

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY.

An Ingenious Process Recently Patented by a Chicago Artist.

During the war of the Rebellion, while the contending armies lay so long between Richmond and the Potomac, various efforts were made by Northern engineers to obtain photographs from aerial elevations of the positions of the Southern troops. The attempts were made from balloons, but they were far from being successful. The art of instantaneous photography had not been perfected, if indeed it had been more than thought of, and the danger of exposure to the almost unerring rifle of the sharpshooter was so great that few were willing to essay the operation except upon the most favorable conditions of wind, weather and situation. During the Franco-Prussian war, a few years later—particularly in the neighborhood of Paris—both French and German scientists undertook the enterprise of securing photographs of the opposing hostile camps and movements, but only with partial success. Since then photographic departments have been attached to nearly all the European armies, and numerous discoveries have been made in the management of balloons at elevations of from 5,000 to 10,000 feet.

M. J. Steffens, photographer of this city, has recently secured letters patent for a new system of aerial photography, which promises to be of value both for military and commercial purposes. It is a combination of instantaneous photography controlled by electricity, and a hydrogen-filled balloon capable of supporting a weight of not more than thirty or forty pounds at an elevation of 8,000 or 10,000 feet. The balloon is composed of a film of pure rubber, something like that used in the manufacture of the little toy articles which street fakirs sell at a nickel apiece, and is filled with hydrogen gas made from the decomposition of zinc by sulphuric acid and passed through a bath of silicate of soda, so as to remove all traces of oxygen. To the balloon is attached the camera, the mechanism of suspension being arranged so as to allow of angular or rectangular field of vision. Between the balloon and the camera is a wind-fan to reduce oscillation to a minimum, and to keep the camera in the desired position an ingenious arrangement has been devised whereby it will remain constant in the arbitrary relation in which it was placed to a large compass which was delicately adjusted to it. The camera is constructed somewhat upon the general plan of those used in taking photographs of horses running at full speed, and the delicate machinery for making the exposure and moving on the rollers the sensitized paper is manipulated from the ground by the operator through the means of an ordinary telegraph key. The cord by which the balloon is allowed to ascend has within it two fine threads of copper, which are not allowed to touch each other. On the ground, connection is made with a battery of three or four cells, or as many as may be needed. All that the operator has to do is to insert a roll of sensitized paper in the camera, adjust the angle of vision and the relation of the camera to the compass, attach it to the balloon, and then let it go aloft to the height required. A click on the key causes an instantaneous exposure; the machinery in the interior of the camera at the same moment begins to operate, and when the exposure is completed eight inches of the sensitized paper, on which the picture has been taken, is transferred to a second and smaller roller in the opposite side of the camera. The instrument is then ready for a second view, and so on until the sensitized paper—a roll of forty or fifty feet—has been used, if so much be required. The apparatus is then hauled down, the gas expelled from the balloon, and every thing used in connection with the experiments packed away in a box not much larger than an ordinary valise. The lens used is of the globular variety—a recent invention—and will take a picture without any disturbance at any distance beyond a focus of seventy feet. At an elevation of about 5,000 feet, the lens having a visual angle of 60 degrees, the field of observation would be a circle having a diameter of one mile. If a greater field of observation were required at the same height it would become necessary to use a lens having a greater visual angle than 60 degrees.

Chicago Tribune.

How to Measure One's Growth.

One may measure his own growth by looking back upon his own record of his likes and dislikes, his thoughts and convictions, his moods and humors. Have you an old scrap-book of your own making? Have you a once favorite volume which, five, ten, twenty, forty years ago you pencil-marked? How many passages that pleased you then please you now? How many statements that you disagreed with then do you agree with now? How many that you agreed to then do you agree to now? How many of those scraps that you thought worth pasting in a book seem peruse and as so much rubbish now? Few of us there are who have not some such record of our past selves; and there are few of us who are not half ashamed of our own measure as thus disclosed. In the light of such recollections of one's past self to his present self, it would seem that one could have no room for over self-confidence, lest the future should pass like judgment upon the present when the present shall have become the past.

—A Spanish astronomer has ascertained that there are rain and snow on the moon, the same as on the earth.

THE CANDIDATE AT HOME.

A Realistic Picture of the Trials and Tribulations of Our Great Men.

