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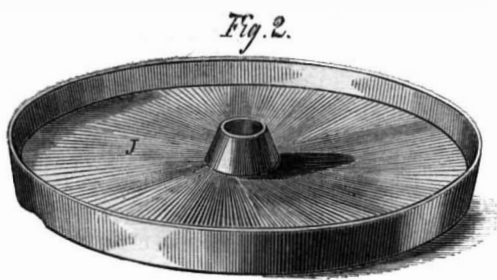
{ \$3 per Annum,
[IN ADVANCE.]

Improved Cooking Apparatus.

The primitive method of cooking meats has never been really improved. All meats are better, more healthy, juicy, and palatable when roasted than when prepared in any other way. Those who have pursued hunting as a sport, or a means of living, can testify to the delicacy of flavor imparted to specimens of the smaller varieties of game, when spitted and roasted before an open fire in the woods. In our homes we easily detect the difference between a broiled and a fried steak, and are compelled to award the meed of praise to the first. But in broiling, the house is often filled with the fumes of the meat and the kitchen dimmed with smoke. To remedy these inconveniences is one object of the device here illustrated, and to lighten the labors of the cook another.

The engraving represents a circular box of sheet metal, or cast iron, the bottom having an aperture at a point between the center and the periphery, which fits over the hole on the top of a stove, instead of an ordinary cover. Attached to this bottom is a cover with a handle sliding in guides, which projects beyond the box at the back, and by which the stove top can be covered or uncovered, without removing the whole apparatus. This device is not shown in the engraving.

A perforated circular disk, A, is suspended by the shaft, B, and is revolved by clock machinery contained in the drum, C, the connection being made by the clutch, D. By winding the clock spring at E, the disk, A, can be made to revolve at a steady and moderate speed for one hour. It may be stopped at any time by turning the screw head, F, and started by the same means.



The central shaft, B, has, just above the perforated plate, a milled disk, G, which serves to give motion to either or both the drums, H and I, which can be removed at will. H is an open and I a closed roaster for coffee. The berries are introduced at the ends of the drums, the heads being made double, and one sliding or rotating past the other.

For baking pies, cakes, or bread, the plate, J, Fig. 2, is placed over the perforated disk, the upper part or shell of the box being removed for this purpose. The shell can then be replaced, the door, K (broken away in the drawing), closed, and the apparatus becomes an oven, as close and perfect as could be desired.

It can be readily seen how convenient and efficient such a contrivance would be when applied to a cooking stove, range, or even a parlor stove which had an aperture at the top. Perfect evenness of cooking can be assured by the uniform movement of the disk, A, and the apparatus can be used either for the broiling or roasting of steaks, birds, poultry, joints, etc., or as an oven for baking of cakes, bread, pies, or any of the concoctions of the pastry worker. The cover, K, can be left open, or kept closed, as may be desired. When open the fumes from broiling or roasting will all follow the draught through the

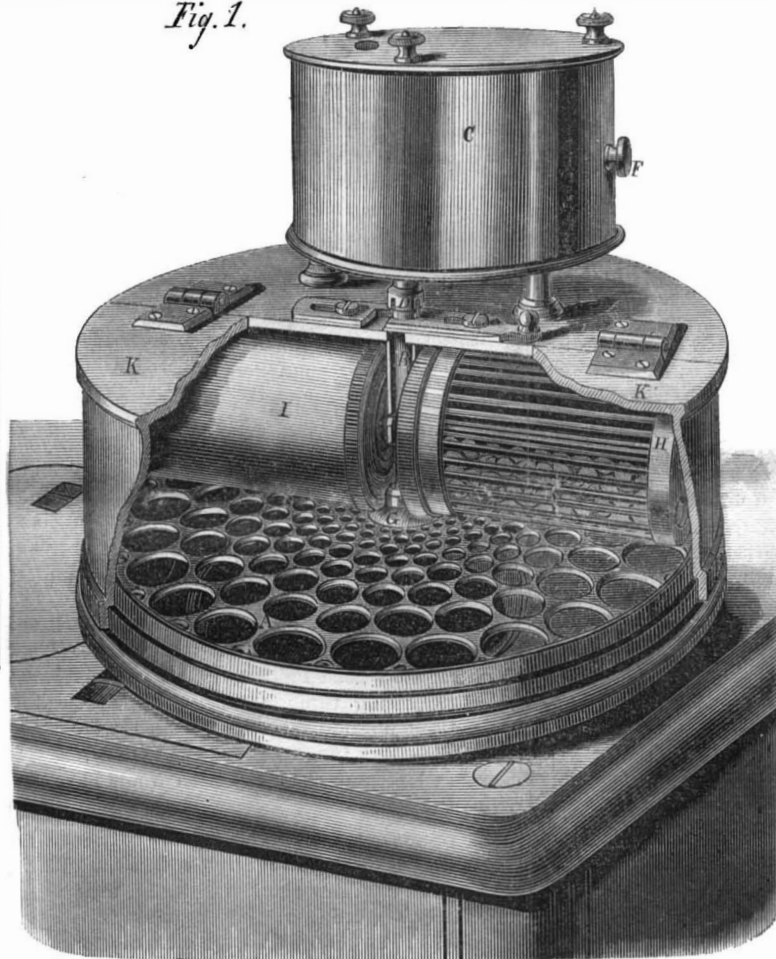
stove, as the contrivance sits close to the stove top.

