

Miscellaneous.

THE HALLS OF THE MONTEZUMAS.

Montezuma II, ascended the Mexican throne A. D. 1602, at the age of 24, before Mexico had been discovered by Europeans.

On ascending the throne, not content with the spacious residence of his father, he erected another, much more magnificent, fronting on the plaza mayor of the present city of Mexico.

The palaces were built of red stone, ornamented with marble, the arms of the Montezuma family (an eagle bearing a tiger in his talons) being sculptured over the main entrance.

He encouraged science and learning, and public schools were established throughout the greater part of his empire.

Gorgeous temples—in which human victims were sacrificed, and their blood baked in bread, or their bodies dressed for food, to be devoured by the people at religious festivals—reared their pyramidal altars far above the highest edifices.

So vast was the collection of birds of prey, in a building devoted to them, that 500 turkeys, the cheapest meat in Mexico, were allowed for their daily consumption.

THE BRAVE LITTLE YANKEE.

It happened in 1776, that the garden of a widow, which lay between the American and British camps in the neighborhood of New York, was frequently robbed at night.

The boy kept close behind him, threatened, and was constantly prepared to execute his threats. Thus the boy drove him into the American camp, where he was secured.

RAILWAY RACE—RIVAL SYSTEMS.

A London writer gives a vivid account of a trial of speed between a steam locomotive and a train propelled upon the atmospheric pressure principle.

"A race between a pair of well matched locomotives would be sufficiently exciting; but between a new system, like the atmospheric, and its rival, the locomotive, the character and reputation of both systems for speed depending on the issue, a well matched contest would be of no common interest."

train was a mile ahead of us, and was evidently gaining rapidly in speed. However, on we went like a whirlwind, and it soon became evident that we were gaining on our rival.

A FEARFUL ALTERNATIVE.—The inhabitants of some of the rocky islets on the northern coast of Scotland, from the peculiar nature of their pursuits, are liable to frightful accidents.

A father and two sons were out together, and having firmly attached their ropes at the summit of a precipice, they descended to their usual occupation.

They had made considerable progress, when the elder son, looking upward, perceived the strands of the rope grinding against a sharp edge of the rock, and gradually giving away.

THE MARKHAM BAND OF ROBBERS.—Quite a romantic account has been published in the Toronto Colonist of the discovery of a band of robbers in Canada, whose operations extended all over the Provinces to the State of Michigan.

Gorgeous temples—in which human victims were sacrificed, and their blood baked in bread, or their bodies dressed for food, to be devoured by the people at religious festivals—reared their pyramidal altars far above the highest edifices.

Such was their power that they stalked about openly; magistrates were, in some instances, afraid to issue warrants for their apprehension, and constables, in others, afraid to serve them.

CUTTING GRAIN.

There are several advantages in favor of cutting grain before it becomes dead ripe. 1. It has been ascertained that wheat cut while it is so soft that it may be mashed between the fingers, will make flour containing more gluten, will absorb more water in kneading, and make more and better bread than the same quantity of grain perfectly ripened while standing.

HILLING POTATOES.

Most persons make hills around potatoes, yet few have made exact experiments in order to determine whether this laborious operation is beneficial.

Where the land is too wet, there is doubtless an advantage in hilling potatoes, as the water will run down into the hollows made for the purpose of getting earth for the hills, after which it will settle away without coming in contact with the potatoes, excepting in powerful rains, and then the surplus water will run off between the rows which serves as a drain.

To WINE-DRINKERS.—It is not generally known that wine baths are quite common in France—nevertheless, such is the case.

"What! a five franc piece for a tub full of wine? Hurrah! Viva la France!" "Gently—gently. At least fifty others bathed in the same wine—after Punch."

"The wine was then thrown out?" "Not at all. Not so, by any means." "Bottled! Bottled, of course." "Bottled! And for what purpose?"

THE UNITED STATES.—The territory of the United States is equal to that of the whole of Europe, with the exception of Russia.

Don't BE CRUEL.—See that man beating his horse unmercifully. Friend, is it in this manner you treat God's creatures, given for your special service?

"THE BREAD ACT."—A stranger recently stopping in this city, says the N. Y. Sun, relates the following case of youthful vagrancy.

