

## A Dynamite Explosion.

A terrible disaster occurred near Brooks, on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, Sunday morning, about 9 o'clock, resulting in the death of five men. The railroad company had been strengthening and widening the tunnel, and at some distance outside a magazine had been erected, in which was stored 1,200 pounds of dynamite, to be used for blasting. About the hour named a freight train had just passed through the tunnel and was sidetracked to allow the passenger train, over due, to pass. Four of the crew walked back to the vicinity of the magazine and were engaged in conversation with the watchman, when people living in the vicinity were startled by a terrible concussion. Houses for fifteen miles around were shaken to the foundation and windows for a distance of seven miles were shattered. Horror-stricken, the people ran from their houses, and upon investigation it was found that the dynamite had exploded with fearful effect; everything in the vicinity gives evidence of the terrific force of the explosion. Trees were uprooted, huge rocks torn asunder and telegraph poles for half a mile prostrated. Nothing remained of the magazine, while the five men who were present were missing. Portions of their bodies, legs, arms, hands and heads have been picked up half a mile distant, but they were so badly disfigured as to be totally unrecognizable. The cause of the explosion is enshrouded in mystery, and as the five men who might have thrown some light on the affair are dead, it is quite probable it will never be known. Not far from the accident a gun was found, and it is supposed one of the victims discharged it, the concussion causing the dynamite to explode. Inquest of the coroner was held and a verdict of accidental death rendered. Great excitement prevails and hundreds have gone to the scene of the disaster.

The names of the unfortunate men are as follows: Geo. Reynolds, engineer; Robt. Hammond, watchman, Cumberland, Md.; W. A. Dean, tunnel blacksmith; H. R. Burchfield, helper, both of Corwals, Pa.

## The Public Debt.

WASHINGTON, November 1.—The reduction of the public debt during October was \$10,304,798; decrease of the debt since June 30, 1883, \$39,584,470; cash in the treasury, \$664,347,501; gold certificates, \$83,328,949; silver certificates, \$99,519,141; certificates of deposits, \$12,520,000; refunding certificates, \$325,850; legal tenders, \$346,681,016; fractional currency, \$6,990,303. Total without interest, \$549,258,259; total debt, \$1,866,052,996; total interest, \$9,801,243; cash in treasury, \$304,347,571; debt less cash in treasury, \$1,511,506,737; decrease during October, \$10,304,798; decrease since June 30, 1883, \$19,584,470; current liabilities, interest due and unpaid, \$2,698,375; debt on which interest has ceased, \$4,348,745; interest thereon, \$288,857; gold and silver certificates, \$182,908,081; United States notes held for redemption of certificates, \$12,620,000; cash balance available, \$161,483,443; total, \$364,347,501; available assets, cash in treasury, \$374,348,501.

## An Arizona Cloud-Burst.

Tucson (Arizona) Citizen.  
On Sunday afternoon one of these curious phenomena of nature occurred about thirty miles southwest of Tucson, and from the description given by eye-witnesses it was the largest cloud-burst ever known in the country. From Judge R. D. Ferguson the following account was gathered: On Sunday he was returning from a trip to the southern part of the country. At 10 o'clock he put up at Brown's station to await dinner and avoid the heat of the day. The sky all day was cloudless, except a thunderstorm that was observed traveling the summits of the Santa Catalinas and disappearing over the Rincons in the northeast. Otherwise not a cloud or a vapor of any kind was to be seen. The sun was shining in all its vigor, and as he passed to the west his strength and glory seemed undiminished. At 3 o'clock Judge Ferguson resumed his journey toward Tucson. He had come about five miles when his attention was attracted by a roaring and crackling toward the west, and looking up he saw a river of water as big as the Santa Cruz when it runs through Warner's mill tail-race, coming toward him. Telling his driver to halt, they stopped on top of a little knoll, and watched the waters as they violently plowed the desert, tearing up the stones and brush. They had evidently spent their force. After the flood had passed by the face of the country was disfigured, and a large gutter had been cut across the valley. The current came down off a small range of low, rolling hills to the west. Although the judge and his companion strained their eyes in the direction from which the water came not a cloud was to be seen. After the water had subsided sufficiently to let them pass they went on. They had hardly gone half a mile when, to their astonishment, there was another stream equally as large as the first one. Again they peered toward the west in hopes to find some indication of its course. Passing on their astonishment was doubled to find another stream, and in this manner five successive raging currents were crossed. But all their reserve was called forth when four miles from where they struck the first stream they discovered a sixth one as large as all the others combined. Its angry waters were roaring and hissing as if maddened at the resistance they met on their way from the hills to the desert. This river was unfordable, and to cross it was impossible, so they halted on a knoll and watched it for two or three hours as it boiled and sizzled and cut a bed for itself, in some places as deep as 15 feet and over 200 yards wide. It

was not till after sundown that they dared to attempt a crossing. What renders it so curious is that not one at Brown's station saw the clouds. It may be possible that some hidden springs were uncorked by some subterranean earthquake. At any rate, it is a great wonder.