The clock-work is sufficiently removed from the fire to be unaffected by the heat, and is of the simplest character, not liable to get out of order. The whole contrivance is as ornamental as it is useful.

Patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, July 10, 1866, by A. C. Kasson, Milwaukee,

forty-five men and boys, to make experiments upon a gold and copper mine. They reached the island Monahigan, on the coast of Maine, latitude 43 deg. 30 sec., in April, where they made some attempt at the whaling business; but failing in that, they built seven boats, in which thirty-seven men made a very successful fishing voyage. Thus the first humble attempt at the fishing business was made in American bottoms.

Fig. 1.



KASSON'S COOKING APPARATUS.

In 1624, within four years after the landing, the Colony at Plymouth received an accession of a carpenter and a salt maker, sent out by the Company. Of the former, Governor Bradford says, "He quickly builds two very good and strong shallops, with a great and strong lighter, and had hewn timber for ketches (a much larger description of vessel), but this spoilt; for in the heat of the season, he falls into a fever and dies, to our great loss and sorrow." The salt maker—for whom the lighter appears to have been built—selected a site and erected a building, and made an attempt to manufacture salt for the fishery, first at Cape Ann, and the next year at Cape Cod, both of which essays were, through his ignorance and self-will, unsuccessful.

At Monamet, now Sandwich, near Cape Cod, whither the settlers removed about that time, a pinnace was built by the Plymouth people in 1627, for the purpose of fishing. But the first

Wis., to whom or to N. C. Gridley, Box 3,354, St. Louis, Mo., apply for rights or additional information.

The First Ship Building in this Country.

From the "History of American Manufactures," we learn that New York was the first locality of ship building in this country. The account is as follows:—

The first vessel, with the exception of a few open boats, built by the followers of De Soto, ever constructed by Europeans in this country, was a Dutch yacht, named the *Onrest* or *Restless*, of 38 feet keel, 44½ feet long, 11½ feet wide, and 16 tuns burden. She was built by Capt. Adriaen Block, at Manhattan (now East) River, in 1614, to supply the place of one destroyed by fire, which, with four others, arrived there that year from Amsterdam. In her, Captain Hendrickson, in August, 1616, discovered the Schuykill River, and explored nearly the whole coast from Nova Scotia to the Capes of Virginia, after which he returned to Holland; and having presented a finely executed map of the coast, he asked a grant of the country, which was not conceded, however. During the same year (1614), Captain John Smith sailed for "North Virginia" with two ships and

vessel of any size constructed there was a bark built by subscription in 1641. She was of about fifty tuns burden, and was estimated to cost two hundred lbs. It appears by the records of Plymouth, there were thirteen proprietors, of whom William Paddy, William Hanburry, and John Barnes, owned each one-eighth part, and William Bradford, John Jenny, John Atwood, Samuel Hicks, George Bower, John Cook, Samuel Jenny, Thomas Willets, Stephen Hopkins and Edward Bangs, each one-sixteenth part.

The building of this vessel, though small, it has been truly remarked [see Mass. Hist. Coll.], "was an undertaking at that period of exigency and privation, surpassing the equipment of a Canton or Northwest ship with our means at the present day." John Drew, from Wales, who settled at Plymouth, as early as 1660, is believed to have been a ship carpenter, and a number of his descendants, in that and other times, pursued the business—one of them at Halifax, on the Winetuxet, a small branch of Taunton River.

SHIP-BUILDING IN MASSACHUSETTS.—In the records of the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay, it is stated, April 17, 1629, that they had "six shipwrights, of whom Robert Molton is chief;"

and in May following it was recorded that provision had been sent over "for building ships, as pitch, tar, oakum, tools, etc.," and it was proposed to set apart a house for such stores, to make an inventory of them, and to give Molton the charge of the whole. Fishing vessels were to be built on shares. The first vessel ever built in Massachusetts—Plymouth being then a separate colony—was a bark launched at Mystic (now Medford) on the fourth of July, 1631, and named by Governor Winthrop, to whom she belonged, *The Blessing of the Bay*. In the course of the season this vessel made several coasting trips, and soon after visited Manhattan and Long Island. On this occasion, Mr. Winthrop says, the sailors were surprised at seeing, at Long Island, Indian canoes of great size. Some of these specimens of aboriginal boat building were capable of carrying eighty persons. The natives were no doubt equally amazed at the proportions and novel architecture of the largest vessel, probably, that had yet floated on the waters of the Sound. Another vessel of sixty tons called the *Rebecca*, was built in 1633, at Medford, where Mr. Cradock, the first governor chosen by the Company, had a shipyard. A ship of one hundred and twenty tons was built at Marblehead by the people of Salem in 1636.

CHILLED SHOT.

