

**A Spanish Scare.**  
The steamer *North Point*, of the Lorrain line, says the *New York Herald*, is being refitted in elegant style at the foot of Fifth street, East River, preparatory to accommodating Howes & Cushing's circus, which troupe is to inaugurate a tour of the West Indies and South America on the 15th of the present month. A gang of fifty men has been assiduously at work on the vessel for a week past, under the superintendence of Capt. Smith, who at one time commanded the *Virginia*, about which as a row was raised between the respective governments of Washington and Madrid. Although the work has gone on quietly, a number of suspicious looking and suspiciously acting strangers have been observed for some days loitering about the pier, with apparently an undefined object. The movements of the crew were closely scrutinized by these strangers, and every little preparation about the ship noted with remarkable attention. The reason of all this heretofore unaccountable espionage has come to light at last.

The Spanish Consul in this city, having learned that an expedition was fitting out for the avowed purpose of transporting a circus troupe, somehow became impressed with the notion that the real design of the movement was to furnish aid to the Cuban patriots and menace the peace of his Majesty's possessions in the West Indies. He was persuaded the circus story was altogether "a guy," and accordingly took precautionary measures. The result has been the presence on the pier, day and night, of a score of vigilant detectives in the pay of the Alfonso government, who follow the hands to their homes, keep strict surveillance over the wildest privateersman, Capt. Smith, and in divers other ways seek to discover the secret of the real destination and object of the expedition about to start. Hereafter they will be afforded every opportunity to inspect the doings of the crew and gain the most authentic information concerning the whole design. Here is an opportunity for a good laugh at the expense of the Spanish Consul.

**The British Arctic Expedition.**  
One of the steamers of the British Arctic Expedition arrived at Valparaiso on October 27, and Captain Nares, its commander, sent the following dispatch to the Admiralty: "The *Polar Sea* is never navigable. The ordinary ice averages eighty feet in thickness. Animal life and the northern migration of birds end south of Cape Columbia. A memorial tablet was erected to Captain Hall, of the *Polaris* Expedition, at Polar Bay. Esquimaux traces cease on the west shore in latitude eighty degrees fifty-two minutes, whence they cross to Greenland. The impracticability of reaching the North Pole was proved. All the neighboring lands were examined." The highest point the expedition reached was latitude eighty-three degrees twenty minutes, while Captain Hall's expedition penetrated only latitude to eighty-two degrees sixteen minutes. Captain Hall's journey was made in a small wooden steamer, of only 400 tons burden and very poorly adapted to the purpose of Arctic exploration. Captain Nares's expedition was made with two ships which were thought to be specially fit for the task, and it was confidently hoped when the expedition sailed that the North Pole would be reached by means of sledges and boats. Captain Nares has failed to accomplish the feat he hoped to accomplish, but his explorations were extended very widely to the east and west, and his report will doubtless show that he has at least added considerably to the world's knowledge of the polar regions; how much, we shall not know until the report shall be published. At present the result in this direction is wholly negative, the only new fact in Arctic geography which has been announced by telegraph being that President Land does not exist.

**The Uses of Adversity.**  
It was my privilege at one time, to visit a home which exemplifies how well a noble woman could endure adversity. Her husband had been a wealthy man, but, ruined by unfortunate speculations, had fled for peace to an obscure country place. In the midst of a sapling forest he built a tiny one-story cot containing five rooms. Vines decorated the outside walls, while here and there were bright flowers of easy growth nodding in the sunshine. A broad walk of clean gravel encircled the house. A hall running the length of the house terminated at either end in a doorway. The "parlor" looked out on the side of the hill. This room was furnished by the industry of the wife, who, although accustomed to every luxury, cheerfully made the best of adversity, and learned to fashion simple comforts from the scant materials on hand. The curtains shading the windows were of coarse white muslin. Seats formed of wooden boxes, covered with calico, were ranged about the room. A small table occupied the center of the apartment. A few common plants, framed in acorn cups, pine burrs, and the like rustic treasures hung upon the walls. The corner opposite the window was filled by a row of book-shelves, formed of narrow pieces of plank, supported upon cords and stained in dark colors. The bare floors of the miniature home were always spotless. The beds were white and invited one to an undisturbed repose. The table, spread with frugal repast, wore the same tidy and attractive look, though stern poverty stared through its thin coverings. In the summer weather the meals were taken in the hall near the vine-shadowed door. At all times a quiet happiness seemed to reign in the miniature house.

**A Wonderful Clock.**—An astronomical clock is one of the Nantucket, (Mass.) wonders. It was commenced in 1788 and wound up July 4, 1790. The sun and moon rise and set in the clock in correct opposition to the luminaries in the heaven. It keeps the motions of all the moon's nodes around the ecliptic, which takes eighteen years and two hundred and twenty-five days in the revolution, and the wheel that performs the revolution requires the same length of time to make its circuit, being all the time in motion. One of the wheels that keeps the date of the year is a century in making a revolution, moving one notch in every ten years.