"Yes, my dear," remarked the candidate to his wife, as with a weary sigh he removed the wrappers from a large yellow silk pin-cushion with his initials on it, and sent the girl down stairs with \$4.82 for the expressman; "yes, I fully appreciate the honor that some of the people of this great and effervescent Republic have done me in nominating me for so high an office; but I could wish that they would be somewhat less impetuous, as it were, in their method of expressing their esteem and admiration."

He here stopped to replace the cover on the box containing the twenty-year-old rattlesnake that had been sent him by a constituent in Wyoming, an act which he performed just in time to prevent the playful reptile from meandering out and making a light lunch of the baby. This done, he resumed, sadly:

"It must, of course, be highly gratifying to any properly constructed candidate to have an enthusiastic people pouring a perfect avalanche, if I may be permitted the expression, of canes, cigar-cases, underwear, boasts of assorted sizes and colors, and other useful articles upon him; he can not but feel proud to think that his house is the objective point of every express wagon in town, and that people all over this great and glorious land are sitting up nights and neglecting their business to make rare and curious articles of vertu for him. But in time even this becomes monotonous, and—"

Here the girl came in to say that another consignment of yellow dogs had arrived, and that the expressman wanted eight dollars more. With a sigh the candidate produced the money, and ordered that the dogs be put down cellar and made as comfortable as possible.

"I do not mind dogs so much," he remarked, "but snakes and prairie wolves seem to me in bad taste, and I earnestly deprecate—"

"There's a man down-stairs," interrupted the girl, re-entering the room, and falling over the twenty-pound brindle cat, which a lady in Michigan had sent with her regards and an express bill for twelve dollars, "and he says that he has just named his two-hours' old baby after you, and thought he would come 'round and let you know, so that you would not feel anxious about it."

"This is getting played out," howled the candidate; "I've got no more money to invest in that way, and that settles it. Give him a spoon out of the holder, with my regards, and tell him I'll call 'round and kiss the baby as soon as I get time."

"Say!" remarked his wife with an animation: "this paper says that a man named Wellington Hanks, in Keokuk, is making a hair-brush for you to be composed of 11,967 distinct pieces of wood."

"Great guns!" exclaimed the candidate: "Who said I wanted a hair-brush? The idea of sending a hair-brush to a man without a hair on his head! I won't have it—"

Just then the girl entered, and said that a mule of rare beauty had arrived from Arizona, and was waiting his orders and sixteen dollars.

"Slaughter the beast!" cried the candidate wildly, "and tell the expressman to go to! Am I to have no time to think about the tariff and things, and no money to buy food with? I can't even get a chance to write my inaugural address; and the first thing you know it'll be the fourth of March, and I'll have to stand up there before a perspiring multitude and speak a piece out of the Amateur-Orator. I won't—"

He was interrupted by the entrance of a boy with an express package, upon which were inscribed the words "All charges prepaid." As his eyes fell on the inscription, he uttered a wild shriek and fell to the floor unconscious. For a few moments his woes were forgotten. —*E. A. Stearns, in Puck.*

THE HEATHEN CHINESE.

How Discipline Was Administered to a Suspected Celestial Farmer.

Yesterday news reached the officials here of a summary execution which took place at Ngau-tong-hien, one of the towns belonging to this Fu. A farmer in that district named Pan (nicknamed Toh Chao, because he had only a thumb on his left hand) was said to be the head of a secret society numbering several tens of thousands, in this province and Shantung. As he was constantly going to and fro, and was supposed to be plotting against the Government, two military officers, acting under instructions from their superiors, resolved to arrest him the next time he returned home.

With this purpose in view, they surrounded his house with a band of soldiers, but on approaching nearer one of the officers was shot dead, and the man broke from the house and fled. He was soon overtaken and disabled by a blow from the other officer's sword, when he was slowly tortured to death by the soldiers gashing his body to pieces with their knives. They then tore out his heart and hung it up on a pole in front of his house to intimidate his followers. Before attempting to escape from the house, the unfortunate victim is said to have killed his daughter, a girl of sixteen years of age, fearing lest she should be assaulted by the brutal soldiers. The surviving officer came yesterday to report the case to the Chun-tai, the Brigadier General, who lives here. —*Pekin Gazette.*

A Kansas ranchman predicts that cheap beef and mutton of the future will come from the immense grassy plains of Brazil and the Argentine Republic.

ELECTRIC VIVISECTION.

Cruel Experiments That Have Recently Taken Place in New York.