## Two Notable Graves.

Washington Post.  
In secluded parts of Mount Olive cemetery, far apart from each other, however, are graves containing the remains of two people once prominent in national events, but now apparently forgotten altogether. One is the grave of Mrs. Marie E. Surratt, who was executed as one of the Abraham Lincoln conspirators, and the other is that of the famous Wirtz, the keeper of the much dreaded Andersonville prison pen during the late war. Visitors to the cemetery, especially strangers, will find practically nothing to denote these once well-known people. Wirtz is buried under a tall hickory tree, in which squirrels chatter and gambol. Tall, rank weeds and unkempt grass surround the spot, and the simple inscription, "Wirtz," on a tiny block of marble at the head of the grave, is the only thing to denote the resting place of a man once so famous in his peculiar way and so universally detested.

Mrs. Surratt's grave is equally obscure. A ragged boxbush and a glass jar containing a few withered vines were the only signs shown yesterday that even a memory of the unfortunate woman still survives. A small, plain headstone, bluntly inscribed: "Mrs. Mary E. Surratt," is all to indicate who the occupant was. There is no date nor cause of death on the headstone, and the lot containing graves of other members of the family is rank with weeds and banked with the faded leaves of autumn.

Mount Olive cemetery was visited by a large number of strangers yesterday. The weather was exceedingly fine, and two ladies, who had learned the location of Mrs. Surratt's grave, visited it and expressed regret at its neglected appearance. They evidently cherished friendly recollections of the poor woman, for before leaving they purchased flowers and placed them upon her grave. "That sort o' thing," said the superintendent of the cemetery to a reporter of the Post, when the latter, who had witnessed the scene, called attention to it, "occurs once in a while, but not often."

## Great Men's Homes.

Correspondence of the Courier-Journal.  
There appears to be so much fatality about building houses in Washington, especially adapted to entertaining, that it ought to cause a superstitious feeling among those who contemplate doing so. Building a fine house here, which evinced a rapid accumulation of wealth, largely contributed to the defeat of Mr. Robeson in New Jersey, Mr. Windom experienced the same fate in Minnesota from the same cause, and both Senators Pendleton, Cameron and Blaine appear to have been injured in their respective states by building homes in Washington. The inference to be drawn is that men are envious and do not like to see one another progressing too rapidly or comfortably in life.

Mr. Seward once gave the following piece of advice to a gentleman who was just stepping out of office here, and who proposed to settle in Washington and practice law. Said Mr. Seward: "Don't do it, unless you are willing to become a nobody. Never give up your citizenship in your state, especially as you cannot acquire it in Washington. It is right that there should be no citizenship here, for the government pays half the expense of the city and district, and local government would make the system complex and unsatisfactory, and as there is no citizenship in the district every man can retain the privilege of voting in his state."

"But," urged the gentleman, "the winters of New England are long and severe, and neither I nor my family enjoy good health there, but are well in Washington."

To this Mr. Seward answered: "Then spend three or four winter months here, but keep your residence at your old home. If you build here you and your family will live here from October to June, and travel during the summer season, and your neighbors and old friends will resent the affront you have put upon them by your neglect to return to your former home, so that if you should seek fresh honors from them they will refuse to support you, and you will be regarded as an alien."

## Anecdote of Henry Irving.

McKee Rankin recently related the following anecdote about Henry Irving, the English actor: It was some years ago, when Mr. Irving was called in Dublin to play a heavy part to which he was not accustomed. A poor devil of an actor had got drunk, and there was a vacancy. Irving had to come on early in the first act. Now the Dublin gallery boy is an institution by himself. There is nothing like him anywhere, so far as I know. Conversations between young fellows across from one side of the gallery to the other are spoken in loud tones and in the distinct hearing of the actors. Irving is very thin, and when he appeared with a stride, which is one of the most characteristic things about him, one of these gallery boys shouted across to another: "Say, an 'is that him?' I don't know." "No," was the reply, "them is the young man's clothes; they'll shove him out later on." Irving told me the story himself, and he laughed heartily as he remembered the details.

