

enriching parts of the manure, and to reduce much of the remainder to an insoluble state. Here, however, its pernicious effects may be counteracted (in part?) where there is a sufficient covering of mould to absorb the gases which would otherwise be dissipated in the air. Under such circumstances, its use may sometimes be advised.—*Fourth Report*, p. 349.

Mr. Timothy Benedict, of Pittsfield, in the fall of 1841 prepared a compost heap of swamp-muck and lime, by mixing one bushel of the latter with a common load of the former, taken fresh from the bed. The last spring he applied this to a portion of his corn field a shovel-full to the hill, treating the remainder of the field in a similar way with common stable manure. When examined by the Agricultural Committee in September, it appeared that the compost had been equally as efficacious as the manure. The crop was a luxuriant one and received the second premium of the Society. The writer's experiments, however, with muck and lime, both on gravelly and clayey soils, have proved entirely unsatisfactory; while from the use of the same quality of muck in combination with ashes, he has derived the most signal benefit.

Ashes and muck, in the proportion of four or five bushels of the former to a common load of the latter, form a very valuable compost. If the muck be in a fine powdered state, the materials may be thoroughly blended together, and applied at once to the soil. But if the muck be of a strong texture and contain much vegetable fibre, some time will be necessary for its decomposition. Leached ashes will answer the purpose equally as well as live, if a somewhat larger proportion be employed.

To this compost too high a value can hardly be attached. A series of experiments (amounting to twenty-nine in number), instituted, the past season, by the Editor of the New England Farmer, has resulted in showing it to be second in the scale of composts only to one composed of both the dung and urine of cattle, horses, hogs, and human beings, mixed with straw and muck, in a barn cellar. See the *Farmer*, vol. 21, p. 157.

Finally, it may be remarked in relation to compost heaps, that the more heterogeneous their materials, the more rapid and perfect will be their decomposition—since the greater the number of affinities brought into play, the greater will be the struggle between the particles of the mass to indulge their likings and antipathies in making selection of their future (though it may be very temporary) associates. Let not the manufacturer of composts, then, be afraid of laying under contribution too many of the sources of animal, vegetable, and mineral substances capable of being made to fatten his plants and to gladden the soil.

Occasion will be taken, in concluding, simply to express the sentiment, that would the present race of cultivators of the soil but "come to the light" which science is shedding upon their profession, and, in accordance with its teachings, pur in requisition the resources of fertility which every where abound around them, another generation would inherit from their hands a land of garden-spots, and "shout the merry harvest home," on fields where now is only heard the sad, monotonous complaint of "hard, hard times."

United States News.

N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Dec. 25.
THE OREGON.

There are various rumours and intimations afloat, to the effect that since the suspension of the negotiation at Washington, the question has been taken up in London, between our minister there (Mr. Mc Lane), and the British government, under circumstances of considerable promise. Our impression is, that Mr. Mc Lane has no instructions to negotiate on the above question; but under his general powers, he would of course receive any proposition which might be made to him, whether for compromise or arbitration, and transmit it to Washington. It is well understood that despatches from Mr. McLane, by the Acadia Steamer were received, but their purport has not transpired.

As a drawback upon the above mentioned rumor, it may be said that the Washington Union of Monday evening (the despatches must have reached Washington on Sunday morning), recommends preparations for defence, though at the same time expressing a belief, or at least confident hope, that these would not be war.

The President, it is understood, has signed the joint resolution for the admission of Texas, and forwarded a copy of it by a private messenger to the capital of Texas. Two months will probably see Texas sinking her identity as an independent nation into a single State of this Union, with representatives upon the floor of Congress.

Senator Levy has moved a resolution proposing negotiations with Spain, for the Cession of Cuba to the United States. The spirit of territorial aggrandizement has seized upon us, and it may be difficult to prescribe limits to its influence.—Excessive ambition not unfrequently overleaps itself.

The Havana *Diario de la Morino* of the 14th ult. states that persons well acquainted with the secrets of the Mexican Government, say that propositions to that Government have been made by our consul at the City of Mexico, to settle the boundaries of the two countries (the annexation question being settled,) in the following manner. The United States to pay an indemnification of 4 or \$5,000,000; their boundary to be the Rio Bravo del Norte, including part of the States of Tamulipas, Cohahuila, Chihuahua, and new Mexico, together with the City of Santa Fe. The Vera Cruzano gives the following statement of the territory by Mexico, under such an arrangement.—The whole of Texas—21,000 square leagues; Chihuahua—out of 21,526 square leagues, she will lose 3,600; New Mexico, out of 11,000 do., she will lose 6,000; Conhuils—out of 6,500 do., she will lose 1,175; Tamaulipas—out of 6,400 do., she will lose 2,300. Total loss, 34,075 square leagues.

