ELECTRIC COMMUNICATION WITH AMERICA.

The following interesting statement is extracted from the *Cork Constitution*:—

"Lying at anchor off Queenstown for the last few days may have been observed a small, unsightly, ill-painted, rusty-bottomed screw-steamer, without one point of attraction about her, except the stars and stripes fluttering in the breeze. Yet that boat and some of the officers she contains have been the world's wonder for a season, and have just now concluded a task which is the forerunner of an event more wonderful still. The Arctic was the vessel that was sent to rescue Dr. Kane, who had previously been sent to rescue Franklin. She was successful, and brought home Dr. Kane and his crew, who had been obliged to abandon his ship and search. She was then a light ship on the American coast. She is now the bearer of Lieutenant Strain of Darien notoriety, and Captain Berriman, who has before, and now again, crossed from Newfoundland to take soundings of the whole Atlantic from St. John's to Valencia, with the view to ascertain the probable success with which a telegraphic cable may be laid between these points. The result is satisfactory. For some 50 or 60 miles from St. John's and again on this side, is a bank varying from 25 to 120 fathoms. Between these there is a plateau nearly level, the bottom soft, composed of shells so fine that only the microscope can discover them, each shell perfect in its minute beauty, proving the absence of currents at the bottom, and, with due deference to Stephenson and others, the want of that vast pressure, which was to be so dreaded, and exhibiting at every point not only a capacity, but the most perfect capacity, for the very use for which it is required. The whole apparatus for arriving at these facts is most perfect. Steam-power, separate from that of the ship, works the axle from which the sounding-line is "paid out." Soundings have been taken to the depth of 27,000 fathoms. By a neat contrivance each sounding shows not only the depth, but the nature of the bottom, which is brought up in five quills, and the temperature of the water, the latter being given by the expansion or contraction of metallic spiral ribands placed round a centre pin, fixed at the top, and attached at the bottom to a needle and indicator, the latter remaining fixed after the first has ceased to act, showing the exact variation between the surface and the bottom. Most careful drawings have been made by Mr. Van Den Berg (to whom has been assigned the special post of draughtsman) of the soundings, showing a profile of the bottom of the sea with the greatest accuracy.

There can be no doubt that telegraphic communications between Ireland and St. John's, a distance of 1640 geographical miles, may be regarded as a certainty. It is in the hands of a small American company, but, though small, if its members possess but a tithe of the energy of their representative, Mr. Cyrus W. Field, who is also here making every inquiry, it will be enough to overcome every difficulty. Captain Berriman laughs at laying the cable. He asks but a ship large enough, and he will undertake to do it at 10 miles an hour right across. The company have already obtained the sole grant for erecting telegraphs through Newfonndland, and have already some 1700 miles at work, or will have in a few days, which is in connexion with the American lines. The difficulties and trials of temper in taking these soundings have been tremendous. Repeatedly after 'paying out' tens of thousands of fathoms of line, and getting all up within some 60 or 80, it was snapped, and all had to be done again. Six and eight hours have been occupied in getting one sounding only, and these have been made nearly every half degree the whole way across. From the captain to the cabin-boy each has given his willing aid. No trouble was thought too much—no time too long; each appeared to feel the honour of his nation at stake, and proud in every way to advance the object in view. They have done their work well. Nature has granted all we could ask; art will soon do its part, while nature, science, and art, worked out by man's hand, will produce one grand whole to benefit mankind."

A Crimean Heroine.—Among the women accompanying the expedition we find a Mrs. Kelly, now a resident of Tullow, in this country, whose husband was a private of the 4th Regiment. She was at the battle of Alma, and was close to the regiment during the engagement, and subsequently witnessed the battle of Inkermann and the cavalry affair at Balaklava. Her husband, whom she attended with unflinching constancy through sickness and danger, having died of cholera, she was sent home to her native town, in the enjoyment of a pension of £13 per annum, and on her arrival she received her late husband's medal with clasps from the authorities at the Horse Guards, who had become acquainted with her exemplary conduct—her patient endurance under privations, and her services to the sick and wounded.—*Carlow Sentinel.*

Disturbances at Rome.—The last steamer from Civita Vecchia brings the news that street rows had taken place at that port between the French soldiers and the artillerymen of the Pope. For two days there had been a continued scene of quarreling whenever the opposite parties met. The authorities began at length to suspect that Swiss soldiers had been exciting the French against the Pontificalists; they accordingly arrested and imprisoned the instigators, whereupon the collisions ceased.