The oyster is full grown in about five years.

## What is Anatto?

American Agriculturist.

Cheese has for a long time been colored with anatto, and of late years it has come in use, not only in creameries, but in home dairies, to give color to butter. The increasing use of the substance, especially in winter, naturally leads many to ask: "What is anatto, and is it harmless?" The name, which came with the substance from South America, has a great variety of spellings, besides that given above, which is the simplest and the one we first learned; it is given in different books as annatto, annata, annotta, arnotto, arnota, and so on. The substance is the product of a small South American tree, Bixa orellana, belonging to a small family to which it gives its name (Bixine), of which we have no representatives. Systematically, the family is placed near that of the violets. The tree rarely exceeds 12 feet in height, has a handsome head, and each branch is terminated by a cluster of flowers of the color of peach-blossoms. The pods are at first of a fine rose-color, becoming brown as they ripen; they are covered with bristles and contain numerous seeds, the important product. Each seed is surrounded by a dark red pulp, to remove which, they are placed in water and allowed to ferment, with frequent stirring. When the seeds are free from pulp, they are strained out, and the pulp allowed to settle. It is afterwards placed in kettles, evaporated to a thick paste, which is the anatto of commerce. It is made into rolls, weighing two to four pounds, which are covered with canna leaves and packed in wicker baskets, or more generally of late, in boxes. Anatto, when fresh, has much the consistency of putty, a dark, brownish-red color, and with a somewhat disagreeable odor. It has long been used in dyeing, though on silks the color is not very fast. To color common cotton stuffs of a dull orange, it is often used in domestic dyeing, with potash as a mordant. So far as we are aware, the various butter colorings in the market are chiefly, if not entirely, solutions of anatto, made by the aid of some form of potash or soda. It seems better suited than anything else to give pale winter butter the color of that made when the cows have good pasturage. It is entirely harmless, we think. It has long been added to chocolate in South America, for both color and flavor, and is used by Indian tribes in that country to paint their bodies. One writer says that it is about the only clothing the natives have to protect them from mosquitos and other insects.

## The Industrious Baggage-man.

Indianapolis Journal.

The dropping of the remark that it was now rather rough times for baggage-men at the Union depot to make perquisites, so strict was the Union company as regards the collection of excess baggage money, called forth from one of the baggage-men the remark:

"That's so; all there is left now is the roping of trunks at twenty-five cents apiece, and we are working that for all there is in it. We come at the traveling man with the remark: 'Better have that trunk roped,' if it is not strapped, be the trunk a good or inefficient one. If the fellow hesitates, and is somewhat green about traveling, we tell him that the trunk will be carried at the owner's risk if not properly roped, and, if that does not bring him, we hunt a weak place in the trunk, or come one of our shaly twists on it, and tell him we will have to mark it 'bad order,' and this generally brings the quarter. We get only ten cents of it, though, the Union railway company furnishes the rope. This costs four or five cents, and the other ten cents goes into the treasury of the poor Union railway company. The fact is," added the baggage-man, "we ought to have the whole revenue derived from this source, when the meagre salary they pay is considered."

"How many trunks do you rope a day?" asked the reporter.

"O, we have gone as high as forty or fifty, but since George Venn was appointed general baggage agent the boys don't dare to run as strong as they used to. We don't touch Kansas City or St. Louis, though. There the boys let the trunks drop on purpose to burst them and get a chance to tie them with rope, and when they catch one who wears good clothes on a 'gray back' they salt them for fifty cents, but at these points I do not think the boys divided up with the Union railway company."

## A Delicate Surgical Operation.

The Paris academy of medicine has been considering the remarkable operation performed by M. Felizet in the extraction of a spoon from a young man's stomach. By the use of the Fauchea tube, introduced through the mouth, the stomach was first cleansed, thus preventing the risk of peritonitis, and an incision was then made in the epigastric region. In order to render the coat of the stomach easily accessible, M. Felizet fitted a spherical vessel containing ether to the end projecting from the man's mouth. This he heated by immersion in water of 60°. The ether vapor rushing through the tube filled the stomach, which, becoming distended, was brought forward to the wound effected by the operator's knife. The spoon, measuring nine inches, was thus readily found and extracted.

