

A SHROUD OF GOLD.—Hon. Thomas Ewbank of Washington, District of Columbia, late Commissioner of Finance, communicates to the National Intelligencer some interesting information in regard to recent discoveries in the excavation of Peruvian tumuli. The information was received by Mr. Ewbank from W. W. Evans, Esq., engineer of the Arica and Tacua railroad in Peru. Mr. Evans states, that in making excavations for the railroad in Arica, hundreds of graves are demolished, in which are numerous Indian relics. The excavations are seven feet deep, and as the soil is loose and the wind proceeds every thing from the top comes sliding down—broken Indian pots, kettles, arrow-heads, &c. Among other interesting mortuary relics, an Indian was started out of his resting-place, rolled up in a shroud of gold. Before Mr. Evans had knowledge of the incident, the workmen had cut up this magnificent winding-sheet and divided it among themselves. With some difficulty, Mr. Evans obtained a fragment, and despatched it to Mr. Ewbank. Mr. Evans notices as a remarkable fact, that not one hundred of Indian skulls which he has examined, not one has contained any gold. Mr. Ewbank thinks the weight of the entire shroud must have been eight or nine pounds, and had it been preserved, would have been the finest specimen of sheet gold that we have since the time of the Spanish Conquest. In a recent remark upon the preservation of souvenirs departed, and the fatality of attempting to secure the great dead from contact with their native earth, Mr. Ewbank says, it is their form of features, and not the body or substance of the dead, that should be preserved, and so.

"The mummies of Egypt are quarried for fuel, and whether those of the Pharaohs, their wives, their priests, or their slaves, are split open and chopped up with the same indifference as so many pine logs. The gums and balsams used in embalming them have made them a good substitute for bituminous coal; and thus the very means employed to preserve them have been the active agents of their dissipation. So it is when the materials of coffins have a high marked value; they are then seized as hideable treasure, and their contents are lost or robbish. In the houses in the Eastern hemisphere, the descendants of Manco Capac were sometimes, if not always, entombed in such, and with considerable treasure besides, in vessels of gold and silver; hence we learn, how the Spanish conquerors sought for, often found, and as often plundered rich Indian sepulchres."

FOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND.—In the days of Queen Elizabeth substantial diet was confined chiefly to persons of rank and wealth. A plowman was often content to dine on "water gruel." The food of the laborers was coarse and deficient; their clothing was incomparably more so, and their lodgings were rude, dirty and uncomfortable. In the present day the food of the poor consists of glass windows and chimneys. The floors of the peasants' houses were of clay, and filled with the accumulated filth of many years. The luxury of linen was confined to the rich and high-born. Their woollen cloth was of all domestic manufacture. Tea and coffee, and to a great extent, sugar, were unknown. Beer was the universal beverage. The higher classes of society lived chiefly on salted meats. The common people seldom ate meat in any form. The ordinary fare of working men consisted of bread and butter, and a little beer. Potatoes and turnips appeared about this time. In earlier ages, the people fed entirely on bread and meat. As late as 1750, out of a population of 6,000,000, in England and Wales, nearly one half were sustained by rye, barley and oats. Now, the same class of persons are consumers of wheat. The use of the potato as the principal article of food has been confined to a few districts.

The process of making the famous submarine telegraph cable, recently lost off the coasts of Newfoundland, was as follows:—Copper wire of a small size, of the requisite length is taken, and completely insulated by means of gutta percha. Three copper wires thus enveloped are placed side by side, in as compact a space as possible, all the interstices between them being filled with rope yarn. These three insulated wires are then twisted around each other by means of machinery, as in the strands of a rope and the whole is completely surrounded by another envelope of gutta percha. A traverse section of this cable now gives the appearance of a solid gutta rope, in which appears three copper wires, running through its whole length. This is enveloped by twelve distinct large iron wires, running through its whole length, running parallel to it, which are strongly attached to the gutta percha rope, as before, by machinery, at an angle of 45 deg. This is then sheathed with tar, and is ready for use.

