NSON AN

FEARLESSLY THE RIGHT DEFEND-IMPARTIALLY THE WRONG CONDEMN.

VOLUME I.

POLKTON, ANSON CO., N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1874.

NUMBER 13.

Rattlesnakes and Tarantulas Colorado.

The "Rocky Mountain Miner and Mepublished at Denver, under the head of "Cyclopædia Colorado," devotes a column or two to describing some of the natural products of that wonderful region. In the last number the editor speaks of rattlesnakes as venomous serpents, to be found in all parts of Colorado. He says:

"It is popularly supposed that the age of the snake can be estimated by the number of rattles; but this is a mistake, for though these may increase with age, their fragility is such that many may be lost by accident and, moreover, more than one may be added annually, owing to the vigor, food, state of captivity, etc., of the reptile-twenty are not unfrequently seen in large specimens, but it would be incorrect to conclude from these that the snake was neither more nor less than twenty years old. As the bite of these reptiles is speedily fatal to small animals, it has been generally believed that the use of the rattles is to warn animals and man of its vicinity; but it is more likely that its use is to startle the creatures upon which it preys from their retreat, and bring them within the reach of its spring, or some other purpose for its own welfare rather, than the safety of man. Dangerous as they are, they rarely attack man unless provoked, and are fortunately sluggish in their movements, unable to spring except from a coil, and are disabled by slight blows. They are viviparous, the eggs being retained until hatched, and the young expelled alive. In winter they retire to holes in the ground, and there remain torpid, several interlaced with each other. They are unable to climb trees in pursuit of their prey, and do not follow a retreating animal that has escaped their spring. The most common of the rattlesnake tribe found in Colorado, the prairie rattlesnake, is a little over two feet long; it is cinereous above, with a triple series of dark brown spots, and a double series of dusky spots below; it is fond of hiding in the holes of the prairie dog."

From the same source and under the same heading we learn something of the tarantula, or tarentula, "which," the writer says, "is a terrestrial hunting or wolf spider, belonging to the genus lycosa. It is the largest of spiders, measuring one and a half to two metres in the length of the body; the color is ashy brown above, marked with gray on the thorax, and with triangular spots and curved streaks of black bordered with white on the abdomen; below saffron colored with a transverse black band. It received its popular name from being common in the vicinity of Tarrants, in South Italy. It makes no web, wandering for prey, which it runs down with great swiftness, and hiding in holes in the ground and crevices lined with its silk; there is one spiracle on each side, one pulmonary sac, and eight eyes; it is very active and fierce, and the females defend their young and eggs with self-sacrificing bravery. Its bite is supposed to be highly poisonous. The l. Carolinensis (Bosc.) is called tarantula in the Southern States; it attains a length of two inches, with an extent of legs of four; it is mouse-colored above, with white sides and whitish dots and lines on the abdomen; below, blackish; legs whitish tipped with black. It makes deep excavations in the ground, which it lines with silk; the females carry their young on the back, giving them a hideous appearance, as if covered with warts; the young run off in all directions if the mother be disturbed. Its poison is active. Both kinds are found in Colorado, but the latter are the most numerous. A favorite haunt is the hole of the prairie dog, where the rattlesnake, the tarantula, and the dog may generally be found sociably living together.

An Optical Delusion.

There is a tendency in the eye to enlarge the upper part of any object on which it looks-an illusion which we find admirably illustrated in a paragraph in an exchange. Here is a row of ordinary capital letters and figures :

SSSSSSSSSXXXXXXXX33333333388888 They are such as are made up of parts of equal shapes. Look carefull at these, and you will perceive that the upper halves of the characters are a very little smaller than the lower halves-so little that an ordinary eye will declare them to be of equal size. Now turn the page upside down, and, without any careful looking, you will see that this difference in size is very much exaggerated; that the real top half of the letter is very much smaller than the bottom half.

Horse Thieves.

There are well-organized gangs of horse thieves in Wisconsin, Illinois Indiana, and Michigan who run horses into Canada, and the Grangers are purposing to drive them and feed and meals and lodging are supplied. we whipped you!" retorted the youngster.