Mr. Fairbairn, in his treatise on iron ship building, which appeared so recently as the close of last year, records his opinion that cast and wrought iron were not materials calculated to make a serious impression upon armor plates, and that nothing had been found to answer the purpose better than hardened steel. The cast iron prepared by Dr. Price, and the case hardened shot prepared by Major Palliser, Mr. Fairbairn considered, might answer the purpose in some cases, but he questioned whether this material, however well prepared, could be made to hold together, and not break in pieces when the shot struck the plates. So he came to the conclusion that steel shot and shell were the only projectiles suited for attacking iron-plated vessels. Major Palliser, however, has recently succeeded in demonstrating most thoroughly and practically that, by his method of chilling the shot when cast, he obtains a metal possessing a hardness equal to that of steel and a toughness approaching very closely to that of wrought iron. He has thus solved one of the most important questions of modern gunnery—that of penetrating armor with shells which do not explode until they have passed through the plate and backing—or, in other words, completely through a ship's side. Major Palliser is by no means the first to accomplish this object; the credit of that is due to Mr. Whitworth, who effected his purpose with comparatively small projectiles and low charges of powder. Following the latter gentleman, others have done the same thing, but two serious drawbacks to success were always present. The shells for the most part exploded backward on contact, and being made of steel, were very expensive, their cost for large ordnance ranging from £7 to £20 each projectile. So, on the score of imperfection and of costliness, absolute success was not attained by any, nor until Major Palliser had perfected his chilled shot, which are both cheap and efficient, was it considered attainable. But the question was set at rest by a series of experiments which were carried out last week, at Shoeburyness, with various kinds of shell.

These experiments were instituted for the purpose of testing Major Palliser's chilled shells against those of the best steel projectiles, and in their results proved most valuable. The principle upon which Major Palliser manufactures these shells is worthy of notice as being something more than the old process of chilling. As the shells are required for a particular purpose, they must have something more than a mere chilled surface; a definite and carefully-determined hardness must be imparted throughout the metal. This condition is attained by a selection and combination of those brands of iron which have been found by experiment to chill to the exact extent required, a careful mean being observed between iron which it is difficult to chill and that which chills too hard. Added to the principle of manufacture is the principle of construction, which goes far toward the success of the projectile. The form given by Major Palliser is such as will convert

the sudden shock of impact as much as possible into a uniformly increasing pressure. In other words, the projectile has an elongated-pointed head, which is as essential an element in it as is the perfect chilling of the metal. Upon the occasion in question the firing was from an ordinary 7-inch wrought-iron muzzle-loader, with full battering charges of 22 lbs. of powder and a range of 200 yards. The shells were directed against a "Warrior" target, which was built of the ordinary 4½-inch plate with 18 inches of teak backing and an inner iron skin, the whole well braced and strengthened. Half the target was bolted on Mr. Bascomb's plan of india-rubber pads, the other half of the bolts being secured by Mr. Paget's steel cup washers. At the conclusion of the experiments it was found that Mr. Bascomb's system had stood better than Mr. Paget's, but then it appears that the shots almost invariably struck that part of the target bolted on Mr. Paget's principle, while that portion fastened with Mr. Bascomb's washers was scarcely touched. The experiments were commenced by firing a steel shell on Major Alderson's plan, having a screwed base, and being charged with 3 lbs. of loose powder. The shell penetrated the 4½-inch plate, but did no more, except to explode backward from the face of the target. The next shell, which was of the best steel, of Mr. Firth's, passed through the plate and entered the wood backing, but it exploded outward as the first had done. The third shell struck on the edge of the hole made by the first, passing easily through and exploding in the teak backing, which it set on fire. Other shells were tried with similar results in some instances, in others they were even less satisfactory, some of Mr. Firth's shells bursting before they reached the target; a few exploded in the gun. Three of Sir William Armstrong's conical-headed shells, made on the Belgian pattern, with a sharp cone, were fired, and produced a similar effect to those previously fired. After all the steel shells had been tried, Major Palliser's chilled-iron shells were tested, and the first shot proved the superiority of the system over all the others. The shell struck an uninjured portion of the target and went through the plate and backing so quickly as not to explode until it had passed beyond. The backing where the shell had passed through was splintered into fragments, and had the object been the side of a ship instead of a target, the results would have been most damaging to a gun's crew at quarters. The charge of the second Palliser shell did not explode, but after passing through the target the projectile broke itself up into fragments, which were sent spinning about in all directions with a velocity nearly as dangerous as an explosion would have imparted to them.

The results of these two shots were so conclusive that the charge of powder was reduced to 18 lbs., with which the third shell was fired. This shell missed the target and went away to sea; the next, however, which was fired without a bursting charge, went through the target, breaking up and scattering its fragments as before. The charge was then further reduced to 16 lbs. of powder, which was nearly equal to increasing the range from 200 yards to 1,000 yards, while the velocity of each shot on striking was less than 1,300 feet per second. But for all this, the next shell penetrated the plate and backing and was only stopped by coming in contact with one of the heavy struts which supported the target from behind, and which it broke. At this stage of proceedings the Ordnance Select Committee ordered the firing to cease, considering a continuation would only be a waste of time and powder. This will be the more apparent when we state that a few weeks since Major Palliser's projectiles were tried against the "Bellerophon" target, which has 6 inches of iron with 22 inches of teak, and an inch iron inner skin. The results, however, were precisely similar to those with the "Warrior" target, the shells passing through quite as easily. The results therefore constitute a victory for guns over armor plates, and this long pending question may be considered for the present as definitively settled. For the present we say, because, although the *Warrior's* strong sides afford but little more protection against Major Palliser's shells than would those of a wooden ship, it is possible that we may in time find some means of neutralizing the

