

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The overland travellers to California are often attacked, plundered and even murdered by Indians. A recent horrible incident is this recorded. Three or four persons killed—among them an infant—and the mother supposed to be carried off, and the average to be a human death. It would seem to be time that Christianity had reached those wandering tribes, who are on the very track of civilization.

Acts almost as barbarous as the above, however, are recorded in the focus of intelligence. An Editor of Charleston (W. R. Faber) was killed by one Magrath, in a duel, on the third fire! A young man named Kearns, quarrelled with another called Brown, about an umbrella, in a boarding-house, and stabbed him to the heart. Truly Christianity was as absent in these cases as in the other.

EXPENSE OF THE WAR.

It has been roughly estimated that the total sum expended by all the belligerents during the war cannot fall far short of \$2,000,000,000 (£1,400,000,000). To this sum be added the value of property sacrificed in consequence of the war, of the fleets destroyed, the towns burnt, the fortresses, harbours, bridges demolished—all of which would most probably be replaced—if account be taken of the property of private individuals utterly devastated in the course of the struggle, and of the untold losses occasioned by the withdrawal of hundreds of thousands of men from ordinary industrial and active employments of peace, some idea may then be formed of the deplorable expenditures of the war. During the two short years of the war, it is estimated that upwards of three-quarters of a million perished on the field of battle, on the wayside from cold or want, or in the hospital from disease, who had been left to pursue their ordinary avocations, might have enriched the country and benefited the world. How many millions of the material considerations of pecuniary profit or loss, considering the question as one affecting the cause and interests of humanity, who can compute the anguish, the misery, the feelings of the millions of the train? Who can estimate the blighted hopes, the desolate hearths, the crushed fortunes, and countless domestic miseries which war occasions? They are not measured, when the triumph of the victor is celebrated; they are not noted by the chronicler; they are not taken into account by those who engage or provoke the contest to satisfy ambition, but for power, or to gratify the thirst for such prospects as are the added, because irremediable, consequence of war.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

A MISSISSIPPI STEAM-BOAT.

There is a good reason why it is built with so little depth of hold. It is to allow the boats to pass the shoal water in many parts of the river, and particularly during the season of drought, or such prospects as the lighter draught the greater the advantage; and a Mississippi captain, boasting of the capacity of his boat in this respect, declared, that all he wanted was a heavy dose upon the great main, to propel her across the prairie! If there is little of a Mississippi steam-boat under the water, the reverse is true of what may be seen above its surface. Fancy a two-story house some 300 feet in length, built of plank, and painted to the whiteness of snow; fancy along the upper story a row of green-latticed windows, thickly set, and opening out upon a narrow balcony; fancy a flatteringly rounded, and covered with iron-tarred canvas, and in the centre a range of skylights like glass facing-pits: fancy, towering above all, two enormous black cylinders of sheet-iron, each ten feet in diameter and nearly ten feet high, and the funnels of the boat, each small cylinder on one side, the 'scape-pipe; a tall flagstaff standing up from the extreme end of the prow, with the 'star spangled banner' flying from its peak—fancy all these, and you may form some idea of the appearance and the features of a steam-boat on the Mississippi.—*Captain James Reid's Squadron.*

FIRST ATTEMPT AT THE PROBLEM OF THE ISTHMIUS.

The *Hinchinbroke*, was, in the spring of 1780, employed on an expedition to the Spanish main, where it was proposed to pass into the South Sea, by a navigation of boats along the coast of the continent, between lakes Nicaragua and Leon. The plan was formed without a sufficient knowledge of the country, which presented difficulties not to be surmounted by human skill or perseverance. The boats were wrecked on the river, from the rapidity of the current, and the numerous falls over rocks which intercepted the navigation; the climate, too, was deadly, and no constitution could stand its effects. On the 25th of June the *Hinchinbroke*, and succeeded Lord Nelson who was promoted to a larger ship; but he had received the infection of the climate before he went from the port, and had a fever from which he could not recover, until he quitted his ship and went to England. My constitution resisted many attacks, and I survived most of my ship's company, having buried, in four months, 180 of the 200 who composed it. Mine was not a singular case, for in the same time, 180 of the 200 suffered in the same degree. The transports' men all died, and some of the ships, having none left to take care of them, sunk in the harbour; but transport-ships, sunk in the harbour, were not so dangerous. The boats brought were no more; they had fallen, not by the hand of an enemy, but from the contagion of the climate.—*Correspondence of Lord Collingwood, published in 1828.*

GRATS LUNCHEONS.

