

MISCELLANEOUS.

**DESOLATION OF PALESTINE.**—In Palestine you are nearly as much in the wilderness as when in Arabia, for as to inhabitants, they are precisely the things which do not exist, in all you can tell, except in the towns and villages you pass through. You ride on day after day, and you rise over each hill, and you sink into each valley, and except an occasional solitary traveller, you see nothing but the desert, for it seems unpeopled because here there should be life, and there is none. Sometimes you may make out a distance on the hillside a single figure—a man on a donkey. It is the only moving thing your eye can detect all round. And so you go on through this desolate land. From Jerusalem to Beyrout, you scarcely light upon one sight which is not an industry—not one single scene of life that can be compared with those on the Arab pastures from the top of Jabel el Sufar to the wells of el Mikh. There, in places, the sheep are low down, and the flocks and herds—a rejoicing picture of pastoral existence in all its abounding wealth; while here, in the country of tilage, and towns, and villages, the whole land is dead under a spell.—*Lord's Wanderer in Arabia.*

**AN UNSUBSCRIBING SCOTCH LADY IN LONDON.**—An elderly female from the north of Scotland, while on a visit to London, had her pocket picked by a youth, who, being an inexperienced practitioner, left some of the money fall on the pavement. The old lady looked round, and seeing the girl groping for the cash in the gutter, goodnaturedly assisted him in searching for it. She said she was a Scotch woman. The money having been picked up, and the boy having answered affirmatively to the inquiry, "Are you sure ye've gotten it a'?" the good old dame proceeded homewards in that pleasant state of mind which follows the performance of a good action. Great was her dismay and horror, however, on discovering, on her arrival, that her pocket had been relieved of all its contents except sixpence and some "sweeties."—*Greenock Advertiser.*

**MORMONISM.**—At one of the meetings lately held at Copenhagen, a Jew harker, after listening to them with great attention, cried, "I abjure Judahism, and I embrace the worship of the Latta, or Latta." He was at once accepted. He then got up and proposed the abolition of polygamy, which is authorized by the sect. An angry discussion ensued. The Jew was warmly supported by several of the members of the classes, and the Mormons were backed by the men. "If we abolish polygamy," cried a jovial butcher, "we shall never marry any more proselytes, for that is the basis of this peculiar religion. If polygamy is abolished," shouted a shrivelled tailor, "I will abandon Mormonism at once. I only adopted it in order to be able to marry as often as I liked. These declarations were received with shouts of approval from the spectators in the galleries. At length the Mormons became exasperated, and, rushing on the Jew, they beat him savagely, and even trampled him under foot. This led to a regular fight between the polygamists and their adversaries, and the windows, lamps, and chairs were smashed to provide missiles. After a while a body of police came in, arrested the leaders of the row, and cleared the room.—*Galignani.*

**INTERFERENCE IN KANSAS.**—A letter from a Home Missionary says: "In this new Territory, one of the greatest obstacles to the spread of civilization is the prevalence of Intemperance. And this is doubtless one cause of the barbarism and ferocity of the opponents of all freedom. They stimulate with rum and whiskey till they are ready to cry crime the most outrageous Rapes and tyrannies of twin sisters. He who fosters one will foster the other, and he opposes one, must oppose the other."

**A WONDERFUL WOMAN.**—There is now said to be living upon Bates Island, in Casco Bay, off the coast of Maine, a woman of the most wonderful hardihood and courage, who has been the subject of the largest portion of which she has put under cultivation, raising handsome crops of potatoes and other vegetables yearly. The land never was ploughed, but has been thoroughly hoed over by her. The remaining portion she devotes to raising hay of a very superior quality, every crop of which she has moved and cured with her own hands. The early part of the day she devotes to fishing, going through the breakers in a fragile skiff, rowing single-handed where many a strong man would quail and hesitate. The results of her day's fishing she exchanges for money and groceries with dealers who visit the island from Portland.

**A LARGER FEE.—The Nashville Banner** says, that Captain Albert Pike of Arkansas, recently gained a suit at law, for which he got the comfortable fee of \$100,000. The case was an Indian claim to the value of \$200,000, which he had prosecuted for several years, upon an agreement that if he gained the suit he would be entitled to one half, if not, nothing. The suit was lately decided by the United States Supreme Court at Washington in favour of his clients.