damaging effects of these projectiles. It always has been so; throughout the history of the question victory has always alternated between the guns and the plates. But unquestionably Major Palliser has gained such a victory as will not easily be reversed, and has inaugurated such a condition of things as will require a long time and a considerable amount of scientific and engineering skill to render obsolete. The gallant officer's labors in perfecting our artillery system and in economizing this branch of our national expenditure are worthy of every praise, while the success he has recently achieved in producing a projectile before which an enemy's armored broadside would be no longer impregnable, entitles him to special distinction.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

Extracting the Metals from Auriferous Quartz.

The following, from the *Alta California*, details a process of extracting the precious metals from quartz rock, which possesses some novel features:

"The rock is dry crushed, and afterward submitted to the action of balls in a drum to insure full pulverization, it being desirable that the powder should approach as near wheat flour as possible. A charge of this powdered quartz is then placed in an air-tight cylinder, the interior of which is furnished with a worm of pipes to convey superheated steam therein. Added to the charge is a given quantity of quicksilver, which is first heated by the introduction of ordinary steam; the superheated steam is then turned on, or the whole seethed or boiled for an allotted period. On the top of this cylinder a water bath is placed, and as the mercurial vapors rise they become condensed. Thus the system of thoroughly impregnating the crushed rock with quicksilver is carried out with efficiency. After thus cooking, the cylinder door is opened, and the whole mass discharged upon a novel shaking table, which is worked by the power of the steam employed in the previous operation. This table is built of copper, on a wooden frame, with rollers and riffles of peculiar construction, which, when it is in motion, give the water, amalgam, and dust the same action of the ocean surf—an undertow. As the mass descends, the amalgam, from its metallic weight, gradually clears itself from the quartz dust, and the result is that it is all collected in the troughs of the riffles, containing every particle of metal, be it precious or base, the quartz holds. The mode of applying superheated steam to the crushed rock desulphurizes it, freeing the metals, and all that is necessary is to retort the amalgam to obtain the result of the yield.

Monitors and Heavy Guns in Sweden.

The Swedish Government has lately built three iron-clad ships of the monitor pattern, two of which, the *Ericsson* and the *Thunder* are afloat. The third, still on the stocks at the Motala works in Norrköping, is 250 feet long, with great breadth of beam. The turret is of twelve thicknesses of inch-plate iron, beautifully fitted together, and inclosing two 15-inch guns. The main wheel for the turret is of cast iron, which must be acknowledged to be a signal defect in this important feature of the plan. The Swedes disapprove the system of coil twist for guns, and declare that the iron from Dannemora, of which the Armstrong guns are made, is not suitable for the more solid-made guns adopted by Sweden. Two of these are shown in the exhibitions at Stockholm; one is a rifled breech-loader, the other a smooth bore. The engines of the new monitor are also in the exhibition, and are wonderfully compact trunk engines of 150 horse-power, with the two cylinders end to end and across the keel.

At Motala also there is a very peculiar iron-clad gunboat, which is more like a canoe than anything else. The bow or "nose" is depressed, so that the water line, when on war service, will be almost at the summit of the arched deck. The single gun carried by this formidable craft is in a mailed gun house, fore and aft, in the center of the deck, and the gun cannot be separately trained, but the whole boat must be directed so as to point it. Thus the only aperture for hostile entry into the gunboat is that of a few inches for the shot to issue from the muzzle of the gun. The boat is about 100 feet long, and it looks like a great whale with a cannon on its back.

BURNING OF A FRICTION MATCH.

Among the varied operations of the arts there is perhaps no other involving so many chemical and physical changes, and so many philosophical principles, as the burning of a friction match.

First in importance is the intense affinity of phosphorus for oxygen, as it is this property which makes a friction match possible. This affinity is so strong that when phosphorus is exposed to contact with the oxygen of the atmosphere at ordinary temperatures, the two substances combine slowly, generating light which is visible as a faint glow in the dark; and if the temperature is raised to about 120 deg. the combination goes on with that rapidity which we call combustion. It is easy to produce this degree of temperature by friction—hence the possibility of the friction match.

It is necessary, indeed, to modify the inflammability of phosphorus for its use in a friction match, and this is done by mixing it with a little gum. The gum also protects it from slow combustion in the atmosphere.

The flame of phosphorus, though intensely hot, will not set fire to pine wood; it is, therefore, necessary to interpose some substance more readily inflammable than wood; the substance usually employed is sulphur. Pine wood ignites at a temperature of about 600 deg., and sulphur at 450 deg. to 500 deg. The phosphorus in burning kindles the sulphur, and the sulphur flame sets fire to the wood.