At the hotel at which I am now—the Orleans—there is daily spread, at one o'clock a table professing to bear upon it a luncheon gratis. The tables exhibited consist of the leavings of yesterday, which never reappear in some new shape or other. A number of people flock in at this time, and in ten minutes, it is difficult to find a vacant seat. The tables exhibit nothing to avail themselves of this opportunity of dining gratis. The proceedings of this great body amused me. It consumes voraciously. Its members seize a slice of meat, and bite off so long a piece, as to reach, then bite off the end so palatable, and then dip to dip and bite till the whole slice is eaten. Others moisten their forks, not being particular as to the source of the moisture, and thrust them into the salt or pepper, and so carry away a certain portion, and wipe it on the slice of meat in their possession. There is method in this system—it brings some large number of the community to the table, and through these visitors nothing for consuming the rubbish, yet they are each expected to take a 'drink at the bar, which is close to the luncheon-table. This they all do with good fidelity, and the drink costs twenty-five cents. The waiter, who is not formally suggests another; and may have found that the gratis reputation of the luncheon is but a fiction after all. Strange as it may seem to Europeans, I have seen many of our countrymen go to the table through a mass of drymen, labourers, &c.; and not infrequently has the governor of the state himself acquired a forward position there, exercising at the same time the most unbecoming progress than dignity.—*New Book on California.*

ARREST OF FOREIGN SWINDLERS.—Three of the parties connected with the great swindle of the '40s, were arrested in the city of New York on Saturday. Their names are Louis Grist, one of the cashiers, a younger brother, and a man named Poling. The latter arrived in the Atlantic. Carpenter, the other cashier, came in the Fulton, from Havre, but was not yet in New York. The whole amount of the swindle is known to be nearly 3,000,000. The parties were followed in this country by a newspaper, which was published in the city where he was arrested in the office of Mr. Belmont, where he had gone to exchange some notes for gold.—*Quincy Paper.*

BALLOON FLOWN AT SEA.—Provincetown, Oct. 6.—Arrived, *sehr*. Romes, Wheeling, Grand Banks. Yesterday 30 miles northeast of Cape Cod, a balloon, with a man and a dog, was blown from the prairie. When first seen, was aloft, with the basket under water. It was slightly damaged in falling into the ocean.

The Choice or Boosa.—The following sensible remarks were copy from the *St. John Observer and Literary Gazette*, a paper in every respect, well printed and edited. The present is emphatically the age of Books—books on all subjects—at all sizes—all prices. Some of these are triumphant exhibitions of the dignity of human intellect, when expanded by study; and the reading of them will enlighten the mind, purify the heart, and elevate the whole man in the scale of being. Were all the books that constitute the current literature of the day of this character, we would not think it necessary to make the choice of books a distinct subject of investigation. It is not, however, the case. A large proportion of the literature of the day is entirely of an opposite character. It is a melancholy thought, that many of the publications which are daily issuing from the Press—which occupy a place in public libraries, and even in their way-drawing-room tables are decidedly immoral and pernicious. To say that the perusal of such is time lost, would not by any means express the whole idea which we would wish to be conveyed in this article; for we believe that they have a direct tendency to enfeeble the mind, debase the heart, and like the deadly *Opium*, taint and poison, with pestiferous breath, the moral atmosphere in which they are admitted. Thus it is that while they expand the intellectual powers, and increase the store of human knowledge, they have a tendency to produce a powerful effect either for good or evil, on the moral dispositions and propensities according to their quality. In accordance with this principle, we are free in expressing our conviction, that the volume of Plutarch's lives," which Napoleon is said to have delighted in reading was, when he is reported to have read under his pillow by night; operated in no inconsiderable degree in developing those passions, and forming those traits of character, which distinguished that extraordinary man.

It is of very great importance that this fact be practically recognized by all; but especially by those who are undergoing that process of moral discipline which will render them either respectful, useful and benevolent, or contemptible and hateful in future years. And this is peculiarly requisite in the present age, when thousands of publications are daily issuing from the press, bearing the impress not only of a vast amount of talent, but also a variety of quality, corresponding with the intellectual vigour and moral disposition of their respective Authors. We therefore conclude that were parents and guardians to direct the youth of the age more wisely than they do in the choice of the books which they put into the hands of their children,—were the managers of reading societies more choice in the selection of books for circulation amongst the members,—and the youth of the age more sensible than they are in the choice of the books which they purchase from the Librarian, then might we expect society to attain to a more elevated standard of excellence, whilst many a species of moral and political evil would be forever banished from the earth.