One of the largest and most thriving towns of Ohio, a well known hotel-keeper and politician was appointed collector of internal revenue. One morning he found on his desk a letter addressed to him officially, without postmark, containing a five hundred dollar greenback, to which was pinned a small piece of paper with "Conscience money" written thereon. Quietly holding up the greenback and putting it in his pocket-book, he remarked, "I always did suspect that barometer of mine."

**Padded With Diamonds.**  
About a month ago, a man named Daniel Goldschmidt arrived at this port from Germany on board the steamship *Oder*, having in his possession considerable baggage, which, in connection with some circumstances occurring on the voyage, aroused the suspicion of the Custom House authorities, and the baggage was seized and placed in the public stores, where it now remains awaiting a thorough examination. The baggage has been claimed several times since, but kept back for further developments, which have come with more than anticipated expectations.

On the 12th inst. the steamer *Abbyana* arrived at Jersey City. While in quarantine, General Nichols, deputy surveyor, Mr. Wm. V. Leggett, one of his aids, and a number of other inspectors, made an examination of the passenger list, which revealed the fact that Mrs. Daniel Goldschmidt was one of the number. On private information received a sharp lookout was kept on the lady, and as soon as the steamer was moored to the dock, Mrs. Margaret C. Steele, one of the oldest of the custom house inspectors, was directed to take charge of Mrs. Goldschmidt and her companion.

In making the usual declaration required to be filed to the deputy surveyor and his aids, and sworn to by the passengers, Mrs. Goldschmidt deposed that she had nothing dutiable among her effects. She was taken into the cabin, and Mrs. Steele, having her suspicions aroused by the plump appearance of the lady, at once surmised that the filling out of the bust was anything but natural. On disrobing the lady passenger, Mrs. Steele found two protruberances of a bulbous form covering her breast, which contained, in the cotton padding, the following schedule of valuables, estimated to be worth at least \$20,000: Ten coral bands, one pair of gold earrings, one gold pin, one pair of emerald earrings, one pair of pearl enameled earrings, seven pairs of diamond studs, three coral studs, one pair diamond earrings, two pearl crosses, one watch ring, one diamond brooch, one diamond pin with solitary pearl; one cameo, pearl and diamond pin, one pearl, diamond and stone brooch, one diamond and pearl brooch, one diamond cross, one pearl pendant and center, valued at \$1,000.

Some more goods of similar import were also found on Miss C. Odell, a companion and nurse of Mrs. Goldschmidt's two children. The astonishment of this lady at the thorough search made of her person by Mrs. Steele may be better imagined than described, and on her report, Inspector Leggett seized also her trunks and hand-baggage. This consisted of nine pieces; which were sent at once to the public stores, and yesterday afternoon turned into the seizure-room of the Custom House Deputy Collector Dudley F. Phelps, of the seizure division, received the papers yesterday, and ordered the captured goods into the seizure-room.

The above seizures, however, is not the concluding part of the story. There is still a sequel connected therewith, which involves the apprehension of \$60,000 worth more jewelry and diamonds, besides involving the parties implicated in the attempted smuggling in a civil suit as well as a criminal action at law. It appears that Mr. Goldschmidt had been engaged in business at Mannheim, Duchy of Baden, Bavaria, and failed. A few days before his bankruptcy, it is alleged, he procured a large stock of valuable jewelry and diamonds as in the regular course of business, and made away with a large portion thereof coming to this country, and caused his wife to follow him with the balance in her possession as above described.

The creditors in Europe, on learning of the flight of Goldschmidt, invoked the aid of their government, and on dispatches received here, a suit for the attachment of the goods was obtained from the courts for the \$20,000 worth of jewelry found on the lady's person, and three bags full, valued at \$60,000, which could not be traced by the State officers, but are now in possession of the United States customs authorities. — *New York Herald.*

**GUNPOWDER.**—By equalizing the power of every individual man, gunpowder made an end of the oppression of the weak by the strong, as was the case during the reign of feudalism, in the middle ages. Physical strength no longer gave entire superiority to its possessor, and the powerful soon found that he had to practice justice, even to the lowest and feeblest of his neighbors and dependents. Gunpowder is truly a great civilizer. It put an end to the barbarous and demoralizing hand-to-hand fights, and has thus made wars less ferocious and less destructive, as it decides the battles with far less destruction of life than was formerly the case. Even the improved appliances of the present day, the cannon of enormous size, the *mitrailleuses*, Gatling guns, needle guns, breech-loading rifles, etc., murderous as they look, and able to kill many men in a shorter time before, have, strange to say, an effect contrary to the theory, by which they were naturally supposed to have the result of augmenting the list of victims in battles. Statistics of all the recent battles in which all these appliances were used have indeed shown a much reduced slaughter of human beings, in proportion to the number engaged, than was the case in battles fought before these apparently very destructive and murderous inventions were adopted.