It is also stated by the same authority, that propositions have also been made for the acquisition of New California.—The boundaries would be in that case, the River Gila, which unites with the Colorado near its mouth, and empties into the Gulf of California. This stream runs almost due West from the Rocky Mountains, through the State of Sonora. This acquisition would give us the harbors of San Francisco, Monterey and San Pedro.

The correspondent of the N. Y. Herald writes as follows:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12, 1845.
"Negotiations are opened for the purchase of California, and in less than sixty days it will be ours. This is all I can tell you now, but you may rely upon this information."

The New York Tribune remarks thereon, as below:

Putting these two articles together, and observing that there is no chance for collusion between the writers, it is placed beyond doubt that Mr. Slidell has gone out instructed to offer Mexico a handsome bonus out of the capacious pocket of Uncle Sam for a relinquishment of her claims to all territory this side of the Rio del Norte, Santa Fe included, and that he is farther instructed to make a still larger offer—not less than \$10,000,000, and very likely more—for a cession to us of Upper California as far south as the little river Gila. These two cessions, if made, will give us about half, if we mistake not, of the territory constituting the Mexican Republic prior to the insurrection in Texas. Of course, if we buy California we buy all North of a line running due East from the river Gila (or the head of the Gulf of California, very nearly) to the Rio del Norte.

That we are utterly opposed to the policy of acquiring distant territory our readers well know. The purchase of Louisiana was justified by the necessity of the case; the free navigation of the Mississippi being deemed essential to the prosperity of our Western country. We know not on what principle the purchase of vast regions westward of even the Rio del Norte, and so to the Pacific Ocean, is to be justified. We surely do not need these territories; their people have never consented to be transferred to us; and the mass of them are unqualified to discharge intelligently and safely the duties of citizens of a Republic like ours. If it were not a settled fact that Abstractionists, Nullifiers, sticklers for State Rights, "the Resolutions of '98," and all that, would stretch the Constitution to cover any act they deemed expedient, we might ask, Where is the constitutional power to run the people of the United States in debt for such purposes? but that would be a waste of breath. There is never any lack of power to do whatever is calculated to strengthen certain interests.

We do not see why a Republic should buy Foreign territory while it has ten times as much already as it can improve for a century to come. California may be cheap at ten or even twenty millions of dollars; but do we want it? Suppose

we could buy the whole earth at the same rate, ought we to do it? To what end? And out of whose pockets would the purchase money come? For whose especial benefit would it be paid?

But between buying provinces and fighting for them, the choice is so immeasurably great and important that we shall be happy to see our differences with Mexico amicably and satisfactorily settled on any reasonable terms. If, therefore, it shall hereafter transpire that Mr. Slidell has been able to purchase from Mexico her claims to Texas and all this side of the Rio del Norte, with California and all North of the Gulf of that name, for any sum not exceeding \$2,000,000 we shall decidedly and heartily advocate the ratification of the treaty. The consideration, large as it may seem, will fall short of the cost of one year's actual hostilities, to say nothing of the infinite miseries and crimes of War.

And now gentlemen extenders of the area of Freedom! two words with you. You have gone in, it seems, for the acquirement of California. We hear that said country is chargeable with heavy British mortgages, and that England is intent on acquiring it. Now if we are in for a race with her for California, let it be a good natured one. If we win, we keep; so if we lose, let us not complain of "cheating all round the board" and get in a passion with our ill fortune. Our attempt justifies Great Britain's so far that we cannot object to it.

FACTS ABOUT OREGON.

The actual distance to be sailed from New York to the mouth of the Columbia River, by the way of Cape Horn, is estimated at 15,000 miles. A ship canal at Panama to be cut through the Isthmus of Darien, which is only thirty-seven miles, would save eight thousand miles, or more than half the distance, reducing the voyage out and back to less than the time now required to make the passage out. The distance from New York to the mouth of the Columbia River by land is about three thousand seven hundred miles.

The territory which the British claim in Oregon north of 49-degrees, is represented by those who best know it, as bleak, inhospitable, and barren, abounding in volcanic mountains and glaciers. It is now valuable only for its furs, and these, through the indefatigable efforts of the Hudson Bay company, are rapidly diminishing.

The American colony in the valley of the Wallamette is said to number about 8000 souls, though this estimate is probably overrated. The climate is considered to be equable and salubrious, and the soil deep, strong and fertile. The crops never fail, the water is remarkably pure, and the water privileges abundant.