SHEBOYGAN, Wis.—Dr. S. B. Myers says: "I recommend Brown's Iron Bitters for general debility, loss of appetite and want of strength."

Now is the time when the chubby reed bird dies.—[N. Y. News.

## FARM AND HOME.

### Potatoes.

Farmers' Home Journal.

Results of the season's experiments with potatoes at the New York Experiment Station, when summed up, indicate the following conclusions: Potatoes invariably produce their tubers above their feeding roots. Ordinary cultivation does not break or injure the roots of the potatoes while the plant is growing. The roots require a cool, moist feeding ground, but the tubers do well in a light, dry surface-soil. A single eye, under favorable conditions, is capable of producing all the potatoes that can be expected to grow in a hill. Whole potatoes planted rarely develop all their eyes into growth, often no more vines being made than from a single eye planted. Using whole seed for the purpose of increasing the stalks or tubers is, therefore, wasteful. If the whole potato with one good sprout developed has that sprout injured or destroyed, several of the other eyes may push out sprouts simultaneously, and with a large yield of small tubers as the result. Potatoes repeatedly hilled up so that an undue proportion of vine is covered with earth are liable to be checked in their tuber formation. The vine that made four feet of upward growth, through soil added during the period of its growth, neither branched nor threw out root stalks, and had but three potatoes, and these were just above the seed, the largest weighing two and three-eighths ounces, the others no larger than peas.

### A Merciful Man.

Husbandman.

A successful farmer made the statement that for several years he had practiced tying up his cattle by day in the barn during the fly season, and turning them out to graze during the night, and he was satisfied that the yield of milk was one-third more by so doing. It was of better quality, and he could feed one-third more stock on the same acreage, for the cattle destroyed, by stamping, a great deal of good pasturage. And that his cows might be protected, he even went so far as to darken the windows of his stables with muslin curtains. He was about to build new barns, and he should put on blinds, for he considered them more necessary on his barn windows than on his house. A merciful man was merciful to his beasts, and this was a case where it paid.

### Roosts for Fowls.

In making roosts for fowls let them be level and on a line. If they are so arranged as to have some of them high and others low the fowls will crowd together on the higher perches, leaving the lower ones unoccupied, which is not only a waste of space but a cause of sore feet and other ailments, as the heavier fowls cannot easily get on or off the perches when they are very high. The lower they are the better, provided the coops are ventilated at the top and warm and dry near the floor.

### Hot Weather Needed for Corn.

Experience this year shows that the warm weather below 60° really counts for nothing in maturing the corn crop, says the American Cultivator. The same is true of millet and Hungarian grass and of grapes (among fruits). Some of these are so tender that a single cold night will apparently retard their growth for several days, probably by suddenly cooling the loose soil, which several days of warm weather will be required to heal again.

### Twin Calves.

Western Agriculturist.

Calves born as twins, when of the same sex, breed as regularly and readily as those which come at a single birth, and often inherit the fecundity of their parents. When, however, a bull and a heifer calf arrive at one birth the heifers, in a large proportion of cases, never breed. Bulls born along with heifers do not seem to labor under any disadvantage in procreating their species.

### This Season's Corn.

Cultivator.

The grains of corn that grow on the ends of stalks with the tassel will produce new varieties if planted by themselves. It is in this way that many curious and sometimes valuable novelties are secured. Varieties produced from seed grown this year ought to be adapted to unfavorable seasons if the conditions of the seed affect the future plant, as is generally believed.

### A Large Yield of Wheat.

A Kansas farmer has a new method of putting in wheat, which the American Cultivator recommends for trial in other localities. He has a narrow iron wheel attached behind his drill, which follows in the drill row and firmly presses the soil with the seed to a greater depth. By this method he grows upward of fifty-six bushels per acre.

### Watermelons for the Million.

On the largest truck farm in the south, which is near New Orleans, 150 acres of watermelons are planted. It is said the proprietor would make money if he only sold the seeds from the melons raised. The demand is great, and prices, according to the Midland Farmer, range from \$1 to \$2 per pound.

### The Pear.

From recent experience the pear seems likely to take the place of the apple as the fruit most easily grown. It has been, the past three years, a more certain bearer than the apple, is less affected by insects, and has no disease excepting blight, which may be kept in

check by prompt cutting away of affected parts.

### The Household.

BAKED BEETS.—Wash them perfectly clean, put in a pan with a little water, and bake until they are tender. The time varies with the size of the beet, an hour being small enough allowance for a beet of medium size. When they are done remove the skin and serve in the same way that you do boiled beets.

