

of Henry I. It consists of a linen web, 214 feet in length, and twenty inches broad; and is divided into seventy-two compartments, each having an inscription indicating its object.—The figures are all executed by the needle.

"The same comet, in 1456, threw terror among the Turks under the command of Mahomet II, and into the ranks of the Christians during the terrible battle of Belgrade, in which forty thousand Mussulmans perished. The comet is described by the historians of the time, as 'immense, terrible, of enormous length, carrying in its train a tail which covered two celestial signs, (sixty degrees,) and producing universal terror.' Judging from this portrait, comets have greatly degenerated in our day.—It will be remembered, however, that in 1811 there appeared a comet of great brilliancy, which inspired some superstitious fears. Since that epoch science has noted nearly eighty comets, which, with few exceptions, were visible only by the aid of the telescope. Kepler, when asked how many comets there were in the heavens, answered, 'as many as there are fish in the sea.'

"Thanks to the progress of astronomical science, these singular stars are no longer objects of terror. The theories of Newton, Halley, and their successors, have completely destroyed the imaginary empire of comets. As respects their physical nature, it was a long time believed that they were composed of a compact centre, surrounded by a luminous atmosphere. On this subject the opinion of M. Rabinet, who must be regarded as good authority on such questions, is as follows: 'Comets cannot exercise any material influence upon our globe; and the earth, should it traverse a comet in its entire breadth, would perceive it no more than if it should cross a cloud a hundred thousand millions of times lighter than our atmosphere, and which could no more make its way through our air than the slightest puff of an ordinary bellows could make its way through an anvil.' It would be difficult to find a comparison more re-assuring."

The Caloric Ship—Air Light.

This vessel has returned to New York from a southern trip to Virginia. She made about seven knots an hour, which, considering the enormous size of the pistons, is but poor work. It seems, however, from testimony which it appears difficult to shake, that the present form of applying hot air as a motive power, is the invention of a Scottish Clergyman, about 30 years ago, even to the bunch of wire sieves through which it is inspired and expired. Not only was that the case, but a Caloric vessel was constructed and run on the river Clyde for some time, but was ultimately laid aside from the difficulty of obviating the effect of constant heat on the piston. It was proposed to protect it from oxydation by a coating of platinum, but the remedy was too costly. Others have proposed continually cooling the piston with a jet of cold water, or by the interposition of a body of water between the hot air and the piston.—An engine on the very same principle was in operation in Dundee, and may be so still for what we know. About 30 years ago Ericsson constructed a small air engine of a ruder form, but not until after he adopted the Clyde pattern was he moderately successful in the construction of a caloric engine.

About 1,500 degrees of heat are required to produce a cubic foot of steam from cold water; but the same heat will double the volume of five cubic feet of air, and the relative force will be as 2 1-2 to 1 in favor of the air. But from some exact experiments it has been ascertained that, while an equal force of steam would lift a piston one foot with unvarying power, the hot air would expand to five feet, but with a gradual diminution of power, until it entirely ceased. As this difficulty does not appear to be yet overcome, it is probable that steam will not be immediately superseded.—*Charlottetown, P. E. I., Islander.*

A bill is impending before the Massachusetts Legislature, having for its object the prevention of early and improper marriages. This is to be accomplished by imposing a heavy fine on Town Clerks, for issuing certificates of intention of marriage to minors, without the consent of their legal guardians.

THE REBELLION IN CHINA.

It is not a little strange that our intelligence from China should continue to be of so vague and contradictory a nature. All that appears certain is, that the Rebellion in that country is gaining ground, and that the Chinese insurgents have proved more than a match for the Tartar forces sent against them. From the Province of Honan it has now extended to Kiang-nan, and according to the latest advices there was reason to expect that the rebels would become masters of Nankin, the capital of the last native dynasty, and the key to the Grand Canal which connects it with Peking. The North China Herald, speaking the sentiments of the Merchants of Shanghai, expresses grave apprehensions as to the ultimate result of the movement upon the vast trade of that port. Money is scarce in Shanghai; and the entire country to the eastward, along the whole course of the Yang-tso-kiang, is in a state of hopeless disorganization. Whether the insurgents are headed by a pretender to the Throne, or by a successful bandit, is however, still unascertained. A singular story is given in the Leeds Mercury, from a Californian journal, which represents the chief leader to be a personage named Hung-name Saw Chaun, who some five or six years ago, came to Canton for the express purpose of acquiring a knowledge of Christianity, and for several months applied himself to the study of the Scriptures, maintaining a blameless deportment. This information is stated to have been conveyed in a letter from an American Missionary at Canton, the Rev. J. J. Roberts, who seems to think, that instead of raising a rebellion to upset the Government, this personage is "struggling for religious liberty, and its upsetting idolatry." He is said to have now 100,000 followers, and to be very popular among the people. This agrees with the account from Shanghai, that the insurgent army "exterminates the Mandarins, but protects the poor." Another story is, that the Empress of China is a Christian, and the Emperor more than half a convert; but to what sort or phase of Christianity we are not told. Meantime, there are ominous rumors of foreign intervention; and it is assumed, that the reigning dynasty can be upheld only by external aid. All that seems certain is, that the Chinese Empire is on the point of a mighty revolution, which will shake the Dragon in his ancient seat.—*Patriot.*

