







Miscellaneous.

The Social System of Russia.

In Russia there does not prevail that marked distinction between the modes of life of the dwellers in town and country; which is found in other countries and the general freedom of trade, which in other nations is still an object of exertion, has existed in Russia since a long by-gone period. A strong manufacturing and industrial tendency prevails in a large portion of Russia, which, based upon the communal system, has led to the formation of what we may term "national association factories."

is also something of a carpenter, and knows how to shape and put together the timbers for a dwelling. The *plotniki* in the villages are never anything more than these general carpenters, and never acquire any regular knowledge of their business. The real Russian *plotniki* seldom carries any other tools with him than an axe and a chisel, and with these he wanders through all parts of the empire, seeking, and every where finding, work.

little insects can see almost around them without turning their heads. A man who has examined the eyes of a fly, says that the two eyes of a common one are composed of 8000 little globes, through every one of which it is capable of forming an image of the object. Having prepared the eye of the fly for the purpose, he placed it before the microscope, and then looked through both, in the manner of the telescope, at a steeple which was 299 feet high and 750 feet distant, and he says he could plainly see through every little hemisphere, the whole steeple inverted or turned upside down.

At the last session of the Academy of Sciences, an interesting paper was read, being an account of the joint labors of three physiologists in a curious field of observation. It has always been a matter of knowledge that in warm-blooded animals, and especially in man, the temperature of the central parts of the body is remarkably steady during health, and that it is only under the influence of disease, or at the approach of death, that the temperature increases or diminishes. After having examined a large number of patients, either sick or dying, with a view of ascertaining the variations of heat or cold, the three savans made a series of experiments upon healthy subjects, by means of medicaments, introduced into the digestive organs or into the blood, with the same object. They obtained results easily perceptible by the thermometer. While it was seen to diminish the temperature, it was exceedingly difficult to elevate it. The most exciting substance never caused an increase over one-quarter as great as the decrease obtained by the administration of the sulphate of copper, the most active agent in destroying the vital heat.

anease sailors, with their autograph signatures in the Japanese character; a representation of the compass found with them, and the Japanese numerals. The alphabet, as represented by Lieut. Tennyson's diagram, contains 48 characters, which consist of straight, oblique, parallel, crooked, and angular lines and marks, resembling thick and ragged scrawls with a bad quill-pen. The letters and names stand in perpendicular columns, and the order of reading is to begin with the right hand column and read down—the reverse of our method. These discoveries prove that the Japanese are a people among whom learning has been cultivated; and a hope is expressed that, through the rescued seamen, a more successful attempt will be made to open a communication with that people.

Union Academy. THE Academic Year of this Institution (located at Stillkill, N. Y.) for 1851 and '52 commenced the first Wednesday in September, and continues forty-four weeks, including two vacations of one week each, between terms. The year is divided into three terms: The first commencing Wednesday, September 2d, and ending Tuesday, December 9th. The second commencing Wednesday, December 17th, and ending Tuesday, March 31st, and the third commencing Wednesday, March 31st, and ending Tuesday, July 6th.