The old question of the desirability for any scientific purpose of vivisection will not be settled by the very interesting and yet cruel experiment that took place the other day before the Board of Electrical Control in New York. It was for the purpose of determining whether, as has been alleged, the alternating electrical currents used in incandescent lighting are more dangerous and deadly than continuous currents of even greater power.

A large dog was placed on the demonstrator's table, so that a current of electricity could be sent through the animal at a graduated pressure. The exhibition began with a current of 300 volts, cut off instantaneously, but the shock caused the dog to leap into the air with a loud yelp. The tension was then increased to 400 volts, and for ten seconds the dog howled and struggled convulsively. The next raise was to 500 volts, and the agony of the animal was intense. In his frantic effort to escape he would have broken the twisted wires of the cage had he not been held by the stout rope about his neck. Then for ten seconds a current of 700 volts was sent through him. So furious were his bounds and strains that the united rope and wire seemed too weak to hold him, and another wire was therefore wound about his neck and he was strapped fast by leather bands to the cage. Then all was made ready for another test, it being noted that "his natural power of resistance had fallen to 3,500 ohms."

At a further signal a current of 1,000 volts tension was applied, and the brute gave a yell of agony that sounded almost like a human shriek. Having thus demonstrated that 1,000 volts were insufficient to destroy life except by torture, the lecturer announced that he had worked up to 1,240 volts without attaining a fatal result from a continuous current, but would not carry the experiment so far in the present instance unless his audience desired. No one desiring further evidence, he changed the current to the Siemens machine, giving 288 alternations per second, which is about that used in producing the incandescent light by an alternating current in ordinary service.

This current at 330 volts tension killed the weakened animal in five seconds, but the scientific objection was raised that the animal's power of resistance had been grievously impaired by the continuous current. So the demonstrator was proceeding to cage a fresh dog when Superintendent Hankinson, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, put an abrupt stop to the exhibition by notifying the lecturer that if any more such tests were made he would arrest every man concerned in making them.

Thus it has been demonstrated by a terribly cruel experiment that a strong continuous current of electricity will torture a strong dog, and that a comparatively weak alternating current will kill a weak dog. Has enough knowledge been gained to atone for the horrible cruelty? —*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

RAILROADS IN GERMANY.

The Cozy Station-Houses Found in All Portions of the Empire.

The railroad stations all over Germany are models of convenience and pretension. The smallest local train on a Germany railway receives a degree of consideration and honor that would stagger the engineers of the Chicago limited. The railroads are run entirely by the Government, and every thing connected with them shows the impress of military rule.

The stations are surrounded by small parks, in which there are fountains, flowers, and artistically-arranged hedges. The station building is often the most pretentious one in the town, and there is usually attached to it a large restaurant with several waiters in the conventional claw-hammer coats. Broad walks made of granite and marble and relieved from monotony by designs in mosaic stretch along on either side, and there is an air of spick and span brightness about every thing in sight. As the train draws into the station the waiters stand in an orderly row at the entrance to the dining-room. They have all been soldiers—every man in Germany has served a number of years in the army, and they stand in a military attitude with their hands at their sides and their chins up. Directly in front of the main entrance stands the captain of the station. His rank is indicated by a red cap. His uniform is exceedingly showy, and often becoming—for the men as a rule, are stalwart and well formed. He wears high-heeled boots, dark-blue trousers, relieved by a red stripe, a double-breasted military frock coat, with a gold belt and rows of brass buttons. Ranged behind are the guards, who are also in uniform, but whose caps are dark blue. After the train comes to a halt, the chief guard jumps to the ground and salutes the station master. Then the men step forward, and the work of loading and unloading the train goes on with conventional Teutonic stolidity. It is the duty of one of the guards to walk along the train and rub all the dust from the door handles and other brass work, so that in the course of the journey the metal becomes brilliantly polished. When the train is ready for departure the guards salute the station master again, and he takes a whistle from his belt and blows it twice. Upon this another guard, who is stationed at the further end of the platform, rings a huge bell three times, and then, with another salute by way of courtesy, the train moves on its way. This is only an indication of the military spirit which pervades German, in every direction. —*Berlin Cor. N. Y. Sun.*

RESPONSIBILITY OF CATS.

They Have Been Charged With Nearly All Crimes Known to the Calendar.