It is from no disposition to boast, but rather with a desire to acknowledge the blessings with which a kind Providence has favored us, that we feel called upon to notice the extraordinary state of prosperity which attends every branch of production and industry in this Province at the present time. After a remarkably mild winter, the spring has opened with such seasonable weather—alternate refreshing showers and genial heat—vegetation is not only fully a fortnight earlier than usual, but grass, which is the staple crop of this Province, has already attained such a stage of advancement, that a heavy crop is almost now certain. The rains which have fallen within the past fortnight have enabled the lumberers, we learn, to get nearly all the produce of the forest into the larger streams, and it can now be brought to market as fast as it is wanted. Timber and deals still command a remunerating price; and from the quantity being shipped, a great deal of money must find its way into the country. Ship-building still goes on prosperously, and the only difficulty is, that there are not half enough of hands to be got to carry on the work that might be done to a profit.—*St. John's Courier.*

It is becoming an important inquiry in England what is to be done with the convicts? The inhabitants of the Cape of Good Hope refuse to receive them, and Australia and Van Dieman's Land are no longer adapted for penal settlements. The government has as much as it can do with efficiency, to keep order and regularity among the miners, without taking care of convicts. Besides, the colonists, like those at the Cape, are protesting against their country being continued as a penal settlement. Many convicts are sent to Norfolk Island, but there they cannot be profitably employed. The question of the disposal of the convicts is, under these circumstances, becoming an embarrassing one to the government. The subject was recently discussed to the House of Lords, but without arriving at any solution of the problem. Opinions were very contradictory, although most of the members were opposed to the abolition of transportation. It was stated by the Earl of Aberdeen, one of the Ministry, that there are now in the penal establishments of the country 2052 convicts who are entitled, under existing regulations, to be removed to the colonies, with

leave; but his lordship urged that it is now literally impossible to send them there, and stated that the government was now considering the expediency of substantially keep good faith with them, by diminishing the duration of their punishment in accordance with the deserts of individuals.

PROTECTION OF THE FISHERIES.—H. M. Schr. Netley has arrived at this port, for the protection of the Fisheries in the Bay of Fundy.

We learn from the Halifax papers, that the Argus, 6, steam sloop, Com. Purves, which arrived at that port on the 10th inst., from Portsmouth, has sailed for the fishing grounds to the Eastward.

The Plumper, 12, screw steamer, was fitting out at Portsmouth for the protection of the North American Fisheries, when the Argus sailed.

The Basilisk, 6, steam sloop, Com. Hon. F. Egerton, after escorting the Leander, 50, with the Royal Commissioners to New York, is under orders to attach herself to Admiral Seymour's command.

It is also reported that the Megaera, 6, iron steamer, has been ordered to the North American station, after landing two companies of Artillery at Barbados.

The Steamship Devastation, which accompanied the Admiral's ship from Bermuda to Halifax, and proceeded thence to Newfoundland, with the Lord Bishop of that Island, is to cruise in the gulf during the fishing season.

Capt. Kynaston, who formerly commanded the Netley, is to be appointed to one of the Steamers for the protection of the Fisheries the present season.

Besides the men-of-war which have been appointed to watch over the fishing interests, it is stated to be the intention of the Vice-Admiral at Halifax to hire some half a dozen fast craft, and man them from his own ship. The Nova-Scotia Government have advertised for two vessels of 60 to 80 tons burthen well equipped for the service.

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.—The Newfoundland Patriot of the 7th May, contains the following startling rumour, although the Editor does not give it implicit credit. When it is remembered how anxious the Imperial Government has been to preserve the Fisheries of Newfoundland from the encroachment of the French, we may well doubt the truth of the statement:—

"A rumour of a most important nature was current here yesterday, that the British Government had ceded to the French the valuable fishing station of Belle Isle, on the southeastern coast of this Colony! the scene of Gallic encroachments, and about the protection of which so much anxiety has been expressed and so much money expended. If this rumour be true, the Parent Government may as well cede the whole Colony to France, people and all, for if our fishing grounds are thus to be plundered from us, the people may as well go along with them; certainly if this be the treatment we are to receive at the hands of the British Government, the link which binds our loyalty is all but snapped. We do not however, give implicit credit to this serious report. It is said to have emanated from some French vessel on its way to St. Pierre, the master of which has further averred, to confirm his statement, that materials for a stupendous Breakwater at Belle Isle had been prepared, and sent to the station.