The refusal of the phosphorus flame to kindle wood is fruitful of suggestions. The quantity of heat generated by the burning of any substance is in proportion to the quantity of oxygen with which the substance combines. One atom of phosphorus in burning combines with five atoms of oxygen, producing phosphoric acid, P O₅. The atom of phosphorus weighs 32 and the atom of oxygen 8, so the proportion by weight is 32 pounds of phosphorus to 40 of oxygen. Sulphur, in burning, combines with oxygen in the proportion of one atom of sulphur to 2 of oxygen, S O₂, and as the atomic weight of sulphur is 16 the proportion by weight is 32 of sulphur to 32 of oxygen, consequently phosphorus should generate more heat in burning than sulphur.

Again, this law is modified by either the oxygen or the combustible undergoing a change of form in combining. If a substance is changed from the gaseous to the solid state, heat is evolved; if from the solid to the gaseous, heat is absorbed. Now, phosphoric acid is a solid, while sulphurous acid is a gas. Phosphorus, in burning, changes the oxygen with which it combines from the gaseous to the solid form, thus increasing the quantity of heat generated; while sulphur, in burning, is changed from the solid to the gaseous state, thus absorbing heat, and diminishing the quantity produced by the combustion.

These theoretical views have been confirmed by careful experiment. The results obtained by Andrews from his elaborate investigations were, that 1 pound of phosphorus in burning to phosphoric acid generates sufficient heat to raise the temperature of 5,747 pounds of water one deg. centigrade; while 1 pound of sulphur, in burning, raises the temperature of only 2,220 pounds of water 1 deg.

But it is not the quantity of heat that is to be considered in this case, but the intensity; which is in proportion to the quantity contained in a cubic inch or other given volume. This, however, only increases the difficulty, for the phosphorus flame being condensed to a solid, while that of sulphur is diffused as a gas, the intensity of heat ought to be still more in favor of the phosphorus than the quantity.

The usual explanation given for the failure of wood to ignite in a phosphorus flame is, that the surface of the wood is instantly covered by a film of phosphoric acid, which protects it from combustion. As we have no better explanation to offer, we raise no objections to this.

The products of combustion, then, in the burning of a match, are, first, phosphoric acid from the burning of the phosphorus; then sulphurous acid, from the burning of the sulphur, and, finally, carbonic acid and water from the burning of the wood.

This is far from being an exhaustive examination

of the subject. The hydrogen and carbon of the wood do not combine directly with the oxygen of the air, but the wood first undergoes destructive distillation, with the production of several hydrocarbon gases, which rise in the air and produce the flame by their combustion; and after the wood is burned the ash that is left behind is made up of some sixteen elements, combined with oxygen in various proportions. The activity of the burning, also, is increased by adding to the paste some substance containing oxygen which is held by feeble affinity, and which is, therefore, readily given up to the sulphur, phosphorus, and wood. Among the substances employed for this office are saltpeter and the peroxides of lead and manganese. In a complete examination of the reactions of the combustion, the decompositions of these oxidizing agents, with the resulting compounds or elements, would demand consideration. All that might be said in relation to the burning of a friction match would fill a large volume.

TARGET TEST WITH LARGE GUNS.

Some experiments were made at Fortress Monroe on the 21st instant, which, from the data so far at hand, appear to possess some interest. The trials were made with the design of ascertaining the advantage of iron-plating as a defense to fortifications of masonry.

The guns used in the test were a 15-inch smooth-bore; and a 12-inch rifled piece, both of the Rodman patent. They had been well proved before the trial. The target was a wall of granite blocks, six feet thick, the blocks secured with iron dowels and clamps, covered with rolled plates, four inches thick, of the best iron. These were bolted directly to the face of the stone, except at one point, where a backing of six inches of sand was interposed between the plate and wall. The results, in tabular form, are these:

Gun.	Charge.	Projectile.	Initial velocity.	Penetration.	Target.
Smooth-bore.	46lbs.	432lbs.	1,155ft.	3in.	Granite.
"	"	"	1,113ft.	5½in.	Sand.
Rifle.	55lbs.	630lbs.	1,020ft.	4¾in.	Granite.
"	"	"	1,079ft.	5¾in.	"
"	"	"	1,103ft.	7in.	Sand.

The experiments show that iron constitutes a defense against the penetration of shot, although the shock of the projectiles in this trial shattered the granite wall. The charges of powder used were less than it was popularly believed the 15-inch guns were capable of sustaining. The placing of the plates in close connection with the wall may be an error, as the effects of the concussion would be transmitted directly to the work itself. It would appear, from the stated initial velocity of the shots, that the powder used was the "cake," or large powder, and not that sometimes employed in tests for guns. We forbear, however, commenting on the results of this trial until we have the official record of the experiments.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

The first rail cars were mounted on four wheels, which turned on axles fixed rigidly to the body of the carriage. Mr. Richard Imlay, of Philadelphia, in 1832, invented the "vibrating plate" of car trucks and applied it, in 1834, to cars on the Germantown and Norristown Railroad. In 1837 he patented his improvement, and in 1851 secured an extension of his patent. From adequate authority it is certain he was the first, at his manufactory in Baltimore, to build cars with independent trucks, by which cars of any length now used could be run on roads with sharp curves. Mr. Imlay's invention is in general use throughout the country, and has been for many years. Indeed, no invention or improvement in railroading is of so much importance as this. He is now over eighty years of age, totally blind from cataract, with a wife who is suffering from the most acute form of cancer. The friends of this suffering family ask that the railroad corporations throughout the country shall recognize his claims, the justice of which can be fully substantiated, so that he shall not be left dependent upon charity, where he is entitled to compensation justly due.