The Fire in the Coal Fields

Martin Coryell, C. E., of Wilkesbarre, Pa., briefly recited before the Civil Engineers Convention the particulars of the conflagration now existing in the coal at the Kidder Slope, illustrating the same by means of a map. He explained the progress of the fire, and stated that when it was first discovered the miners employed locomotives in various places to pump water into the mines, and for a time the fire was checked. They force the water through them, but the rush of air was so great that the fire appeared to burn wiht more savage fierceness. Even the sandstone rock was actually melted. This work was kept up for a month, and it was thought that the fire had been put out. In fact it was extinguished in the greater portion of the mine, and every person was of the belief that the conflagration was conquered. The work, however, was very exhausting to the men, who were also dreading what is known as "a fall," and were watching intently for it. When a fall occurs, said Mr. Coryell, a current of air and foul gases is forced through all parts of the mine, and the situation of the miners becomes actually dangerous. The fall came, and the concussion was so great that the men became frightened and quitted their work. The air again rushed into the mine, fanned the flame, and the fire extended over a greater area than before. After a while a new plan was adopted. Steam boilers were erected at various points, and the work of forcing steam into the mines was begun. This appears to be working with great success. At one time during the height of the fire the thermometer at the mouth of the air-shaft registered 212 degrees. When 50 pounds of steam pressure were forced into the mine the thermometer fell to 120, and when 70 pounds pressure was introduced the thermometer fell to 100. The men are now at work boring a nine-inch hole with a diamond drill, so as to be able to put in at a different point another stream of steam to aid the others. The work is apparently going on successfully. The steam has evidently created a great amount of carbonic acid gas; but as yet there have been no means of ascertaining the quantity thus created, or whether it was aiding the steam in doing the work of extinguishing the fire. The mines are at least 600 feet below the surface, and therefore very difficult to

J. Dalton Steele said that he knew of number of mines which having taken fire, were still burning for want of some good appliance for extinguishing the flames. Some of these mines had been burning for twenty years, and many for over five years. Gas has been tried to extinguish the flames, but it failed. The application of steam seemed to be more practical. The former plan used to be that, when a mine took fire, it was as economical to let it burn itself out as to attempt to extinguish it.

Ashbel Welch said that during the excursion of members of the Convention to Pennsylvania, it was proposed to visit a mine that had been burning fifteen years. The surface of the ground was burned, and greatlyresembled the crater of a volcano.

Rochefort's Personal Appearance. M. Rochefort is a man who would be recognized at first sight as a remarkable character. He stands about six feet high, and a pair of broad, massive shoulders are surmounted by a head of unusual size. Every feature is clearly and distinctly cut. His nose is large and long. His lips are somewhat thick, but not enough so to render them unusually prominent. His eyes are the most wonderful part of the face. They are blue-not that liquid, mel dag blue which one is accustomed to see every day, but a color peculiar to itself. They are never still. They roam restlessly about and rest upon every object within reach, almost at every moment. The head of Rochefort is covered with a thick casing of halfcurling hair, which he wears cut very close. Originally it was brown, but trouble and care have sown silver threads in the tresses, that the fossils now found in the solid limewhich give to it not a gray but a dappled complexion. On his lip grows a very thin and very slight mustache, silvered like his hair, and from his chin depends the mere shadow of a goatee. The cheek bones are very prominent and very high, and the face, taken altogether, is what an Englishman would call intellectual, a Frenchman spirituelle. So says a reporter who saw and conversed with him.

A Patriotic Boy It is a good thing to love one's country and to be proud of its history. An Ohio boy carried it, perhaps, to a little excess. Parson Thomas, of Dayton, Ohio, a D.D. of good repute and fine qualities, had a son of out of the country by what they hope will sprightly parts and progressive ideas. This prove effective co-operation. To this end son had been visiting at the house of a fethey have adopted a plan by which five male relative, where he took some primary riders start from each Grange within a lessons in the history of the American Revogiven circuit. If a trace of the rascals is lution, and how the Americans whipped the obtained the chase is to be continued with Britishers. The lad returned home full of the utmost vigor. When the horses break his new subject, and at the tea-table said to down with hard riding others may be secured | his father, "Pa, be you a Britisher?" "Yes, of members, even when at a great distance, my son, I was born in England." "Well,

On the Mississippi, As soon as you have your berth on a Mississippi River steamer you are looked upon as one of the family and may consider your- American exchange, in the shape of struction at any moment. The passengers crowd to the hurricane deck, and are as their power to induce the engineer to put on more steam. There is no thought of an exthey are urged to do.