FROM AUSTRALIA.—By way of San Francisco, we have a month's later advices from Australia. The dates from Melbourne are to Feb. 16, Hobart Town Feb. 25, and Sydney, Feb. 8.

The gold fever rages as high as ever. The most important intelligence comes from the Southern border diggings, where exceedingly rich mines have been discovered.

The Melbourne gold circular gives the price of gold at 75s 3d. At Sydney, our has advanced to £23 per ton.

Accounts of prodigious lumps of gold are given. It is asserted that a lump weighing 180 lbs had been found at the Ballarat diggings. A party of four, who had been two weeks in the colony, had found a lump weighing 1810 ounces, and sailed for England with their treasure.

The produce of the Victoria mines to the 5th of February \$19,373,377.

Diggers at the New Zealand mines were making a pound a day.

There resides in Andover, Mass., the largest man in New England, in the person of Mr. John J. Nourse. He is a native of Lynn—has resided there eight years—weighed last fall three hundred and eighty pounds! and is now forty-four years old.

THE JEWS' BILL.

The Lords have once more saved the consistency of the country. They have again rejected the Jew Bill, and have refused to endorse the draft of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, even though the safety of his Lordship's seat might depend upon the negotiability of the instrument. Thanks to the well-balanced order of our Constitution, the members of the Upper House are not liable to influences which may sway the opinions of the representative branch of the Legislature. The seat of a Peer is in no way contingent upon the will or the favour of a Jew money-lender. The House of Peers, therefore, can afford to set the House of Rothschild at defiance. The result is that the caprice of the City of London continues to deprive it of one of its representatives, that there are wailings in the synagogues, and the prescriptive character of the Legislature remains intact. *Nolumus leges Anglice mutari.*

The attempt has been sedulously repeated, to make it appear that the Jew question is one of national interest; that the reiterated vote of the House of Commons in favour of what is called Jewish emancipation is an evidence of popular feeling in the country. None know better than the gentleman who are constantly using this argument that it is wholly a sham. The people of England care as little about the Jews as the Jews care about the people of England. As, in the one case, it suits the purpose of certain ambitious Hebrews to aspire to national recognition, and to a direction in the affairs of the country, for purposes of a "purely commercial" nature; so, on the other hand, it is equally convenient for certain Liberal gentlemen, of very elastic political creeds and exceedingly restricted pecuniary circumstances, to affect a great concern for the remnant of ISRAEL to whom they owe so much.

But the Jews, as a body, care no more for the institutions of England than the Gallician Liberties, the Pragmatic Sanction, or the Decrees of the Council of Trent. And in return the people of England are profoundly indifferent about the political condition or the legislative disabilities of the Jews. It suits the convenience of Mr. Abraham Mendez to domicile in England, for certain reasons of an essentially pecuniary character; and it equally suits that respectable and tolerant gentleman Mr. Bull, to accept certain restricted relations with the sojourner; but to represent either as entertaining sympathy with the other,—to assert that there is any natural affinity or community of sentiment between the two,—or that as a general feeling on either side, there is a mutual yearning after identification and equality of privileges, is to say that which is principally untrue.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature in the discussion and division in the House of Lords was the share taken in it by the Bench of Bishops. It certainly is a most extraordinary and staggering thing, to find that ten Right Rev. Prelates, including the Archbishop, spoke, voted, and paired in favor of the admission of Jews into the Legislature. Altho' as we have said above, the House of Lords is exempt from those peculiar influences which may be supposed to be brought to bear upon the members of the lower house on a question of this kind, yet it cannot of course be put out of sight, that party considerations of an irresistible kind may sway many of their Lordships in a matter where the worst objection is, perhaps, indifference, or prejudice, or a declination to novelty.

We can well imagine, in the temporal poor, how general concurrence in opinion with the Government of the day which introduced the Jew Bill might induce him to elect—between the embarrassment of his party and the admission of a Jew or two into the House of Commons—or the latter alternative, as what he conceived to be less dangerous of the two.

THE OLDEST WOMAN.—The Charleston, (S. C.) Standard believes that Mrs. Singleton, now living in that State, is the oldest woman in the world. She is in the one hundred and thirty-first year of her age. Her mental faculties are still unimpaired, and she retains all her senses except that of sight, of which she was deprived at the advanced age of ninety-nine years, by an attack of measles. Her bodily energy has exhibited no diminution for many years, she being still able to walk briskly about the room. She has outlived all her children, her oldest descendant, living, being a grand-daughter, over sixty years old. The first grand-daughter, if now living, would be over one hundred and sixteen years of age.