Mr. Imlay is physically and financially incapacitated to recover for infringements and to enter into legal prosecution, and he desires, simply, that railroad companies make him a small compensation for

an invention that has, more than any other, made their enterprises a success.

He is, indisputably, the originator of the independent trucks, by which long cars can be run with safety at a high rate of speed, and round, with security, curves impossible to be turned with the old-fashioned car. We call the attention of railroad corporations to this case, believing that they will see, as well as we, the justice of Mr. Imlay's claim, and the duty of making a suitable return for the value of his improvement.

Mr. Imlay resides at 138 West 16th street, New York City.

POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE.

The Association held its regular meeting at its room at the Cooper Institute, on Thursday evening, Sept. 28, 1866.

AN IMPROVED CAR.

Several inventions of minor note were introduced, and their merits thoroughly discussed. One, however, received with special interest, was a plan for a street car, designed to transfer the traction from the ground to the metallic bottom of the car, which thus takes the place of a rail. The wheels are mounted on a number of pedestals attached to an endless band encircling the car. This is, perhaps, the best application of the old principle of a portable track that has been invented, but its practical value remains to be tested.

BARYTES, AND ITS USES.

A recent application of sulphate of barytes has been made in preparing the so-called "perspiration-proof" paper collars, in place of white lead. It is also used for giving the fine gloss to visiting cards, and wall paper, and in England, cotton collars are made by its use, having all the appearance and finish of linen.

VENTILATION.

The regular subject being introduced, the remarks seemed to take a practical turn, and the actual necessity and means for ventilating our dwellings were dwelt upon at some length. The method of ventilating sleeping cars in use on one of our railroads was explained, where the air is made to pass through an air chamber, into which water is forced as a fine spray, thus cleansing it of any impurities. In the ice cars, used for bringing dressed meat from the West, the impure air is passed over ice, placed near the top of the car, then is conveyed to near the floor, where it again enters the car, thus keeping up a continuous current of pure air. The same principle has been used in our hospitals for fever patients with good results.

Cooper Union Free School.

The session of this school commenced Oct. 1st. The school is open every evening except Sundays, free to all. The courses of study comprehend all the useful and some ornamental branches. It offers an excellent opportunity for clerks, apprentices and others, whose means, or avocations, do not permit them to employ paid teachers, or to attend day schools. The schools are under the charge of Prof. J. G. Fox as Principal, and the department of Physics is managed by Prof. Charles S. Stone, whose reputation as a chemist and a lecturer is well known. Ladies are admitted to any of the classes of the school of science for which they are fitted.

Important to Southern Inventors.

The order promulgated from the Patent Office some time ago, that all applicants for patents from States late in rebellion must furnish certificate of allegiance, has been rescinded, and hereafter inventors from the Southern States can obtain patents on the same conditions as citizens of the Northern States.

AN accident occurred at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, a few days ago, which, but for timely aid, might have proved a most serious affair. One of the decks of the *Winnepac* having been painted with gum shellac, one of the sailors accidentally dropped a lighted lantern on it. The shellac, becoming ignited, enveloped the deck in flames. By prompt action the fire was extinguished. Rumor says there was a large quantity of powder on the vessel at the time.

Corn Husker, Harvester, and Stacker.

The operations of farm work are so facilitated by the labor and time-saving machines which have replaced the slow efforts of unaided muscle, that few could be found now who would, under any circumstances, voluntarily return to the old beaten path. The work of harvesting corn is one entailing the expenditure of much hard labor, and to save a portion of this labor is the design of the machines herewith illustrated.

Fig. 1 represents an apparatus for forming corn or cane into shocks, and delivering them in an upright position. The frame is supported on wheels, one of which carries a geared wheel, which, by means of suitable devices, gives a reciprocating motion to the cutters, A, for cutting the stalks. The guard, B, projecting beyond the cutters is intended to raise any stalks which may be bent or broken down. As the stalks are cut they are thrown by means of the revolving arms, C, upon an endless belt, carrying teeth and bars, D, which deposit them upon a table, E, connected to the frame by a universal joint. Bands for securing the stalks lie upon the table, which, when a sufficient quantity of corn is thrown upon the table, are tucked around the stalks, making a shock, which, by revolving the table horizontally and then tilting it vertically, is discharged upon the ground in an upright position, the larger ends of the stalks on the ground.

Fig. 2 is a machine for gathering and husking corn in the field. The stalks are received between two curved arms, A, mounted on the fore wheels, and are supported by two rollers on the under side, not shown. The roller, B, presses the stalks against a cutter, C, which receives a reciprocating motion by means of a crank, the pinion, D, and the cogs on the periphery of one of the fore wheels. The cutter, C, severs the ears from the stalk and they are thrown upon the endless belt, E, which conveys them to the wire guards over the toothed wheel that strips the husks from the ear, and deposits the ears in the box underneath.