An amusing story is told of an old lady who had never been on a steamboat, and who had a horror of races. But at last she had occasion to ship a few barrels of lard; and to insure their safe delivery she went along. Immediately on going on board she hunted up the captain and with many entreaties begged him not to engage in a race. The good-parared captain readily granted the request. But soon a rival boat was discerned astern, but rapidly overhauling them. Pitch and turpentine were fed to the hungry fires, and black volumes of smoke rolled out of the chimnies, but still she gained. The old lady was in a frenzy of excitement. "Oh, captain!" she screamed, "do you-

think we will be beat?" "She is gaining on us," replied the cap-

"But, captain, can nothing be done?" continued the old dame. "We might increase our speed if we had

a few barrels of lard," answered the captain, with a sly wink at the mate. "Then pile in mine, captain, pile it in was her frantic ejaculation.

A Novel Exhibition.

It is stated that a party of army officers who have been engaged in mounting guns and otherwise putting the Gulf forts in serviceable condition, while sailing through Mississippi Sound, since the recent flood encountered a remarkable scene. For miles were seen logs, driftwood, and patches of turf and soil floating out into the gulf, filled ith live animals, who clung to their frail barks with the tenacity of shipwrecked mariners. Among the animals were seen rats raccoons, 'possums, rabbits, alligators and moccasin snakes in uncounted numbers, all brought down from the swamps and marshes. perhaps from fifty to one hundred miles inland. The novel exhibition had a scientific interest, as it suggested the manner in which, during past geological periods, animals were transported from regions far inland to the mouth of estuaries, and their bones being entombed in the silt and soft mud, furnished the organic remains which are preserved for ages in the hardened strata. It was, doubtless, by similar means tones were engulfed and preserved; and also that animal life has been distributed over portions of the globe.

Central Asia.

Central Asia may be broadly described as an enormous square, over a great part of its surface composed of barren wilds, of difficult mountains, and of more fruitful tracts; order, was introduced into the United States three sides of it being, in different degrees, subject to the influence and the sway of Russia, and the fourth approaching, in some places, the northern verge of England's Indian possessions. The features of the exterior parts of the mighty square are well known, but it yet remains to penetrate the immense interior. This region, which, in the days when Rome was sovereign on the Orontes as well as on the Tiber, contained the highways by which commerce toiled painfully from the far east to the west, comprises part of Russian Turkestan and the two Khanates of Bokhara and Khiva, once the seats of a power which at different times menaced India to the banks of the Ganges, and Europe to the stream of the Vistula, but now virtually Russian dependencies.