The *Journal de Frankford* of the 30th ult. states that jewellery to the amount of 250,000f. was stolen a few days before from the Villa Grunebourg, belonging to Baron de Rothschild. Active steps were being taken to discover the robbers.

Polygamy in India.—A Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* states, that the Government of India has finally determined to limit the practice of polygamy by legislative enactment. Hindooism is based upon the theory that every man has a son to succeed him, and to perform those ceremonies which, far more than any act of his own, secure to the Hindoo eternal bliss. The man, therefore, whose wife is barren, or bears only daughters, takes another wife. This will still be permitted, but every other form of polygamy will be prohibited.

A vessel called the Gleaner was launched the other day at Bristol on "teetotal principles," a bottle of pure water being used in the ceremony instead of a bottle of wine.

WHEN IS A MAN RICH ENOUGH?

When a lad, an old gentleman took the trouble to teach me some little knowledge of the world. With this view I remember he one day asked me, "When is a man rich enough?" I replied, "When he has a thousand pounds." He said, "No." "Two thousand?" "No." "Ten thousand?', "No." "A hundred thousand?" which I thought would settle the business; but he still continued to say no. I gave it up, and confessed I could not tell, but begged that he would inform me. He gravely said, "*When he has a little more than he has*, and that is never! If he acquires one thousand, he wishes to have two thousand, then five, then twenty, then fifty; from that his riches would amount to one hundred thousand, and so on till he had grasped the whole world, after which he would look about him, like Alexander, for other worlds to possess." Many a proof have I had of the old gentleman's remarks since he made them to me, and I am happy to say, I have discovered the reason. Full enjoyment, full satisfaction to the mind of man, can only be found in possessing God, with all his infinite perfections. It is only the Creator, and not the creature, that can satisfy.

Mr. R. S. Whitfield, resident medical officer of St. Thomas's Hospital, London states that the corporation of Antwerp now receive 120,000 frances a year for the sweepings of the streets and the contents of the cesspools, contractors converting the nuisances into a powerful manure. Formerly the corporation used to pay 20,000 frances yearly to get rid of the city refuse. At Paris and Milan "town guano" is manufactured which has extraordinary power as a fertiliser.

The Dead Sea.—Though in breadth not exceeding ten miles, the Dead Sea seems boundless to the eye when looking from north to south; and the murmur of the waves, as they break on its flint-strewn shore, together with the lines of drift-wood and fragments of bitumen on the beach, give to its waters a resemblance to the ocean. Curious to experience the sensation of swimming in so strange a sea, I put to the test the accounts of the extreme buoyancy felt in it, and I was quickly convinced that there was no exaggeration in what I heard. I found the water almost tepid, and so strong that the chief difficulty was to keep sufficiently submerged, the feet starting up in the air at every vigorous stroke. When floating, half the body rose above the surface, and with a pillow, one might have slept upon the water. After some time the strangeness of the sensation in some measure disappeared, and on approaching the shore I carelessly dropped my feet to wade out, when lo! as if a bladder had been attached to each heel, they flew upwards; the struggle to recover myself sent my head down; the vile, bitter, and briny water, from which I had hitherto guarded my head, now rushed into my mouth, eyes, ears, and nose, and for one horrible moment the only doubt I had was whether I was to be drowned or poisoned. Coming to the surface, however, I swam to land, making no further attempt to walk in deep water, which I am inclined to believe is almost impossible.—*Eastern Travel.*

The Honey-Guide.—It is not always easy to discover the natural hives of wild bees. There are, however, two or three active little guides, which are of great service to those who are in search of honey. One of these, found in South Africa, is a bird called the honey-guide. It is about the size of a chaffinch, and of a light grey colour.

Mr. Cumming, in his "Adventures in South Africa," thus describes the curious habits of the bird:—"Chattering and twittering in a state of great excitement, it perches on a branch beside the traveller, endeavoring by various wiles to attract his attention; and having succeeded in doing so, it flies lightly forward in a wavy course in the direction of the bees' nest, alighting every now and then, looking back to ascertain if the traveller is following it, all the time keeping up an incessant twitter. When at length it arrives at the hollow tree or deserted white ants' hill, which contains the honey, it for a moment hovers over the nest, pointing to it with its bill, and then takes up its position on a neighboring branch, anxiously awaiting its share of the spoil. When the honey is taken, which is accomplished by first stupefying the bees by burning grass at the entrance of their nest, the honey-bird will often lead to a second and even to a third nest. The person thus following it generally whistles. The wild bees of Southern Africa exactly correspond with our domestic garden-bees. They are very generally diffused throughout every part of Africa, bees-wax forming a considerable part of the cargoes of ships trading to the gold and ivory coasts, and the district of Sierra Leone, on the western shores of Africa."