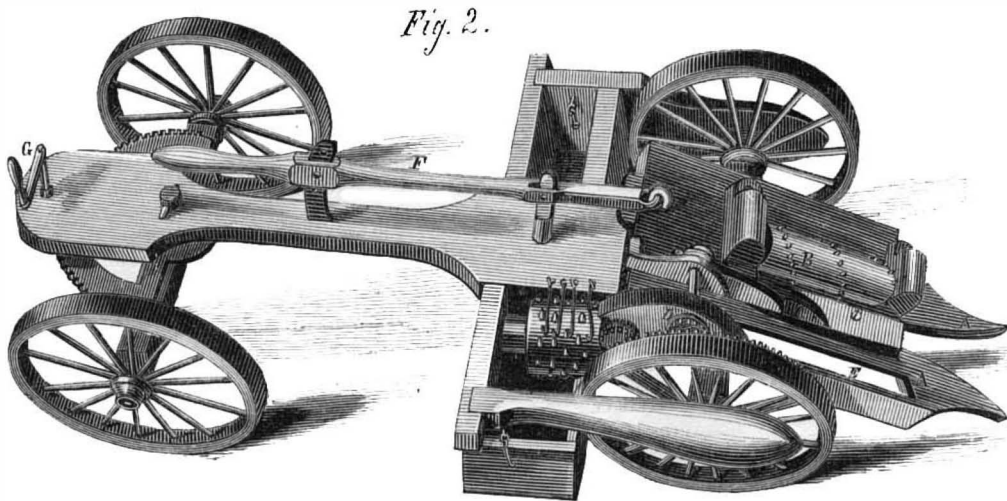
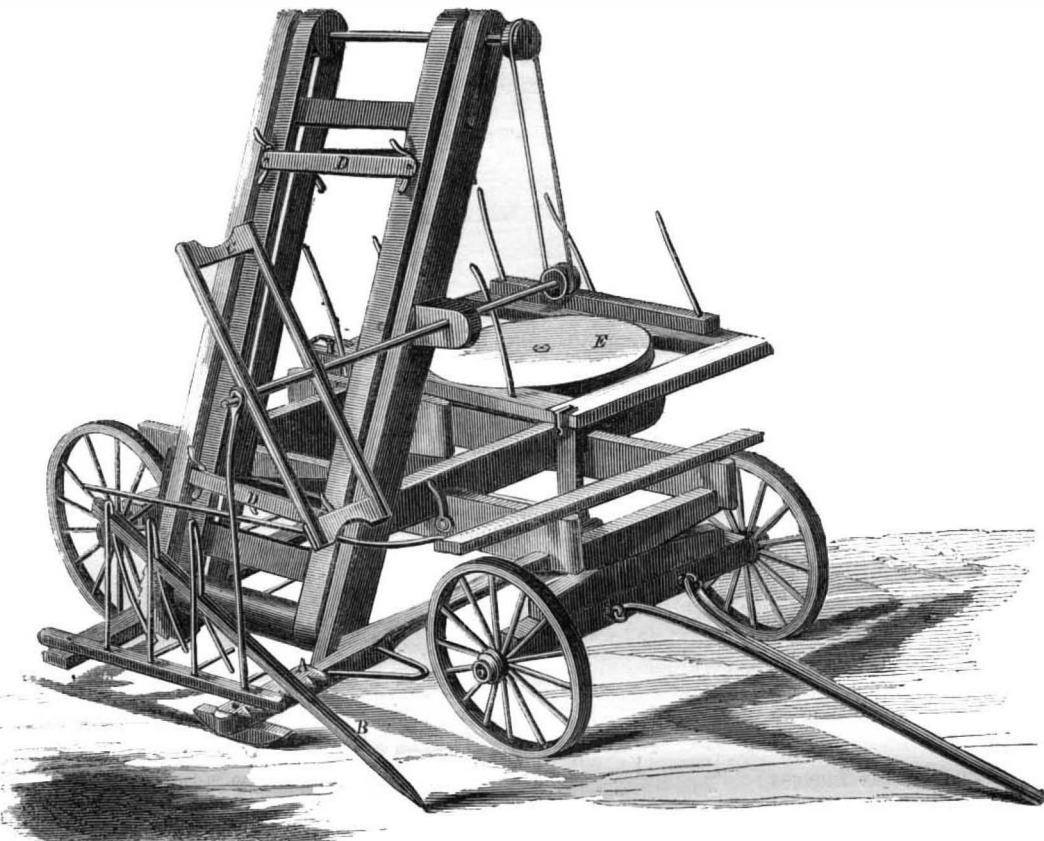
The frame, A, can be raised or lowered to accommodate itself to depressions in the soil by the lever, F, which is operated by the driver, who sits on a seat placed at the rear of the machine. By the toothed segment and a pinion worked by the crank, G, the vehicle is steered.

Both of these implements were secured through the Scientific American Patent Agency, by George H. Manlove and Jonathan P. Green, assignors to the former. Patented Sept. 25, 1866. Address George H. Manlove, Drawer 6,068, Chicago, Ill.