Putting Out a Fire in Paris

The Parisians had quite an American sensation yesterday, says a letter to an self at home. You can retire to the sanctity tremendous fire. Usually, owing to the practice of your berth whenever you desire. When- of dividing houses into flats, by which each ever the gong raises its fiendish racket you floor is kept entirely separate, and the thickcan march boldly forward and take a seat ness of the walls as well, a conflagration can at the cabin table. And generally you will be speedily extinguished without destroying receive excellent fare. On well officered more than two or three rooms; but the fire and properly manned boats great attention last night, which took place in the Rue also cut holes into the mines in order to is paid to the comfort of passengers. No Croizatier, in the Faubourg St. Antoine, steamboat company can afford to have a first caught in a paint shop, afterwards reputation for incompetent management and spread to a wood-yard, and ended by debad treatment in the presence of a-com- stroying a whole block of buildings occupeting rival, for it would soon lose its cus- pied by working people of the very poorest tom. Men are not in the habit of patroni- class, who are thus left in a state of total zing places where they are treated badly, destitution. Several lives were lost, and and the companies know this. Where the smongst them one poor fellow was killed strife has waxed warm between two of those by being struck on the head by a small bedcompanies, they sometimes will carry pas- stead which some frantic person pitched sengers for merely nominal rates, rather wildly from one of the upper windows of a than permit their adversary to obtain them. burning house. A policeman, in trying to Bands of music are frequently hired to play rescue a woman, was also killed by the fall- tion of share capital to debt was 51.7 to on the boats while they lie at the wharf in ing of a ceiling. The remarkable features order to attract the crowd. If two boats of about the affair, to an American, was the rival companies start about the same time extreme inefficiency of the fire brigade, the and \$59,726 for 1871. The total gross earnin the same direction a race is almost sure tardiness with which it arrived, and the ings for the year were \$527,291,323, against to happen. Then all caution is lost in the difficulty experienced in summoning it. At \$468,241,055 for 1872, and \$403,329,208 for mad thirst to be ahead. It pervades the first a few firemen made their appearance on 1871. The increase of earnings for 1873 was whole crew, from the captain to the dirtiest | the scene, but without any engine; next roustabout. Barrels of bacon and rosin are the convalescents of the Hospital St. Antoine, flung into the furnaces and a darky swings | which was close at hand, volunteered their on the safety-valve to prevent a jet of steam | assistance, and attempted to extinguish the | 1872 was 11.4; for 1822 over 1871, 14 per from escaping, while the gauge cocks indi- flames by the primitive method of forming cent. The percentage of increase in the two Fayetteville boys, being charmed by the cate a pressure that may deal death and de- a chain and passing up buckets of water. But even water was wanting, as the waterplugs were locked up and the keys were in much excited as the crew, and do all in the hands of a paternal government, and \$139,748,534 for the transportation of paswere hidden the Lord knows where. Two gentlemen, who happened to be passing by the latter being as 73 to 27. The current plosion then. The all pervading idea is to on horseback, volunteered to go for assisbeat. And when such terrible disasters do tance, and "in less than an hour from the occur, the public and the press pounce upon | time they started," as the papers proudly the crew and officers for doing just what assert, five steam fire engines were on the ground and doing efficient service in preventing the fire from making further headway. Less than an hour! Fancy a fire in New York or Philadelphia that would be sufferered to burn unchecked, save by a few thimblesful of water, for two hoursfor when the gentlemen set off the fire had been under way for an hour or more. Ten large houses were destroyed, and multitudes of unfortunate people were rendered loss, and all their dittle goods on were burned. This morning some aid has been accorded by the chief of police and the mayor of the quarter to the princi-

Statistics of Catholicism.

pal sufferers, and Mane. de MacMahon has

visited the scene and authorized the imme-

diate establishment of a free soup kitchen.

A quarter of a century ago there were sixty-six conventual schools or educational establishments conducted by nuns or Sisters of Charity of the Catholic Church in the United States. Now there are under the charge of the same Church about four hundred academies and two hundred and forty select schools, or an average of about four to each diocese.

In these schools over 350,000 children are being educated, and the foundling and other asylums, distinct from the schools, number three hundred. The Protestant communities and State and local appropriations go far towards the maintenance of these

The first convent established within the present limits of the United States-if we except some perhaps that might have existed long years since in New Mexico and California-was that of the Ursulines, opened at New Orleans in 1727, when that city was a portion of French territory. The Carmelite nunnery, erected in 1790 near Port Tobacco, Md., was the next convent established, four nuns having been brought from

Europe. The "Sisters of Charity" order wa founded in the United States by Mrs. E. A. Seaton, the daughter of Protestant parents in New York. Her husband dying in December, 1802, was buried in Italy, and she returned to America. The moment that it was known that she had become a convert o Catholicism every friend and relative, th companions of her youth and the sharers of her blood, deserted her. All forsook her except her children. In 1809, she, with four others, organized the Sisters of St. Joseph, soon afterwards called and now known as Sisters of Charity.

The Sisters of Mercy, another Catholic by the late Bishop O'Connor, of Pittsburgh, about thirty years ago. So says a Catholic paper.

Education of Children.

In Vera Cruz, Mexico, they have a very compulsory system of education. Whenever a child of either sex between the prescribed ages is seen upon the streets during been recorded, it is sent to school. Vera Cruz has also a public wash-house, occupying two sides of a square. Through the middle are two large marble troughs, with fifty subdivisions on each side. An abundance of clear water is provided, and the accommodations are free to all.