One of the Tricks of Burglars.—From a confession made by a rogue, now in jail at Hartford, Connecticut, for various burglaries recently committed in Farmington, it appears that one of the gang with whom he was connected, travelled through various towns selling polishing powders, with a view of ascertaining where silver plate was to be found. In visiting dwellings, he was always quite bold in following the inmates to adjacent rooms to test his powders upon silver spoons or plate. He made a memorandum of what he saw, in a book, nothing particularly those houses where a dog was kept.

A "Connection."—A Persian merchant, complaining very heavily of some unjust sentence, was told by the judge to go to the cadi. "But the cadi is your uncle !" urged the plaintiff. "Then you can go to the grand vizier." "But his secretary is your cousin!" "Then you may appeal to the Sultan." "But his favourite sultana is your niece !" "Well then go to the devil." "Ah ! there is a still closer connection," said the merchant, as he left the court in despair.

The Great Republic.—This monster ship has returned to New York, after an absence of nearly two years, during which time she has been employed, together with a large number of other American ships of all sizes, in the French Government transport service during the war in the Crimea. Some idea of her capacity may be gathered from the fact that on one of her trips from Marseilles to Kamiesch, she carried 497 cavalry horses, for whose accommodation the two between decks were partitioned into stalls, beside over 500 troops, and the provisions and forage necessary for the voyage. On her last return trip from Sebastopol, she brought to Marseilles over 3000 infantry, besides her own crew, and a large corps of cooks, servants and waiters required for Commissary Department, and this, too, with her lower hold full of guns of great size, shells, baggage, and the necessary water and provisions. In every port she has visited, she has been thronged with people of all classes, who have expressed their admiration of her enormous size and beauty.

A New Article of Trade.—A paper, published in British India, publishes a letter from a person at Karrachee, who says that he is determined to export 120,000 salted rats to China. The Chinese eat rats, and he thinks they may sell. He says he has to pay one pice a dozen, and the salting, pressing, and packing in casks, raises the price to six pice a dozen, and if he should succed in obtaining any thing like the price that rules in Whampoa and Canton, for corn-grown rats, his fortune will be made!

The Ladies and their Barricades.—A spicy correspondent of the *Pawtucket Gazette* thus "lets himself out" on the expansive subject of hoops in ladies dresses: —"And, talking of the ladies, they are positively getting bigger and bigger. The petticoat mania rages fearfully. They fill up the side-walks as they brush by you. You feel bones—whalebones, I mean—for there are no others within half a mile of you. What a dreadful reversal of nature is all this ! I do not object to plumpness and rotundity in the proper place; but what sense is their in being so orbicular about the feet? Between you and me, Mrs. P. T. has fallen into the fashion, and, maugre my remonstrances, has purchased one of the most monstrous of the inventions. I examined it with much awe the other night, after she had gone to bed. Oh, Roberto! it was indeed most wonderfully made ! It is an institution. In size it is like a small country law-office. I think it must have been raised like a barn. It is latticed, and cornered, and stiffened, with the utmost ingenuity. When she has it on, my 'gude wife' is (so to speak) like *Hamlet's* father, 'clad in complete steel.' She is just as safe as if she were in a convent. She is entirely shut out from this vain world. The question of beauty is another matter." Another American paper says, "One virtue, at least has been discovered in the hooped petticoats mad dogs cannot bite the wearer. Excellent things, therefore, for summer wear!"

The Good of ill Fortune.—Franklin used to say, to be thrown upon one's own resources is to be cast in the very lap of fortune, for our faculties then undergo a development, and display an energy of which they were previously unsusceptible.

Real Philosophy.—If you wish to be happy, keep busy. Idleness is harder work than ploughing. Indolence is not ease—neither is wealth happiness. "Life's cares are comforts, and he that hath none must be wretched."

A Danish writer speaks of a hut so miserable, that it didn't know which way to fall, and so kept standing. This is like the man that had such a complication of diseases that he didn't know which to die of, and so he lived on.

Long life does not consist in many years, but in the period being filled with good services to our fellow beings. He whose life ends at thirty may have done much, while he who has reached the age of one hundred may have done little.