A merciful Providence is metaphorically said to have made the back of the domestic cat exceedingly broad, in exquisite adaptation to the moral load which that anatomical structure has to carry. We all know that most fires are due to cats. Cats are culpably careless in the use of matches. Even Messrs. Bryant and May have scarcely been able by their ingenious invention to correct the influences of feline rashness. It is far too common a thing for a cat, after lighting a cigar, to throw a wax vesta or a deadly fusee upon the carpet or the bare boards. These animals will leave candles in immediate proximity to curtains, and forget all about them in an exciting chase after mice that have as much right to live as themselves.

A cat has been known to turn on the gas, and then, hearing a scratching behind the wainscot, to become absorbed for half an hour before applying the flame, with consequences which can be imagined, and, therefore, if Henry James will pardon us for saying so, need not be described. Cats, too, are addicted to the pernicious practice of smoking in bed, especially Persian cats, who can not otherwise perform their allotted task of reading through the "Arabian Nights" twice a year. Now, as it is notorious that no cat will endure a cover to his pipe, we need not point out the great dangers we are in by this unhappy levity. But there is really no end to the responsibility of cats, who are without any sense of shame, and appear to be most imperfectly acquainted with the laws which govern the ignition of inflammable bodies.

How many fires they cause in London from January to December, Captain Shaw alone knows. It is only necessary to mention their too familiar habit of saving themselves trouble by carrying hot coals in a shovel from one room to another, for on this occasion we may avoid the painful topic of the frauds which they too often perpetrate at the expense of the insurance companies. When all these things are taken into consideration we need not wonder, however deeply we may be grieved, at the number of fires whose origin is assigned in official reports to the agency of those noxious and ubiquitous quadrupeds. Cats are a powerful interest, and in the prevailing flabbiness of public opinion, few have the moral courage to speak the truth about them.

Excellent is the spirit of Dr. Low, an officer of the Local Government Board, who merits the respect and gratitude of the whole community for having brought out the facts about cats without flinching. No cat, after the publication of Dr. Low's memorandum, can shelter himself behind the miserable plea of ignorance from the duty of at once answering the charge that whatever may be his recreations and amusements, his serious business in life is the spread of diphtheria. It is the more courageous in Dr. Low to state this because certain Irish-American cats are more than suspected of having attempted to blow up the premises of the Local Government Board with dynamite about five years ago. Undeterred by these lucid memories, Dr. Low charges into the ranks of our feline tyrants with desperate determination. He accuses them, not by insinuation or innuendo, but in plain and unmistakable terms, of having caused an epidemic of diphtheria at Ealing. The method in which this detestable plot was carried out is truly diabolical.

A number of associated cats, whom Dr. Low, for obvious reasons, abstains from naming, conspired to eat the remnants of the food, and drink the remainder of the milk, which had been served to diphtheritic patients. Thus primed for their horrible work they selected a number of healthy children, with whom they began to play. The children were particularly attentive to the cats, because the cats appeared to be unwell. Such is the lot of children, who never cease animals, though animals are constantly teasing them. We draw a veil over the sequel, merely remarking that Dr. Low, as becomes his high position, has no doubt that the children were infected in this precise way. The germs of infection are, it is to be feared, everywhere, and life would become impossible if we were always speculating on the chances of coming within the grasp of disease. Meanwhile it is desirable that criminal cats should be brought to justice, and that contaminated articles—edible, potable or otherwise—should be destroyed. —*Saturday Review.*

Musical Instruments.

For the fisherman—Castanet.
For the lawyer—Lyre.
For the politician—Organ.
For the whist-player—Trumpet.
For the horse-jockey—Hautboy.
For the toper—Horn.
For the laundress—Flute.
For the pawnbroker—Jewsharp-Life.

In Montana a snake was discovered which could imitate the whistle of the "Bob White" with ease. While it was under surveillance it crouched in the long prairie grass and emitted the call as plainly as any partridge could. Continuing the effort, it soon heard an answer, and a moment later a young partridge alighted almost at its mouth. Quick as a flash it sprang upon its victim; there was a momentary flutter of wings, a stray feather or two, and then the snake remained master of the field. To those who doubt this story the prairie is still shown as proof of the veracity of the narrators.

MISCELLANEOUS.

—Good authorities say the Mexican horse is a servicable animal, good for long journeys, easy in a canter, intelligent, full of fun at times, but rarely vicious, and could be domesticated in the United States would be very popular.