American Railroad Statistics.

A Batch of Interesting Statistics. The following is an extract from the in-

troduction to "Poor's Manual of the Railroads of the United States for 1874-75." The tabular statements on the preceding

capital, indebtedness, earnings, expenses,

dividends, etc., etc., of the railroads of the United Utates for 1873. The total length of line of which operations are given is 66,-096 miles, against 57,323 miles for 1872, and 44,614 for 1871. The aggregate cost of the several roads at the end of the year was \$3,761,973,322, against \$3,159,423,057 for 1872, and \$2,664,627,645 for 1871. The increase of cost for 1873 over 1872, was \$602,-550,265; over 1871, \$1,097,345,677. Of the total cost \$1,940,638,584 was made up of share capital, and \$1,821,334,738 of various forms of indebtedness, chiefly of bonds maturing at a distant day. The propor-48.3. The average cost per mile of all the roads was \$56,918, against \$55,116 for 1872, \$59,050,268; for 1872, \$64,911,857; the total for the two years being \$123,962,115. The percentage of increase for 1873 over years was 30 per cent. Of the total earnings for the year, \$387,542,789 were received for the transportation of freight and mails, and sengers—the proportion of the former to operating expenses were \$344,437,528, or 65.2 per cent. of the gross earnings. - The net earnings were \$182,853,765, or 34.7 per cent. of the gross. The latter equaled 14.-33 per cent, of the cost of the roads-the net 4.96 per cent. The amount paid in dividends was \$59,566,316, or 3.07 per cent. on the aggregate amount of the share capital.

The gross earnings per head of popula-

tion equaled \$12.80 against \$11.63 for 1872, and \$9.80 for 1871. The ratio of total mileage to inhabitants in 1873 was one mile to every 582 inhabitants, against o ood inhabitants in 1872. The of gross earnings on the total e roads was 14.33 against 15 for 15.14 for 1871. The rate is 0.67 an that for 1872, 0.81 less than that for 1871. The percentage of net earnings upon the cost of the roads for 1873 was 4.96, against 5.20 for 1872 and 5.32 for 1871 The increase of mileage in the two years for which returns are given has been 21,482 miles. The increase of the cost of the roads in the same time has been \$1,097,305,677 It was hardly possible that the earnings should increase in ratio to such an enormous expenditure, as two or three years often elapse after its opening before a railroad is in position to do much business, for want of adequate equipments, or from the unfinished condition of its tracks, or from the want of suitable connection, or from pecuniary embarrassments. On the other hand, the earnings of these works, per head of population, in 1873 was \$12.80, against \$11.63 for 1872 and \$10.22 for 1871. This is a most encouraging feature in connection with these works, as it shows that under ordinary conditions their earnings must increase, for an indefinite period, in a very rapid ratio, more clearly settled-the increase per head in the Eastern States being fully as great as in the Western and more sparsely settled States. At the rate of the past three years the earnings of our railroads will double themselves in the next six years without the construction of an additional mile of line. The population is increasing at the rate of one million annually. By 1880, the earnings of the roads now in operation will probably exceed \$1,000,000,000. The percentage of their annual earnings to their cost will come fully up to 20 per cent. -a rate which, with good management, is sufficient to render the whole investment reasonably remunerative. In fact, there

Some Temperance Figures.

ings, even with a stationary population,

provided such population be intelligent, and

provided with all the aids to industry which

science and art can supply.

A correspondent of the "Congregational ist" says: "There are 140,000 saloons in the country against 128,000 schools, and only 54,000 churches. Manufacturers and sellers of strong drink, 650,000-twelve times the number of clergymen, four times the teachers, nearly double all the lawyers, physicians, teachers, and ministers combined. In these saloons there are 5,600,000 daily customers, one in seven of the whole populaschool hours, a policeman conducts it to the tion! Of these, 100,000 are annually imnearest police station, whence, after name, prisoned for crime, at an expense of \$90,age, residence, and names of parents have 000,000, leaving 200,000 beggared orphans. Grasp these figures: An army of topers, five abreast, 100 miles in length. A rank of beggared widows stretching across the State of Massachusetts. A file of men 75 miles in length, marching steadily down to the grave, three every minute through the

A Veritable Love Story.

