate roof.

It is said there is nothing equal to it for all iron that is exposed to the weather as it forms a complete stone covering becoming nearly as hard as the iron itself and entirely prevents its corroding.

It has been found, upon analysis by Dr Chilton of this city, to consist of larger portions of Silica Alumina, black Oxide of Iron and Magnesia with lesser of lime and Carbon; The transition, therefore from the liquid paint to the hard slate is accounted for according to Nature's own laws. As the oil absorbs and evaporates by the action of the atmosphere, the cohesive attraction incident to the black oxide of iron binds and attracts not only the particles together, but to the substance covered so that the longer on the more powerful the attraction consequently the harder the substance.

We derive these statements from the discoverer and proprietor, and of course form our opinions from specimens exhibited to us in the state as taken from the mine, which might be cut with the knife like hard tallow or pulverized with the fingers—other specimens in the condition of stone or slate, and also spread upon wood as paint, and polished like the finest marble and resisting the knife equal to the common slate used in schools or on roofs. Judging from what we saw it most form a covering for railway bridges and cars and depots of wood, superior to anything yet applied as a preventive of fire or decay.

From the American Agriculturist. GARDEN SEEDS.

The finest plants of each kind should be reserved, and only the largest fruits, or seed vessels, on each selected for seed.—These are generally the first that are formed; for those which come to perfection while the parent plant is in full vigor, will always produce the largest seeds, and as a necessary consequence, the best seeds will produce the finest plants; while those from small, or half-ripened seeds, will be less in size, and their fruit of course, will be inferior in quality to that of the parent plant. Seeds should be gathered as soon as possible after they are ripe, and always on a dry day.

Beans and peas may be pulled up by the roots, spread for a day or two in the sun to dry, taken in at night, or otherwise protected from the dew, and then threshed out on the barn floor. When quite dry, which will be in a few days, they should be barrelled, or boxed up, for sale, after selecting the largest for next year's planting.

The seeds of cabbages, turnips, and such other roots, should be sown in the shade for a day or two, and then the largest pods, which are always on the lower part of the stems, should be stripped off, the seeds beaten out, and shaken in a sieve so openly woven as to retain only the largest. The seeds of cucumbers, tomatoes, egg plants, &c., must be left till dead ripe before they are gathered; then slit open and laid in the shade on a board, so placed as that the moisture will drain off; and so left till the pulp has dried, when the seeds can be separated by rubbing between the hands. The seeds of canteloupes and water melons can best be chosen from those of the

finest flavor brought to table, and only require to be separated from the pulp and dried.

Sashes or cymbalings, require no care, and are not injured materially if left out all winter, as the skin becomes a hard shell capable of resisting cold and damp; but it is better to house them unbroken until the seeds are wanted in the spring.

Lettuce must be watched closely, or all the best seeds will be carried off by the wind, or eaten by the pretty little yellow-birds. As soon, therefore, as the tops of the plants are covered with their first coat of down, they must be pulled up early in the morning; spread on large cloths on the barn floor, or in the garret; and the next day, all that are ripe can be shaken out and cleaned in a sieve. Those that ripen after the plants wither, will not vegetate at all, and the produce will not be worth the care bestowed upon them.

Astachokes, salsafy, or oyster plants, have also winged seeds, and are a very uncertain crop, unless closely watched. The birds, too, make a great havoc: with the best, by tearing open the involucres with their bills, and devouring them before they are mature. As they continue to bloom and produce perfect seeds for a week or ten days, it will not do to pull them up; but the plan I pursue is, to go every morning, while the dew is on them, and with the clippers, cut off all the heads that have the down ready to expand; and examine all the large ones that seem nearly ready, by drawing the involucres carefully open. If the seeds are white, leave them for a day or two longer if discolored, they may be cut, and will mature in drying; spread them on papers, on the garret floor, and in two or three days, they will be fit to clean and put up. The garret should be hot, dry, and capable of being shut up to exclude the wind and rain.

Balm, sage and most other "herbs" that have uncoveted seeds, must be cut as soon as those on the lower part of the stems are black, when they will be shaken out by the wind and lost, not many of the others will open, but it is better to lose some, than not secure the best.

Carrots, parsnips, &c., perfect only a small portion of their seeds, which can be ascertained, at a glance, being large, well shaped, and separate readily from their slender foot stalks. These only need to be gathered, as the others never vegetate.

For planting, corn take only the largest grains from the middle of the most perfect ears, rejecting those badly shaped, and the small ones near the ends of the cob.

These rules should always be followed when quality is of more consequence than quantity and may be carried out in a large scale with the field seeds on the farm, as is done by the best practical farmer in my neighborhood. As his grain is brought to the barn, he takes each sheaf and shakes it over a large box, into which the full ripe grains fall, and are reserved for seed. Eutawh, July 1848.

From the Scientific American.

SOMETHING FOR ALL.

So various are the appetites of animals that there is scarce any plant which is not chosen by some and left untouched by others. The horse gives up the water-hemlock to the goat; the long leaved water-hemlock to the sheep; the goat gives up the monks head to the horse, etc.: for that which certain animals grow fat upon others abhor as poison. Hence no plant is also, utterly poisonous, but only respectively. Thus the spurge, that is noxious to man, is wholesome nourishment to the caterpillar. That animals may not destroy themselves for want of knowing this law each of them is guarded by such a delicacy of taste and smell that they can easily distinguish what is pernicious or injurious to them from what is wholesome; and when it happens that different animals live on the same plants, still one kind always leaves some thing for the other, as the mouth of all are not equally adapted to lay hold of the grass—by which means there is sufficient food for all.

FIRE CEMENTS.

1. For furnaces, crucibles, &c. Fire clay and brickdust or fire clay and burned clay, (broken crucibles) mixed well together with water, and spread in layers on joints, and thoroughly dried that resist heat without cracking. It may also be employed for coating glass retorts by spreading a stiff paste and thinning it with water and spreading with a brush. A little hair added to it gives greater tenacity. 2. Clay and brickdust mixed with water and 1-10 part borax, gives a difficultly fusible cement; clay and red lead may be used. 3. To make a less fusible common clay and sand may be employed. 4. For iron vessels, &c. mixed 50-8 parts fine and pound cast iron turnings turnings with 2 parts sulphur into a paste with water and apply it immediately, it forms a chemical union, and hardens rapidly. According to some, the sulphur may be omitted. 5. Four parts iron filings or turnings and three parts of a mixture of common and burned clay are made into a paste with salt-water.

COURSE OF THE CHOLERA.—This disease has come to London by the same course that it did in 1832. It will be remembered that from England the Cholera passed to Paris, and soon after entered this country by the way of Canada; and all this within a few months.