—A roaring gas well back of Canonsburg, Pa., is said to have the greatest registered pressure of any in the world. The gas looks like a solid piece of blue steel for some distance after it comes out of the pipe. Solid masonry twelve feet thick surrounds the well to hold the cap on. When in drilling the gas was struck, tools and ropes weighing 5,000 pounds were thrown out as though they were feathers.

—The following story comes from North Vassalboro, Me.: On Tuesday, the 24th ult., a man died and left a sorrowing widow to mourn his loss. On Wednesday, the 25th, she had filed her intentions of marriage in the town clerk's office. Thursday she followed the remains of her deceased husband to the grave. On the succeeding Monday she was living happily with husband No. 2, and on Wednesday, the 1st inst., the loving couple started on their wedding pilgrimage.

—In a village in Central New York there was a great deal of aristocracy and wealth and eligible matches were scarce, or at least the supply of desirable men was not equal to the number of women, and there was much wire-pulling to bring about results. A little girl, whose father was a widower, used to have her compositions praised by the teacher, who was a well preserved maiden lady. A little schoolmate said to her one day, after hearing it: "If my father was a widower, my compositions would be just as good as yours!"

—Exchange.

—Not improved workmanship but rapidity is the distinguished feature of the mechanical arts and trades nowadays. An instance of this was noticeable in the experience of a lady who went into an umbrella maker's store one day and asked for an umbrella of peculiar size and make which she wanted to take with her at once to Liverpool. The dealer did not have one in stock but said that he could make one in short order if she would wait. She sat down in anticipation of a dreary afternoon of waiting, but in precisely twenty-five minutes departed with the finished article. It had been made up entire from the raw materials.

—The Boston Journal of Health says: "It is recommended that the milk supply of cities, at least in hot weather, be scalded as soon as received by the consumers to prevent its souring. To scald milk properly the following method is advised: Take a thin glass bottle with a rubber cork, fill it with milk nearly up to the neck, and place it uncorked in a kettle of water, which should then be gradually brought to a boil. When steam has commenced to escape from the bottle, cork it lightly and continue the boiling for thirty-five to forty minutes, and the process will be complete. A bottle of milk thus preserved, it is said, will remain sweet a month if kept in a cool place and tightly corked."

REFUSED HIS SALARY.

A Governor of Idaho Who Wouldn't Take Money He Hadn't Earned.

Another distinguished son of Keokuk is Mr. Irwin, who is guilty of an act not many years ago which, if he had been tried for it by a jury of office-holders, would have consigned him to a lunatic asylum for the rest of his life. He awakened an unspeakable horror throughout the entire land. It occurred in this way: President Arthur appointed him Governor of Idaho. He went out there and took the oath of office and remained awhile. Then business matters called him home and detained him there for several months. He found it inconvenient to go back to Idaho, and finally resigned his office. But that was not the worst of it. The horrible part of the story remains to be told. When the checks for the salary were sent him by United States Treasurer Wyman he returned them to Washington with a note explaining that he had been absent from his post and had not performed the duties of his office, and he could not conscientiously accept any pay. The officers of the Treasury stood aghast at such audacity. There was no precedent for the act and they did not know what to do. They returned the checks to Mr. Irwin, saying that in the opinion of the accounting officers he was entitled to the salary of his position until his resignation was accepted. But he was inexorable. He declined to accept the money—which amounted to \$2,000 or more—and asked that it be turned into the Treasury or used toward the payment of the public debt. Treasurer Wyman did not know what to do with it, so he put it in the conscience fund. This called out a protest from Governor Irwin, who declined to be classed with repentant thieves and conscience-stricken swindlers, and he suggested that a new fund be started to meet such cases as his own—of contributions from officials who felt that they were not entitled to their salaries. But the Treasury officials smiled at the credulity of the Governor of Idaho, who seemed to think that his example might be imitated—and they were right. It never has been.

I asked Mr. Irwin about this little affair to-day, and he laid the entire blame upon his mother. He said she was with him when he received the checks for his salary, and she said: "John, it is not honest for you to keep that money, for you have done nothing to earn it." And he said that she was right. It was the old story. A woman tempted him and he fell. The checks were sent back by the next mail. —*W. E. Curtis, in Chicago News.*

FARM AND FRESIDE.

—Many farmers who have planted orchards or hill-sides have spent much time resetting and doctoring. Abie writers say that a hillside where the water runs off quickly is the very place for the worms to hatch their young.

