UNITED STATES.

The following letter has been communicated to the *Boston Post*.

Gentlemen: You will oblige me by publishing the following extract from a letter which I have received from Halifax respecting the Arabia:

"She arrived here about eleven o'clock on Friday morning, having been detained off the harbor by fog. We pumped the water out of the fore-peak, then removed the coal, and made a good and secure passage for the water under the coal. We also stuffed oakum in the leak from the inside, and shored the fore-peak off as well as we could, and sent a diver down who put oakum and tallow in the leak from the outside.

"Before she left, we ascertained that one of her donkey engine pumps of 2½ inches could keep pace with the leak, whereas she has four pumps connected with the engine of 10 inches each, four deck-hand pumps of 7 inches, and two pumps which were put in the fore-hold of 2½ inches each, making in all 6 steam pumps and 6 hand pumps. I got the admiral to hold a survey on her; he sent the master of the flagship and the foreman of the shipwrights of the dock-yard; before she sailed, I read to the passengers a copy of their report to the admiral.

"It is purport was, that the ship was making about eighteen tons of water an hour, and this has been cleared by one donkey engine; there are very ample appliances to clear a much larger leak, if necessary, as well as six pumps which can be worked by hand. From the mode adopted in-board, to keep out the water, it will serve to strengthen the bows, and from the mode adopted out-board, from allowing oakum to suck into the leak, it is probable that it will diminish, and we further think, from what we have seen, and the reports of the divers, that the ship can proceed to England in safety.

"After reading this to the passengers, I told them, I would give them an hour to make up their minds; those who did not wish to go, could have their money returned in full, or a passage in the Canada; they expressed themselves perfectly satisfied, and I believe about twenty-five landed here; I also put two more boats on board. I feel quite sure in my own mind, she will go home all right."

I may add, from myself, that the pumping capacity of the Arabia is over one thousand tons per hour, by injecting from the ship, instead of from the sea.

Your obedient servant,
E. CUNARD.

WEALTH OF PORTLAND.—The total valuation of real estate in Portland is $11,661,305; valuation of personal estate, $9,472,149; total $21, 143,171. The rate of taxation the present year is $6 more than $100. The published list of tax payers, shows 375 names of individuals, partnerships and corporations, whose taxes amount to $100 or more.

WHO IS OUR FRIEND?—The usually well informed Washington correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* says, that the statement of the London *Times* in regard to the arrangement between Mr. Dallas and Lord Clarendon respecting Central American affairs, is not without foundation, and makes the following disclosures, which, if true are important:

"But in connection with this adjustment, we have highly important intelligence as to the policy and position of England, in regard to the United States as Spain and France.

"England is about to come into collision with France upon the subject of the ambitious designs of the latter power upon Spain. There is reason to believe that Napoleon III. has revived the pretensions of the first Napoleon to the crown of Spain, and that he now directs his entire policy towards that object.

"He has seconded his intentions by acts. He has been and is engaged in concentrating a vast military force upon the frontiers of Spain; and what with intrigue, through the Queen Mother Christina, and a demonstration of force, may bring about a state of things in Spain favorable to his ambitious views.

"If he conquer Spain, he will seek possession of Cuba, which the United States is pledged to resist. England has, therefore, as I am advised, recommended to the government of Spain the cession of Cuba to the United States, for such a consideration as will recruit the exhausted finances of the Spanish government, and enable t to resist the designs of France.

"That Spain cannot long retain possession of Cuba is apparent; and the British government, looking to a rupture with France on the Spanish question, is desirous both to strengthen Spain and conciliate the United States, by bringing about a cession of the island to the United States.

"When this matter shall assume a more definite form, and the Central American question shall be settled, it is thought probable, that Lord Howden, the present Minister to Spain but now in London on leave of absence, will be sent to this government as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, to complete such arrangements as will bring about a firm alliance between England and the United States against the designs of Napoleon III."—*Boston Journal*.

The Albany *Argus* furnishes a synopsis of Professor Dawson's paper on American Geology, read before a section of the "Scientific Congress lately assembled at Albany.

Mr. Dawson, yet a young man, has already obtained a position among men whose names are current in the circle of science.

Mr. Dawson is commended by the Editor of the *Argus* as "having presented his theories *beginning at the surface and going downward*." That is precisely what the *people* desire, to hear and know about the top—the surface the crowd sees.