**TRAVEL TO CALIFORNIA.**—The Pacific Steamship Company, running in connection with the Panama Railroad, has been very prosperous this season. Its net earnings for the last year were \$800,000, which will afford a dividend of 20 per cent, and leave a surplus. It is reported that the spare steamships of this company will be put on the Tehuantepec route when that route is completed, which will be about the end of January. There will be a running of about 8000 miles by this route.

**NEW ZEALAND.**  
The Prince of Wales, from Auckland, has arrived. She left on the 17th of July.

The disturbance between the two native tribes in Taranaki, New Plymouth, had subsided, and the colonists are under no personal apprehension but for fear that the weaker tribe might be driven into New Plymouth and a conflict ensue there. The Government had sent 250 men belonging to the 8th and 65 Regiments, which were there permanent barracks are to be created.

New Zealand appears to be in a flourishing condition. The grain crops are plentiful. Flour, 8s to 22s per ton; fresh beef, 6d. per lb.; salt beef, 2s per tierce; hams, £30 per ton, not much in the market; gum, £12 per ton, average; spars, average £4 10s. per load on board; wool, 9d. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; Canterbury generally, 12s. to 14s. per cwt. The great deficiency is the want of the poorer class of labourers, to whom 8s. per day is paid by Government. Ordinary wages, 10s. to 12s.; carpenters, 12s. to 14s.; artisans generally, 12s. to 14s. Those only who can labour are wanted.

Large quantities of Peruvian guano are now imported into New Zealand.  
The New York Herald says that the Masonic fraternity of that State contemplate erecting in the city of New York an edifice which will excite the admiration of all who see it of this kind on this continent. It is to be five stories high, of white marble, one hundred feet from the ground and twenty-five deep. It will contain ample accommodations for all Masonic purposes and the appointments and directions of the rooms will be on the most splendid and costly scale. The Masonic temple in Philadelphia, which is regarded as a miracle of beauty and magnificence, cost about \$300,000, but this edifice is expected to cost \$500,000. It will probably be located on Broadway.

A severe storm had been felt at Owego on the 21st—22nd and 23rd of Chicago, in which was shown her fear half mast, and the crew in the rigging—near a foot of snow had fallen.

The Prussian Corvintines announces, that the commission appointed to establish the new line of frontier common to Russia and Moldavia has dissolved itself, without having accomplished that task.

**READING ONE'S OWN PAPER.**—We believe that as a general thing our subscribers are as honorable as can be found anywhere. Occasionally we meet with instances of a different character. Now and then a woebegone moneyless epistle, makes its advent to our office, from some subscriber who hasn't paid a cent for his paper for years, but which concludes with the laconic injunction—"Stop my paper." On such occasions we are tempted to soliloquize somewhat as follows:—"My paper," eh? Why, man, you haven't paid me a cent for years. You have taken a paper, and read a paper, but was it your paper? Your paper, forsooth! Why, the very ink that erases your name from the subscription list was paid for with other people's money! Stop! Why you might as well talk about stopping the revolution of your earth—commanding your sun to stop the supply of your daylight? Go to man! "Pay what thou owest." And the next timethou writest to an editor for a discontinuance be sure that thy request be accompanied with enough of money to reimburse me for the paper which thou mere figure of speech. So much for the soliloquy. Now for the contrast. We have just opened a letter, from a subscriber whom we have never seen, but who is obviously an honest man. It is a model letter. Thanks for our kind regards to my many friends, which He says: "I must apologize for not sending the money before. I have been a reader of the Recorder for many years. I have always paid in advance until the present year. I find that I do not feel right when I take your paper out of my pocket, and send you the money, which you will please place on my credit, I shall then have the pleasure of reading my own paper."

**MORE THAN A MATCH.**—A Scotch farmer, celebrated in his neighborhood for his immense strength and skill in the athletic exercise, very frequently had the pleasure of fighting people who came to try if they could settle him or not. Lord D., a great pugilistic snout, had come from London on purpose to fight the athletic Scott. The latter was working in an enclosure at a little distance from his house, when the noble lord arrived. His lordship tied his horse to a tree, and addressed the farmer:—"Friend, I have heard a great deal of talk about you and I have come a long way to see which of us is the best wrestler. The scotchman, without answering, seized the nobleman by the middle of the body, pitched him over the hedge and then set about working. When his lordship had got himself fairly picked up, "Well," said the farmer, "I've no anything more to say to me?" "No," replied his lordship; "but perhaps you will be so good as to throw me my horse."