—A garden trowel, or a round stick about one and a half inches in diameter, and about one foot long, and a cross-piece fastened on top and the other end well sharpened, is a very convenient implement for making the holes in which to set the plants.

—To secure good seed corn for next year the farmer should begin while the corn is growing to make observations. He should note and mark all prominent stalks, as the early maturity, vigor and prolificacy are as important as the germination of the seed.

—It is a Southern fashion to cook green corn in the husk, and I have never eaten any more delicious. Remove only the coarse outer husks, leaving on the inner ones. Strip these down so as to remove the silk, then tie them in place again and boil. Serve with a bowl of melted butter and season well with salt and pepper.

—Do not be tempted to grow two plants on the space that should only be occupied by one. An extra undesirable plant becomes a weed, and when the two are of the same kind they injure each other more than if of different species, as they demand the same food from the soil and must struggle with each other.

—Vaseline makes a very clean, odorless application for light harness, riding bridles, saddles, etc. After giving it a chance to dry in, go all over the surface with a rag dipped in the white of an egg. This gives it a waterproof coating that will last for some time and prevents the oil from staining the hands or clothing. Have the leather perfectly clean before oiling.

—The digestive organs soon get out of order when grain is fed to the exclusion of grass or bulky food. This is true of all classes of stock and also of poultry. It is better to feed hay alone than allow a surplus of grain, especially in summer. A variety of food promotes digestion and prevents disease. It is also more economical to give a variety, as less food is then required.

—Caramels: One and a half pounds stigar, one cup cream, one tablespoon butter and half a cake of sweet German chocolate. Mix all together in a steupan and cook, stirring frequently until done. Just before pouring it out of the pan, flavor with vanilla or lemon. Pour into a buttered dish, and before it gets perfectly cold, cut into squares by running a knife up and down the dish. It will break nicely when cold.

—Parched rice, is very good in the case of bowel troubles. Roast it to a nice brown, as you would coffee, throw into salted boiling water and cook rapidly until done. Rice water for a drink is made by stirring a tablespoonful of rice flour, wet with cold water, into a quart of boiling water. Season with salt, let it get very cold and flavor with lemon juice or nutmeg, sweetening to taste.

ADULTERATED SPICES.

An Expert Describes the Method of Cheapening Expensive Articles.

"Rice flour and white meal can be mingled with white pepper in reasonable quantities and experts in spices can not detect it," said a leading grocer to a reporter. "In fact, there is no trade in which adulteration for pecuniary profit can be carried on more profitably and with less chance of detection than in spices. Terra alba, a fine marble dust, is exported from Italy to this country in considerable quantities to mingle with white pepper. Mustard mixes with sage flour, rice flour, and a bit of aniline coloring without detriment to the appearance of the mustard. Treat the mixture with iodine and you expose the adulteration; but the average consumer of mustard is not apt to apply that test. The German and French mustards are an interesting mixture. They are compounded of croaker dust, mustard, cayenne pepper, white vinegar, oil and sugar flavoring. Old crockets are sometimes baked brown, then ground into dust and mixed with ground cinnamon and nutmeg, and the whole is sold for nutmeg at a price that drives pure nutmegs out of the market.

"Ground pepper is frequently sold for less money than the unground article, which makes the naturally suspicious suspect at once that the ground goods are loaded with pepper dust, which is made from cocoanut shells or buckwheat hulls, charcoal, white meal and mustard bran. Lack of taste is as desirable, in an adulteration of spices as adaptability of color. For that reason the cocoanut shell, ground up very fine, is desirable. Venetian red, salt and white meal can be ground together and made into a valuable addition to cayenne pepper. A dull, red pepper, exported from Africa, is often heavily adulterated with that mixture. It is worth only about 10 cents a pound when pure, but when well adulterated it can be sold to a green dealer and a green trade for genuine Natal pepper, worth from 25 to 35 cents a pound. You can buy ground ginger at almost any store for 7 cents a pound, when the unground article commands 16 cents for the same quantity. That means that the goods offered for 7 cents a pound is a mixture of white meal, starch, cayenne pepper and manilla rope flavored with ginger. The grocery trade, especially the country people, want to see the ginger fibres, and the ingenuity of the dealer supplies them in the form of threads of manilla rope." —*N. Y. Mail and Express.*