While the learned gentleman was expressing his judgment that "if a certain theory in geology was admitted, all former views must be ignored," "Why not," suddenly said Agazziz, "Why not—do we not build all our science on our facts!" "The distinguished scholar in this uttered the voice of the press—the onward and upward movement of learning, which ought to characterise our own times.—Even our experience, however, brief—I mean, the life of each one of us—living, as we do, in the age that rather leads than moves, in the progress of knowledge—has taught us, that no theory concerning the movements of matter has in itself such certainties, that no effort need be made by the student to go further. There are bounds which some scholars, not wise, but rash, are constantly endeavoring to pass—as when it was uttered here, that the Creation had progressed from the lowest order of vertebræ to the crowning work—Man. Creation has its great truths and its order revealed without the assistance of geology."

SMASH UP ON THE CENTRAL RVILROAD—ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY SWINE SLAUGHTERED—SIX FREIGHT CARS DEMOLISHED.—An accident, the result of miscalculation and want of perception, occurred at West Albany, last evening, which, while it resulted in no personal injury to any one, caused great damage and loss. A freight train of eighteen cars, coming east, was run into by another train, also coming this way, and with such headway, that five or six cars were entirely demolished. One car contained swine, nearly all of which were terribly mangled. Some three or four, it is said, escaped injury, but they were so much frightened, that they scampered off into the woods.

Five or six cars, containing butter and produce of a perishable nature, were dovetailed together in such a manner, that it is impossible to tell butter from cheese, and cheese from butter.

The hind cars of the foremost train, when the two trains came in collision, were piled one upon the other in great confusion. The debris presents a sorry sight as the produce is nearly all rendered unfit for consumption. The swine were consigned to Mr. Potter of Troy.

The accident is said, was caused by the miscalculation of the flag man, who not thinking that the rear train was so near, did not get far enough around the curve to prevent a collision. The damage resulting cannot be less than $5000 or $6000.—*Albany Express, August* 23.

THE BEST TIME TO FRET.—Two garden ers had their crop of peas killed by the frost, one of whom had fretted greatly and grumbled at his loss, visiting his neighbor some time after, was astonished to see another fine crop growing, and enquired how it could be. "These are what I sowed while you were fretting," was the reply. "Why, don't you ever fret?" "Yes; but I put it off, till I have repaired the mischief." "Why then, there is no reason to fret at all," True, that is the reason I put it off."

The Persimmon county debating club, out west, are debating the question:—Which is the proudest—a girl with her first beau, or a woman with her first baby?"

HAMBURG.

HAMBURGH is a free city in the duchy of Holstein, and consists, like Edinburgh, of the new and old towns, both nearly of an equal size, which together with the unlimited extent of country around, form an independent republic. It is situated on the rivers Elbe and Alster, and the latter, before it enters the town by sluices, forms a fine basin. Hamburg is well fortified, and on the ramparts are handsome walks planted with rows of trees. The town from its situation, has all possible advantages for foreign trade and commerce, particularly from its communication by the Elbe with the principal navigable rivers of Germany, and hence it is one of the most prosperous commercial cities in the world, though like all such marts, not conspicuous for manufactures.

Hamburg can boast of a celebrated college, an arsenal, a bank, and exchange, a theatre, in which Jenny Lind has twittered her nightingale notes—also a famous wooden bridge, which extends nearly three miles over a morass and the river Elbe to Hamburg. The Cathedral of Our Lady is a fine structure, and the church of St. Michael is celebrated for a tower of 390 feet high, on the summit of which many deeply interesting and important astronomical and physical experiments have been made.

Hamburg contains a population of about 140,000, and its history is very instructive. It was founded by Charlemagne in the ninth century, and is certainly the greatest commercial emporium of Germany, if not of the continent at large. It formed, in the Middle Ages, one of the free towns that comprise the Hanseatic League. This league was the famous confederacy of the great commercial cities of North Germany, which arose about the beginning of the thirteenth century. Its title is derived from the Teutonic word house, an association; and the cities joining in it were styled Hanse Towns. Its object was to protect commerce from piracy, to procure the restitution of shipwrecked property, and facilitate the safe navigation of the seas. Besides Hamburg, Bremen, and Lubeck, it embraced upwards of eighty towns at the time of its greatest power, the fourteenth century, ranging from the Scheldt to the Gulf of Dantzick. It fell gradually to decay—the general spread of civilization and advance of society rendering its machinery unnecessary, but it has still a nominal existence.

