



throughout his ocean-voyage: but this advantage is largely fictitious; for, with better knowledge of winds and currents, it is now seldom found advisable for sailing-vessels to follow such a route; and steamers, that can afford to pay little attention to the weather, prefer the great circle, or shortest-line course, to the longer one, so easily determined on the Mercator chart. The difficulty that stands in the way of the general adoption of great-circle sailing is the complexity of the calculation required in laying out the track to be followed. If this difficulty can be overcome by the use of the conic projection, then the owners of vessels desirous of quick passages can hardly fail to demand its introduction.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*\*\* Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.*

##### A colt and its mother's blanket.

My attention was called recently to the peculiar actions of an orphan colt, which perhaps are worth recording. When the colt was two weeks old, its mother died. Previous to her death, she was covered with a blanket. When it was apparent she could not live, the blanket was thrown over the fence, and the mare removed, and the colt left in the enclosure. The colt was very much exercised at first, ran up and down the yard neighing; but, when it came near the blanket on the fence, it stopped, smelled of it, and seemed pacified. It evidently considered the blanket its mother, and has continued to do so.

If the blanket is removed from the fence, the colt becomes restless, runs about neighing, but is reconciled by the sight of the blanket again.

If one throw the blanket over his back, the colt will follow the bearer all about.

It will graze about in the vicinity of the blanket, but will not go far away, and, when it wishes to rest, will go and lie down by it.

F. L. HARVEY.

Fayetteville, Ark., May 20.

##### The invention of the vertical camera in photography.

In a footnote accompanying an article by Mr. Simon H. Gage, printed in this journal under date of April 11, 1884, on the application of photography to the production of natural-history figures, it was stated, that the only other persons employing a vertical camera in photography, known to the writer, were Dr. Theo. Deecke of the State lunatic-asylum at Utica, N.Y., and Dr. Dannadiou of Lyons, France.

As a matter of fact, the vertical camera, now used for photographing natural-history specimens, etc., is the outcome of a suggestion made in December, 1869, by Professor Baird to Mr. T. W. Smillie, the photographer in the U. S. national museum, Washington, D.C., that the instrument be placed on an incline; the former having observed the difficulty experienced in photographing with the horizontal camera such objects as stone implements, fish, etc. This sugges-