FRIENDLY LOAVES.—Beat half a dozen mealy potatoes with a quarter pound of grated ham, two eggs, a little butter and a little cream, taking care not to make it too moist; form it into balls or small loaves, and fry them a nice light-brown; they should be fried in butter. Pile them on a napkin, and serve with a garnish of fried parsley.

SQUASH.—Squash is much nicer if a little flour be added to it while cooking. Cut it into small pieces, boil until tender and rub through a colander; add a piece of butter, a little cream and some flour which has been mixed smooth in milk and thoroughly cooked, and boil again, and just before taking from the fire stir in the well-beaten yolks of two eggs.

MINCE MEAT.—One pound beef suet finely chopped, two of rump steak (slightly broiled), three of apples, two of currants, two of raisins, one nutmeg, tablespoonful of cinnamon, rind of two lemons, quarter of a pound of mixed candied peel, one pound sugar, two quarts of cider boiled down to one with a quart of maple sirup, a glass of raspberry jelly, a teaspoonful of salt.

BUTTERMILK TEACAKES.—Two pounds of flour, one and a half teaspoonful of baking powder, one-eighth ounce of bicarbonate of soda and a pinch of salt; mix into a firm dough with buttermilk, which should be sour, though not rancid. A few currants and a little white sugar can be added if sweet teacakes are wanted. Or, take half a pound of flour, as much carbonate of soda as will lie on a quarter of a dollar, double that quantity of cream of tartar and a pinch of salt; make a stiff dough with buttermilk, knead lightly and roll about half an inch thick; bake in round cakes.

POTATO PANCAKES.—Potato pancakes make an excellent dish for supper. Serve with the same embellishments in the way of pickles or sauces as you would do were the dish you were offering fried oysters. Grate a dozen medium-sized potatoes, after peeling them and washing thoroughly. Add the yolks of three eggs, a heaping tablespoonful of flour, and, if they seem too dry, a little milk will do to thin them, with a large teaspoonful of salt, and lastly the whites of the three eggs beaten stiff and thoroughly beaten in with the potatoes. Heat your griddle and put butter and lard in equal proportions on it, and fry the cakes in it until they are brown. Make them a third larger than the ordinary size of the pancake.

### The Standards of Light.

At a late meeting of the French Societe d'Encouragement, M. F. Le Blanc gave some account of the standards of light. He asserted that the candles generally used in Great Britain and Germany vary greatly in intensity, and are of comparatively feeble illuminating power. The carcel was steady but not very powerful. Some time ago the star candles, manufactured in France, were equal to one-seventh of the flame of a carcel; now they had fallen to one-eighth, while the English standard was only one-ninth of a carcel, with a variation of 14 to 15 per cent. between different samples. The German candle, he thought, gave a flame equal to one-sixth of a carcel. He thought that, in view of the difficulties and varieties of the standards, it would be desirable to adopt the carcel lamp, but the president did not agree with M. Blanc. Electricians sought a more powerful standard than that, and if they did they would require to adopt platinum wire, which gives a light more than eight times greater than the carcel lamp.

### A Judicial Conundrum.

This is the question that troubles a French justice of the peace. A drover and a butcher in the market adjusting their accounts went to a tavern to dine together. During the meal the butcher took from his pocket a bank note of 100 francs value wherewith to pay the drover, but in handing it over let it fall in a dish of gravy. He snatched it out, and, holding it between the thumb and forefinger, waved it to and fro to dry it. The butcher's dog, accepting this movement as a friendly invitation, and, liking the smell of the saturated note, made a spring at it and swallowed it. The butcher was furious. "Give me my money," he demanded. "Kill the dog and open him." "Not by a blanked sight," replied the drover; "my dog is worth more than 100 francs." "Then I owe you nothing. Your dog has collected for you before witnesses." "My dog is not my cashier. And, beside, where is your receipt?" "The justice will have to settle this." "Let him." And now for weeks the justice has vainly been seeking law or precedent for such a case, and the townsmen have been on the verge of a riot over it again and again.

### The Scotch Herring Fisheries.

The herring fisheries of Scotland employ nearly 500,000 people, one-seventh of the population. The boats represent a money value of \$3,600,000. The annual yield of cured fish has risen from 90,000 barrels early in the century to 1,200,000, and has trebled in fifty years, while in the same period the value of the nets has increased 75 per cent.

The youth who waltzes well is the one who leads the whirled.