He was young, he was fair, and he parted his hair, like the average beau, in the middle; he was proud, he was bold, but the truth must be told, he played like a fiend on the fiddle. But aside from this vice he was everything nice, and his heart was so pages present full abstracts of the share loving and tender that he always turned pale when he trod on the tail of the cat, lying down by the fender. He clerked in the store, and the way that he tore off calico, ieans, and brown sheeting would have tickled a calf and made the brute laugh in the face of a quarterly meeting. He cut quite a dash with a darling mustache, which he learned to adore and to cherish; for one girl had said, while she dropped her proud head, that 'twould kill her to see the thing perish. On a Sunday he'd search the straight road to church, unheeding the voice of the scorner; and demurely he sat, like a young tabby cat, with his saints in in the far amen corner. He sang like a bird, and his sweet voice was heard fairly tugging away at long meter; and we speak but the truth when we say that this youth could outsing a hungry mosquiter.

She was young, she was fair, and she scrambled her hair like the average belle of the city; she was proud, but not bold, yet the truth must be told that the way she chewed wax was a pity. But aside from this vice she was everything nice, and the world much applauded her bustle; and the noise, walked miles just to hear the thing rustle. She cut quite a swell, did the waxchewing belle, and the men flocked in armies to meet her; but she gave them the shirk, for she loved the young clerk, who sung like a hungry mosquiter. She hemmed and she hawed, and she sighed and chawed until her heart and jaws were both broken: then she walked by his store, while he stood at the door awaiting some amative token. She raised up her eyes with a pretty surprise, and tried to enact the proud scorner; but to tell the plain truth, she just grinned at the youth who loved the devout amen corner.

Short Horns. During a recent discussion at a meeting of English breeders on the management of Short-Horn cattle, the chairman said: "One great fault of Short-Horn feeding had been too little to milk. He had been grieved to see a Short-Horn heifer unable to bring up her calf and to require an inferior animal to be used. Mr. Thomas Bates and other breeders used to boast about the milk as well as the beef-producing qualities of their animals, but this was not so now. The object of the early breeders of Short-Horns was not to have fashionable herds, but animals in the best condition. The miners and well paid artisans would not buy those great lumps of fat, but as prime mutton and beef as could be had. What the farmer now wanted was the class of stock fit to bring into the market as early at possible, and which would bring the greatest profit. What was wanted was to produce two-yearold bullocks as prime as they formerly were at four years." Our own breeders would do well to give heed to the above observations; for too many of them, especially at the West, have latterly greatly neglected the milking qualities of their Short-Horns, paying almost exclusive attention to them for beef. We have repeatedly seen the first two prizes at our cattle shows awarded to cows that had but two or three serviceable teats, and to others whose udders and teats were so small they could not produce half milk enough to bring up a calf. It was not thus with the early Short-Horns-they were almost universally great milkers.

Trouble in Pork.

The recent distressing cases of trichina spiralis at Flint and South Haven, Mich., which resulted so fatally, have been made subject of patient and prolonged investigation by the Medical Society of Kalamazoo. Post mortem examinations of the bodies of the victims were made, and these loathsome parasites were found in great numbers in seems to be no limit to the increase of earn- the bodies. The pork and ham were also examined, and found to be alive with them. It was furthermore ascertained in each case that ham had been eaten raw. As there are numerous others liable to eat ham in this condition, we commend them the following extract from the medical report: "Eat no uncooked or half cooked hog's flesh. The raw flesh of the hog, whatever its shape or condition, whether ham, bacon, or pork, salt or fresh, smoked or unsmoked, is liable to contain this parasite, full of a life and activity that may soon work a remediless mischief in the human body. Bologna sausage, if pork be in it uncooked, is as dangerous as any other form of this meat. The heat that cooks meat utterly destroys the life and mischievous power of these vermin, and no one need fear any harm if this fact is ob-

> A lamented citizen of Montana, whose passion for horses led him out to the end of a convenient bough and whose ultimate views of life were taken through a slipnoose, declared it to be his conviction (which was unanimous) that this world is all a hemptie show.