**BIRDS AND LIGHTHOUSES.**—The brightness of the lamps in the light-houses of our coast frequently produce great destruction among the birds. As they fly along the beach in the gloom of evening, or seek the shelter of the land when the ocean breezes blow too strong for their comfort or pleasure, they are dazzled by the brilliancy of the lights in the towers and frequently fly blindly against the building, crushing and breaking their bones, and often killing them instantly. On Wednesday evening vast numbers flew against the tower at Macyport and were killed, or so badly bruised that they crawled away to die. It is said one of the light-keepers swept off in the morning six hundred dead birds from the top of the tower, and that many others were scattered on the ground at its feet. — *Jacksonville Union.*

The School Board of Boston have repealed the ordinance by which corporal punishment was allowed to be inflicted in the girls' grammar and high schools of that city.

**THE LUSCIOUS BIVALVE.**  
Its Esquisite, Commercial and Industrial Value.  
A HARMFUL PROJECT TO UTILIZE THE GREAT GULF OF CALIFORNIA.  
ITS ADVANTAGES FROM A LOCAL STANDPOINT.  
SAN FRANCISCO THE GREAT OYSTER DEPOT OF THE WORLD.  
How the Most Delicious of Mollusks Animals will be Made Universally Profitable.

A splendid opportunity for the investment of capital.  
Every enterprise which involves a large expenditure of money should possess industrial and commercial features to commend it to the favor of capitalists and assure financial success. A glance at the most important industries of the Pacific Coast, which have rapidly advanced in importance and contributed to the general prosperity, will show that they have utilized the natural advantages of this section of the world, and that those who originally invested in them had also in view foreign as well as local demands. Some of these industries are of course more ramified than others, but even those which are most remote in their operations have a direct influence on the business vitality of the State. In some cases, too, so great has been the success gained that the capital invested has nearly doubled every year, and immense fortunes have consequently been made. These industries are consequently the most profitable and the most desirable to those who have experienced and enterprising men with the utmost confidence in the fortunes of the Pacific Coast, and encourage the introduction of new industries by both individuals and corporations.

**WORTHY OF FULL CONFIDENCE.**  
Seldom, however, in the history of San Francisco has a company been incorporated of greater promise than the Gulf of California Oyster and Canning Company, with a capital of several millions, and having as its trustees and officers men of the highest integrity. The Board of Trustees is composed of Pedro Garcia, A. Blacklock, William Satter Manning, J. P. Parsons and Ben Hanson Jose Gonzalez; the officers are—President, A. Blacklock; Vice-President, Don Ramon Jose Gonzalez; Secretary, William Satter Manning; and Treasurer, S. J. Pursegrove. All these gentlemen have largely invested in the enterprise, and being familiar with the business upon which they have entered, they know perfectly well what they are about. Their preliminary arrangements, likewise, are very complete, and it is impossible to overstate the capacity of the business, the industry and financial results cannot fail to be satisfactory to all parties interested in it. Those who have already taken the trouble to inquire into the matter, or who are desirous of the warmest terms in regard to the character of the enterprise, should have considerable faith beyond the knowledge of superficially-informed persons, and it is certain to revolutionize the oyster trade in California, and make the delicious bivalve a familiar article in every household, no matter how limited may be the supply of money for household expenses.

**AN EXPENSIVE LUXURY.**  
For some time past Baltimore has had the lead in the oyster business by reason of having made casing fresh oysters a specialty, from that place the best oysters thus far obtained. A consignment was sent to New York and all the popular hotels, and also to London and Paris. In consequence, however, of the great expense attending the gathering of the oysters and the cost of the freight, the oysters in the East, the prices charged have been so great that only such persons as have been able to pay liberally to gratify their tastes have been able to procure the luxury. Indeed, the popular hotels in New York, and other cities, have been seen that eating oysters at the price they are now obtaining, which only a stretch of generosity can reconcile with prudence. Certainly there has never been any element of fragility in the oyster trade, but then as all luxuries are costly there has been no apparently reasonable complaint to make. Considering, however, the abundant production of oysters in every part of the world there is no reason whatever why they should be regarded as a luxury on account of their cost. That they will always be a luxury in consequence of their unequalled delicacy of flavor and superior nutritive qualities, is certain. To reduce their cost, therefore, is an important object to gain, for they are one of the few things which are desired and relished by the whole human race.

**THE LARGEST AND RICHEST BIVALVE.**  
This is the purpose of the Gulf of California Oyster and Canning Company, together with creating an industry which will contribute largely to the prosperity of San Francisco. Before incorporating, the company had obtained full rights from the Mexican government, and an important oyster bed in the Gulf. So prolific are the oysters that they produce oysters enough to liberally supply all the great cities of the world, and as for size and richness of flavor there are no other oysters to compare with them. The celebrated Sturtevant is far inferior to the oysters of California cannot compare with them in any respect. Residents of all cities very far distant from New York and Baltimore who have made the Gulf of California oysters a specialty in their diet, and who are well known to the time they are used, and that they are preferred only for that reason. Yet even the larger Eastern oysters are considerably smaller than those of the Gulf. 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