PATENT LEATHER BOOTS.—While standing in the office of one of the first-class hotels, the other day, we noticed a gentleman who came with his baggage, entered his name on the book, and secured a room. As soon as he had written his name, the clerk looked at it with astonishment. He called all the other clerks to look, and then he called one of the proprietors, who, on seeing it, appeared amazed.

We thought from the fuss that was being made over the name, that the man must be some celebrated person. The idea struck us, that it might be Prince Albert, or some of England's noblemen; but, as his features were truly American, we concluded it must be some great man, whom we did not know, belonging to our own country. While thus contemplating the man and his position, the head clerk leaned forward, and called—

"Mr. Johnson, one moment, if you please?" The gentleman stepped up to the desk.

"Will you," continued the clerk, "please explain one thing?" We have all tried to decipher it, but cannot make it out."

"What is it?" asked the gentleman, with a quiet smile playing on his face.

"Why, sir, at the end of your name on the book, you have traced three letters, P. L. B. and we are anxious to know the meaning of them, having never before met them in that position."

"I said the gentleman, 'simply means—Patent Leather Boots. The last time I was here, I wore none other, but was charged in my bill, at leaving, two dollars for blacking boots, and as I have no time to dispute at leaving, I concluded this time to make you understand, that I wore such boots as needed no blacking."

"I don't believe it's any use to vaccinate, for small pox," said a backwoods Kentuckian, "for I had a child vaccinated, and in less than a week after, he fell out of a window and was killed."

The man who "kept his word," gave serious offence to Webster, who wanted it for his dictionary.

If our Maker thought it wrong for Adam to live single when there was not a woman on earth, how criminally guilty are old bachelors, with the world full of pretty girls.

Virute is a rock, from which rebound all the arrows sligt against it.

The moment a man begins to rise above his fellows, he becomes a mark for their missiles.—W. G. Simms.

A FEELING REPLY.—"Would you like to subscribe for Dickens' Household Words?" asked a magazine agent. "Household words have played the dickens with me long enough" was the feeling reply.

Are the minutes relating to an affair of honor always drawn up by the seconds?

Can a watch fitted with a second-hand, be called a second-hand watch?

A popular writer, speaking of the ocean telegraph, wonders whether the news transmitted through the salt water will be fresh.

BEAUTIFUL AND TRUE.—In an article in a recent number of Fraser's Magazine this brief but beautiful passage occurs:—"Education does not commence with the alphabet. It begins with a mother's look; with a father's smile of approbation or sign of reproof; with a sister's gentle pressure of the hand or a brother's noble act of forbearance; with handfuls of flowers in a green and daisy meadow; with birds nests' admired, but not touched; with creeping ants and almost imperceptible emmets; with humming-bees and glass bee-hives; with pleasant winks in shady lanes, with thoughts directed in sweet and kindly moods and words, to nature, acts of the noblest deeds of virtue, and to the source of all good—to God himself!"

SURPRISE PARTIES.—The Boston Times relates the following interesting accident of a surprise party:—"Every one knows that a 'surprise party' is, where a company of gentlemen and ladies agree to visit, carrying their own provisions, some one of their acquaintances, without any sign or notice of their coming being given. A few nights since, in New Bedford, a party was formed for the purpose of giving a surprise to a married couple, but upon proceeding to the house, it was found, that another visitor had anticipated them only a few hours. It was a girl, 'a little darling, and looked just like its mother, bless its heart!' All parties were, of course, slightly 'surprised.' The 'surprise' weighed six and three-quarter pounds."

MEDDLER'S TELEGRAPH.—Some Turkish ladies at Scutari left their homes on account of the telegraphic wires, but never the mode of the houses, &c. They imagined that the wire could tell all their secrets.