**Once Colored Always Colored.**—A negro woman was relating her experience in a gamping congregation of colour, and among other things she said she had been in heaven. One of the ladies of color asked her:—"Sister, did you see any black folks in heaven."  
"Oh, get out you've sposed I go in de kitchen when I was dar."  
"This reminds us of an anecdote of another colored man who was so convinced of the lowliness of his position and that labor was his natural lot, that he was even indifferent as to a future state, believing that 'dey'll make nigger work eben ef he go to the Hebben. A clergyman tried to argue him out of his opinion by representing that this could not be the case, but he replied as there was absolutely no work for him to do in Heaven. His answer was,

"Oh you g'w way Massa. I knows better.—If I dres no work folks up dar, for dey'll make some for 'em and if dere's nuffin better to do dey'll make 'em shub de clouds along. You can't fool dis chile Massa."

**DEFICIENCIES OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.**—I do not wish to speak in the language of censure or of complaint; yet it does seem strange that a man of a sound either of the great universities, of a sound and college training which together have extended over ten years, an accomplished scholar, a practical mathematician, yet be wholly unacquainted with the nature, and common steam engine is constructed, ignorant even of the mechanism which he carries about with him in his own body, and utterly unversed in the first principles of that law of the land under which he lives. I am, I own it, one of those who say, "Give us a little more of this kind of education in the first instance, and let the ornamental parts of teaching, which if there is time and inclination to come later, look, in education, to the practical effect which it is likely to produce in life; and which, I know well that theory is one thing, practice another, yet I do believe (to take one instance more) that if men knew a little more about the air they breathe and the water they drink, there would be a saving of many lives now destroyed by the use of deficient sanitary arrangements. So again, if we understand better the functions of the brain, there would be fewer deaths from over-work, from mental excitement, even from intemperance. Generally speaking, I believe that for one person who is educated in physical law with a full clear conscience that he is breaking it, knowing what he is doing and foreseeing the consequences, in sheer ignorance, and from a little knowledge would render cautious.—*Lord Stanley at Oldham.*

**HOW TO DEADEN THE SOUND OF THE ANVIL.**—A blacksmith in this neighbourhood has for some time past, to the comfort of his nearest neighbours, successfully practised a very simple contrivance to diminish in a great degree the loud noise caused by the percussion of the hammer on the anvil. It is merely to suspend a piece of iron chain to the horns of the anvil, and to receive into a great portion of the acute sound usually produced.—*Brechin Advertiser.*

**A NEW PISTOL.**—On the 8th inst. His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief received a deputation from the proprietors of a newly-invented American pistol, which bids fair to surpass, in utility and effectiveness, all previous inventions. The pistol will receive nine charges at a time, which can be delivered successively in twelve seconds. Carabines on the same principle will contain twenty-five charges. Mr. Hazleton, the agent of the manufacturers and patentee, Messrs. W. Bellairs, explained the principle of the weapon to his royal highness, who expressed his interest in favour of the invention, and recommended that it be sent for trial to Colonela Hay and Major-General B. B. Bellairs, commanding at Enfield, and Major-General Mansfield, Hyth and Enfield. We are informed that the pistol consists of two barrels, one above the other. The lower tube contains the charges, which consists each of a copper ball, containing a copper capsule, hermetically enclosed in its own powder, and filled with detonating ingredients. One pull of the trigger lifts a bullet into the upper tube, or barrel, and instantaneously discharges it. The piece rarely requires cleaning, and the powder is not so liable to clog as can be delivered from the barrels of times without detriment—and if the spiral spring, which forces the bullets downwards, becomes injured, it can be replaced in a minute or two by an armorer. The original inventor, Messrs. W. Bellairs, Smith and Wesson, of Hartford, Connecticut, and the patentee for England is Mr. W. R. Palmer, of Connecticut.—*Morning Post.*