The extraordinary advance in the price of tobacco is in some measure accounted for by the rapid and vast increase of the consumption of the article in France, which has increased so much, that it amounts to such an extent that the old manufacturers are altogether insufficient to provide for the demand. In one cigar manufactory lately established in Paris no less than 800,000 cigars are employed daily; the whole number of makers, including 200 boys, being 1625.

MINERALS THAT WE EAT.—There is one mineral beyond all others essential to life. If we may be permitted to recall the very common error of the ancients, who called a brick, we would indicate the propriety of speaking of phosphate of lime as the mortar which completes the edifice. The phosphate of lime cements and stiffens the mortar, and so-called the mortar of the bone-earth to which the bones owe their stiffness and solidity. It is the phosphate of lime which renders them capable of

supporting the weight of the body, protecting the delicate organs of life, and serving as levers on which the muscles may act. Phosphate of lime reaches us in all flesh, and in most articles of vegetable food, but especially in those of the cereals. A substance of this nature, the phosphate of lime, as a constituent of our dietary, may be found in the fact that, nearly all the nations of the earth feed either on wheat or rye, or on barley or oats; and these grains appear to be especially adapted for human use, by reason of the large quantities of phosphate lime which they contain.—*Household Words.*

WALTON OF THE BATHURST ARISTOCRACY.—In evidence of the wisdom amassed by ancient families, the traveller is shown the palaces in Piccadilly, Burlington House, Devonshire House, Lansdowne house in Berkshire Square, and, lower down in the city, a few noble houses which still withstand in all their amplitude the encroachment of streets. The Duke of Bedford includes or included a mile square in the heart of London, where the British Museum, once Montagu House, now stands, and the lane occupied by Foley Square, Bedford Square, Russell Square. The Marquis of Westminster built within a few years the series of squares called Belgrave, St. John's Wood, and Grosvenor Gardens. St. John's Wood is the noblest and the most beautiful residential locality held its place by Charing Cross and Terrier House remains in Audley Street. St. John's and Holland House are in the suburbs. But most of the historical houses of the modern uses to which trade or charity has converted them. A multitude of town palaces contain inestimable galleries of art.

In the country, the size of private estates is more impressive. From Barnard Castle, a road leads to the high table of three miles from High Force, a fall of the Tees, towards Darlington, past Raby Castle, through the estate of the Duke of Cleveland. The Marquis of Breda holds a ride of 100 miles in a straight line to the sea, on his own property. The Duke of Sutherland owns the county of Sutherland, stretching across Scotland from sea to sea. The Duke of Devonshire, who holds the richest estates, owns 50,000 acres in the county of Devon. The Duke of Richmond has 40,000 acres at Goodwood, and 300,000 at Gordon Castle. The Duke of Norfolk's park in Sussex is 100 miles in circuit. An agriculturist bought in the island of Lewis, in Hebrides, containing 500,000 acres. The possessions of the Earl of Londsdale gave him eight seats in Parliament, and the Hepstarchy again; and before the Reform of 1832, one hundred and fifty-four persons sent three hundred and seven members to Parliament. The borough-mongers governed England.

There are large domains are growing larger. The great estates of the English nobility are freeholds. In 1780, the soil of England was owned by 300,000 corporations and proprietors; and in 1822, by 32,000. These broad estates find room on this island, which is only one English mile in diameter at short intervals among sheep-yards, mills, mines and forges, are the paradises of the noble, where the live-long peace and refinement are heightened by the contrast with the roar of industry and necessity, out of which you are startled and—*R. W. Emerson's English Travels.*

SHIP DESTROYED.—The *New York Courier* says in its Extra Edition, that it has no relief to the general dullness which prevails in the ship yards of this city and Brooklyn. The business is confined entirely to meeting the wants of business. States in the city of New York, and in speculation, what business there is, however, is of a healthy character, and safe in its returns. The stock of ship timber in the market is quite large, and we learn that it will be a large quantity of timber ready for delivery on demand, shall spring up. We cannot say there has been any change in prices since our last notice. Georgia Pine still remains at a low figure, and the supply of ship timbers for the domestic market is still falling for the lighter timbers used in the frames of medium sized vessels."