Should we ever extend our possessions over North Oregon as far as Bomanzoff mountains, near the seventieth parallel, we shall reach that latitude where the sun does not set in summer. Near the mountains in summer the sun appears to stand as still as it did in the days of Joshua. In June it is 25 degrees above the horizon at "midnight," and the only mode of knowing that it is midnight is watching the sun when it begins to ascend. Fowls go to roost about 7, P. M. and repose until the sun is well up. In winter it is of course the reverse, as in high latitudes the sun is not seen for six weeks.

BRITISH IN OREGON.

The Hudson Bay Company sent out for three hundred Canadian settlers last spring; they have a hundred Sandwich Islanders in their employ, and a settlement of emigrants from Red River, Canada, has been formed under the auspices of the Company's agent.

REPORT OF A NEW REVOLUTION IN MEXICO.

A private letter was received to-day from Havana, of the 9th inst., from a respectable quarter, stating that the English steamer had just arrived from Vera Cruz, bringing the intelligence that despatches had been received at Vera Cruz an hour or two before the sailing of the steamer, and that Paredres, at the head of 2,000 men, is marching on the city of Mexico from St. Louis Potosi, 300 miles off and that there will be no opposition to him in this city. The grounds of his pronouncement are, the intention of the government to enter into a treaty with the United States for the annexation of Texas. It is suspected that a foreign nation was indirectly concerned in the movement. It is said that the despatches were received on the same day that Mr. Slidell left Vera Cruz.—*Washington Union*.

From the Washington Union.
By the special messenger just arrived from Vera Cruz, via Havana and Charleston, we learn that Mr. John Slidell arrived at Vera Cruz on 29th ultimo, having met with a very cordial reception from the authorities there. He took his seat in the stage on the evening of the 1st instant, for the city of Mexico, attended by an escort of Mexican troops. A few days before our informant left, news had reached Vera Cruz that General Urrea, governor of the province of Sonora, had pronounced against the authorities of the Mexican government, declaring the province independent. On the 1st instant, a private express arrived at Vera Cruz, stating that General Paredres had pronounced against the present government, and was about to march on the city of Mexico from San Luis.

Colonial News.

Canada.

Quebec, December 20.—Although a division of opinion exists on both sides of the line 45 as to a war being the result of President Polk's recent Message to Congress, we find that very warlike preliminaries are being made on the Canadian side of the line, especially at Montreal, where the bustle of active preparation for the reception of an enemy is most marked.

It is really curious to read the various announcements in the Montreal papers from the officers of the several Militia corps. One would imagine the foe was all but at hand. We select the following as a specimen of the preparation making for the "approaching war;"—a crisis seemingly decided upon in our sister city:—

Montreal Rifles.—Wanted for the first company, a few active young men.

To Volunteers.—The undersigned beg to inform those men who are desirous of serving under them during the approaching War, that they will meet them at the office of Birsf & Colburn, Pointe-a-Caliere, on Friday evening the 19th instant at eight o'clock.

God save the Queen.
Montreal Light Infantry.—(No. 2 Company) Young and active men who mean service, and are desirous of joining the above company, will find a book of enrolment open at Irving's Hotel, St. Claude street, near the New Market Buildings.

Montreal Light Infantry.—Active young men desirous of joining Capt. James Morton Millar's (Flank) company, will apply immediately to any of the undersigned Lieutenants.

Montreal Rifles.—Active Young Men, desirous of enrolling themselves in Captain Robert Eston's Company, are requested to make application to either of the undersigned officers, who will give any information required.

Montreal Rifles.—As it is the desire of the Provincial Government that this Rifle Corps should be Reorganized, Captain John Blackwood requests, that all those who wish to join his Company will give in their names to him, at No. 44, St. Louis Street, or to Mr. Henry Lyman, First Lieutenant, 192, St. Paul Street.

Quebec Gazette, Dec. 25.
We are sorry to have to record the loss of two more of our outward bound vessels, one of them supposed to be the bark Montreal, Capt. Douglas, which sailed hence on the morning of the 23th Nov. with the loss of her crew and passengers.

The following is an extract of a letter received here yesterday from Mr. Charles Campbell, dated.—

"Matane, 15th Dec., 1845.
"A man from Ste. Anne, (district of Gaspé), named Thos. Allison, who has just arrived here, reports two wrecks at Cape Chat, the crew of one was saved, but, sad to relate, of the other vessel, not one is left to tell the tale. Several of their bodies have been washed on shore, among them are a woman and a child. On the vessel's burgee, which is torn, are the three first letters of her name—MON

"He further reports a Schooner being totally wrecked about six miles below the bark—none of her crew seen at all, and supposed to have no cargo, as none was seen.

"This man further states that he had seen, close to the bark, a full female figure-head—painted white."

A letter has been received from Capt. Miller, of the ship Wm. Bayard, by Messrs. A. Gilmour & Co, informing them of the loss of that vessel, which went ashore on the 6th instant, at Little