In both ancient and modern times, Hamburg has always been the refuge of the oppressed and of the asylum of the destitute. In 1815-16 it acquired an access of prosperity through the navigation of the Elbe being, at the congress of Vienna, declared free throughout its whole course.

This opened up the traffic of central Germany, and created new fields for the enterprise of capitalists and manufactures. The trade between Hull and Hamburg is of great extent and the connection between the two towns extremely cordial. When the great fire in Hamburg almost destroyed that place, the inhabitants of Hull were among the foremost and most active of sympathisers in its behalf. Their subscriptions were generously bestowed, and to this day no town in England is held in higher or more greatful esteem in Hamburgh than Hull.

LOVE OF COUNTRY.—Indifference to the welfare of our country is a crime; but if our country is reduced to a condition in which the bad are preferred to the good, the foolish to the wise, hardly any catastrophe is to be deprecated or opposed that may shake them from their places.

Dr. Franklin used to say that rich widows were the only piece of second hand goods that sold at prime cost.

TEMPERANCE.

THE LIQUOR DEALER'S HONEST CONFESSION.

I've graced my rich Saloons to meet,
The most voluptuous sense;
Seductively enticing neat,
Regardless of expense.
And there I carry on my *trade*—
In substance as of old,
Here 'tis the wretched Drunkards made,
My plans are quickly told.

The article with which I trade,
By which my purse is filled;
With such, fell murder's are made,
And noon-day robbers skilled:
By it the Hospitals are stored,
The Poor-houses supplied,
And what may also be deplored,
The Prison-house beside.

I trade in what will quickly bring,
The strong and healthy down;
My liquors are the very thing,
All moral sense to drown;
And I will candidly confess,
What others too must own;
Oft times when taken to excess,
Drives reason from her throne.

I also cause the youth to grow,
In ignorance, and vice,
And perfidy. And fully know,
How others to entice:
I make the husband spurn the wife,
The parent loathe the child;
And all the ties of social life,
Corrupted and defiled.

The Church's purity I stain,
Prevent the Gospel's spread;
And hold the victims in my chain,
Till spiritually dead.
And may protect the soul to enslave,
I, by the drugs I sell,
Send myriads to a Drunkard's Grave,
And to a Drunkard's Hell!

And yet I know the Bible says,
Thou shalt not kill! or steal;
That wicked men, and wicked ways,
Will God's displeasure feel;
But I have got my bread to make,
What would you have me do?
My wordly interest at stake,
Tho' millions by it rue.

What would I have me do, O man!
Renounce the loathsome trade;
Make a clean breast while yet you can;
Hath not our Saviour said,
The fowls, inhabitants of air,
Are by the Almighty fed;
Much more is man, His special care,
The Lord will give you bread.

PROGRESS IN SCOTLAND.

"Stands Scotland where she did?" By no manner of means. Every British mail puts us in possession of progress. The following from a late number of the "Commonwealth," indicates important and rapid advancement in the work of Temperance in Scotland, and especially in connection with the ministers and members of the Scottish Churches.

"We cannot lay down the pen without saying a word touching the progress now being made by Temperance principles in the Scottish Churches. In the last report of the Free Church Temperance Society, there are these words:—'The Society's prospects were never so bright as now. Began only seven years ago by three or four individuals, and when perhaps not a dozen ministers in the church were known to hold similar views, it has already gained about one sixth part of the ministry and one half of the rising classes of both preachers and teachers.' Of ordained ministers and probationers there are, in all denominations of Scotland, above five hundred who abstain. Among Free Church divinity students, abstainers are almost two to one, and among those of the United Presbyterian body nearly three to one. In the Established Church the proportion, whether of ministers or, students, is not, indeed, so great; but this cannot invalidate the general fact that a most influential portion of the public opinion of Scotland is becoming favorable to Temperance principles. Coupling this circumstance with the compliment recently paid to Scotland on the score of advancing Temperance, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the vast decrease in the consumption of spirits during the last year, we may well rejoice in the success of the cause, and look forward to the day when, by the Divine blessing, the great evil of intemperance will no longer obstruct in Scotland the spread of Christianity and the diffusion of happiness."