COMFORT FOR A GENERAL.—One story which I heard of General Shirley I will add. During one of the assaults, the General's eyes became choked up with the dust which the terrible bombardment brought in clouds from the batteries. He was so blinded, that where a shell had burst to rub this dust out. Some Irishmen were going past him to the attack, took it into their heads that he was weeping, and bawled out: "Don't cry, General dear, but stop there—sure we're going to take the place for ye!"—London Correspondent of *Interest* Courier.

"SANDY," FROM THE CRIMEA. The Dog of the Sappers and Miners.—This Dog, who has obtained such notoriety from his services in the Crimea, and being decorated with a medal, is the property of Lieutenant George R. Lempiere, R. E., the Adjutant of the corps, who bred him—the sire being a thorough-bred Scotch terrier, the mother a thorough bred English Bulldog. Sandy is now seven years old, and has traveled almost everywhere with his master. In the winter he was in Gibraltar, whence he took constant trips into Spain. He then came home again; and, after going to several English stations where Lieutenant Lempiere was quartered, embarked with him and the men, at the commencement of the war, for the East, and was constantly with them at Malta, Gallipoli, Constantinople, and Varna,—at the latter place being found useful in foraging expeditions, and a great guard to his master's tent against the natives, whose honesty is not proverbial. From the Crimea, he was sent to the Crimea, to the Kaleb, Charaksee, and many other ports along the coast, where the adjutant was stationed with the Turkish army from time to time. From his being a most excellent water dog, he made (which is quite an uncommon thing) great friends with the Turks and Bashibazouks;—also distinguished himself on two or three occasions, when in going off to different vessels, the boat was swamped and capsized, by rushing into the most fearful seas and rescuing coats, oars, &c. Thence he was sent to Crimea, where he was present at the battle of Inkerman, received a bayonet wound, and was compelled to go on three legs for some time;—from the effects of this wound, although now nearly recovered, he is unable to take long-continued or violent exercise; and, as will be seen from his portrait, it slightly affects the front of his head, and he is somewhat lame. He was compelled from ill health to leave the army. Sandy was taken care of by some of the officers, and returning home some months on "urgent private affairs," to the great delight of his master, who never expected to see him again. At the present time, he is in the corps, where short of supplies, poor Sandy had a narrow escape;—serious thoughts were entertained of devouring him—although nearly starved himself.

Sandy always marches out at the head of the men, to whom he has become so accented that he will not follow those of any other regiment. He is well up to all the bugle-calls, especially those of dinner, breakfast, and supper, at which hours he generally makes off to one of the barrack-rooms.

Some few months since, before leaving Woolwich regiment, he was sent to the Crimea, where he had his master's room with a medal round his neck, put on by some one who knew of his having seen active service; but who did so was never found out. This medal being stolen from him, his master proceeded another for him to replace it. At the present time, he is in the corps, where he is taken care of by some of the officers, and returning home some months on "urgent private affairs," to the great delight of his master, who never expected to see him again. At the present time, he is in the corps, where short of supplies, poor Sandy had a narrow escape;—serious thoughts were entertained of devouring him—although nearly starved himself.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES EXPECTED.—Professor Faraday is of the opinion that we are on the verge of important discoveries concerning the nature of physical forces and their relations in life and physiology. He says that all forces have a similar dual property, and that every action of one body on another is accompanied by an equal and opposite reaction. One force cannot be called into action by electricity without the other, and they are always equal. When the north poles of four magnets are placed together at right angles, so as to form a deep square cell, in the center of that cell there is no magnetic action at all. "The northness" and "southness" of a magnet, inside Professor Faraday says, cannot be called into action, not a professor, a magnet.

CRITICISM.—When Paradise Lost was published, the celebrated Waller wrote this passage:—"The old blind chieftain, who Milton, in his poem, has published a tedious poem on the fall of man, is so long he is not considered as merit, it hath no other."

Peeps, in his Memoirs, thus speaks of Hudibras:—"When I came to read it, it is so silly an abuse of the preacher knight going to the wars that I am ashamed of it; and by and by meeting at Mr. Townsend's at dinner, I told it to Mr. Batebury for eighteen pence."