SILENCE OF THE PRAIRIES.—One of the most striking things is the silence of the prairies. It is absolutely awful. At night, when the moon has gone down, and the stars are all out, to stand in the centre of one of these mammoth plains, and mark the deep unbroken silence that surrounds you, is sublimely impressive.

THE OCEAN.—Ah! could they speak to us, those unreeling waves—not of all the hoarded treasures hidden beneath them—let such be theirs—but of all they daily see of human suffering, all they know of human destiny, what spirit-thrilling histories would they tell, of what is now forever veiled from many a despairing soul!

A man's rank was formerly known by the size of his shoes. Those of a prince measured two feet and a half; a plain citizen was allowed only twelve inches; hence the French proverb, *Etendus un grand pied dans le monde.*—"To be on a great foot (or footing) in the world."

The editor of the Chronotype lets off his feelings thus: "A very pious Presbyterian divine used always to say, when he met the General Assembly of his church, 'Now, dear brethren, how near can we come to doing what is right, and keep together!'"

VARIETY.

Gen. Thompson, in his work on Mexico, estimates the debt of that Republic at a little less than \$100,000,000.

"As I was going," said an Irishman, "over Westminster bridge the other day, I met Pat Hewins; says I, How are you? Pretty well, I thank you, Dolley, says he; says I, that's not my name. Faith no more is mine Hewins says he. So we looked at each other, and faith, it turned out to be neither of us!"

In the republic of Hayti, a man was tried for stealing some articles of food while being cooked in a pot over the fire. It was urged in his defence, that the larceny was committed under the influence of hunger; and the court decided that it was not unlawful for a man to steal when he had stolen the pot also.

A lady in Indiana states that after churning three hours to no purpose, she recollected that cream was sometimes said to be too sour.

On the southern part of this continent, as on our western prairies, millions of cattle are killed for their hides alone; while their carcasses are left to be devoured by the wild beasts and birds of prey.

The Pennsylvania Reporter says: In all our acquaintance with journeyman printers, we scarcely ever saw one that was either a fool or a coward.

Dr. Franklin used to say that the most disinterested and useful friend a man could possibly procure was a French woman of a certain age, who had no design upon his person.

A lady, lately returned from a visit to the natural bridge, in Virginia, on being asked how she was pleased with this stupendous specimen of nature's handiwork, replied, "that it would be a very nice bridge when it was done—but it wasn't quite finished when she was there!"

A wealthy citizen of Athens complained that Aristippus, the philosopher, in requiring five hundred pieces of money for the instruction of his son, had demanded as much as would purchase a slave.

A gentleman residing in London and writing home, states that official data may be found for the fact that within the past fifteen years, no less than 48,000 houses have been built in London; and at the present there is going on a single negotiation for the erection of four thousand dwelling houses on an estate at the extreme west end of the city.

A singing-master, while teaching his pupils, was visited by a brother of the tuneful art. The visitor observing that the chorister pitched the tune vocally, said, "Sir, do you use a pipe?"

Somebody once remarked that an Englishman is never happy but when he is miserable; the Scotchman is never at home but when he is abroad; and the Irishman is never at peace but when he is fighting.

It is stated as a singular fact, that the pattern now most common upon Paisley shawles, and which has always been a favorite, was in use among the Hindoos three or four thousand years ago.

A gentleman named Bray is said to have invented a cheap and simple apparatus for cooking potatoes without water, which will be found of great use to families.

Charles the Second, says Addison, hearing the celebrated Vossius, a free-thinker, repeating some incredible stories of the Chinese, turned to those about him and said: "This learned divine is a very strange man. He believes everything but the Bible!"

It appears from an American paper, published in 1797, that an opinion was quite prevalent in this country at that time, that Napoleon was a native of Middletown, Conn.

"I never knew," said Lord Erskine, "a man remarkable for heroic bravery, whose very aspect was not lighted up by gentleness and humanity."

A French tourist of much penetration recently said: "The whole circle of an American's hopes and aspirations seems to be confined within the rim of a dollar." Lord Byron beautifully said, "If a man be gracious to strangers, it shows that he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins them."

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AMUEL RUSSELL, President of the Board of Trustees. ALFRED, June 23, 1846.

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But thou, how that it is never fulfilled, flow out of thine thy neighbor for he be thee or die for thee when thou wast in Christ, till we in the full knowledge our neighbor for it was the saints' days.