Concerning American Steel.

Our Newark, New Jersey, correspondent, P. McC., in speaking of the cast steel made in this country, says there can be as good an article produced here as anywhere, if the proper means are employed.

Unless a proper quality of iron is used, purified by refining, converted to blister steel in a suitable furnace, where it receives its carbon, before it is put in the crucible to be melted, it cannot be relied upon. He says:—"I do not think it can be for want of knowledge that our steel is inferior, for two companies I know of sent to England and brought over workmen, who made no better steel than the hands previously employed. One concern tried hammering the blooms until they were made flat, then cut or broke them up, the iron being 'red short,' and put

**MANLOVE AND GREEN'S HUSKER, HARVESTER, AND STACKER.**

the fragments, with a portion of 'medicine,' into the crucible for casting. Some steel I have tried, the iron from which it was converted having been rolled. It was 'red short.' Some of our manufacturers say they cannot afford to use the best iron, nor the expense of processes employed in Sheffield. I say, if this is the case, they should not claim, as they do, that American steel is equal if not superior to English, nor that there is some mystery in the process. When blooms are made from old scraps, cast, or wrought iron, it cannot be expected that double refined steel will result, nor that the product will equal that made from Norway or Lowmoor refined iron."

THE POWER FOR CIRCULAR SAWS.—A correspondent, J. V. A., desires to know the horse-power needed for driving circular saws from 50 to 80 inches diameter, with a cut of from one to one-and-a-half inches; the size of pulley required and width of belt.

Railway over the Alps.

The pass over Mont Cenis, joining the fertile fields of Sardinia and Savoy, has always been the favorite of Alpine passes. Although the military route for ages, the road was in a deplorable condition till, by the enterprise of Napoleon, a substantial carriage way was constructed at an expense to the Government of seven million francs. For a number of years past this road, in connection with the French and Italian railroads and the Adriatic steamers, has formed the most direct and expeditious mail route to India and the East. The slow and tedious mountain passage, originated the project of completing the missing link of railway communication by tunneling the Alps. Whether this gigantic undertaking will ever be completed, admits of doubt. In the meantime, a company has been started with the design of accomplishing this same object by constructing a railroad over the summit of the mountain.

Mr. Fell, an English engineer, read an interesting paper on this subject before the British Association, and his statements leave no doubt as to the feasibility of the plan. Both the French and Italian Governments favor the enterprise, operations have already begun, and in all probability the road will be completed by March next. From the difficulties to be overcome, the work must fairly be ranked as one of the greatest in the records of engineering. The inclines to be traversed by this road—without exception the steepest ever attempted—require a special construction both in the railway itself and locomotive.

The variations of climate during the year—always an important consideration in allowing for adhesion, or bite of the driving wheels on the rail—constitute here an important element, and necessitates the employment of a third or center rail. By this means not only is the proper amount of adhesion produced, but

the additional advantage is obtained of furnishing means for applying an increased amount of brake power, and also preventing all possibility of either car leaving the track.

The engines and carriages have each, in addition to the usual vertical wheels, four horizontal wheels, having flanges underlapping the center rail, connected with brakes so as to grip the rails; these, in connection with the usual sets, give a brake pressure of 60 tons in an engine weighing 16 to 17 tons.

This principle of obtaining the adhesion required, in order to develop tractive force on railways, is equally applicable to a even much steeper gradient, than any found on the Mont Cenis road, and that consistently with the economical expense of mechanical power.

THE harbor of Galveston is becoming gradually filled up with sand.



Preservation of Wood against Decay.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In your issue of Sept. 15th I noticed an article containing, in a condensed form, the views of a correspondent in regard to the preservation of wood. This subject is so interesting and of such importance, that I regret that want of space prevented your publishing the communication in full.

In some respects I fully agree with your correspondent as to charring wood. The advantages of charring a post do not consist, as scientific men have supposed, in the capacity of charcoal to absorb the gases from decaying substances. But the application of heat to such an extent as to create charcoal on the outside of wood, will drive out the surface moisture and coagulate the albumen of the sap, and render it insoluble in water. While this treatment, as a seasoning process, is of great benefit, no one at this day will contend that it is essential to the preservation of wood. Neither Kyan, Burnett, Payne, Boucherie, Bethell nor Robbins, ever charred wood, in order to preserve it. Still, in my opinion, a certain degree of heat is necessary, if it be properly applied, and with it and through it vapors may be infused into wood, which will render it indestructible.

But your correspondent asserts that the microscope reveals the cause of decay in wood as due to parasites feeding upon albuminous substances, and he recommends the use of hot air or superheated steam as a means of destroying the parasitic germs or albuminoids which, he says, cause the decay of wood. There is something very new and original in this idea, and it raises several important questions for consideration.

First, Are the parasites the cause of decay in wood?

In botany we learn that a parasite is a plant without the proper organic means or instruments to enable it to draw its nourishment directly from the organized elements, but which derives its support from other plants to which it attaches itself. In entomology and zoology the parasite is represented as some insect or minute animal which lives on the superior forms of animated nature. According to Ehrenberg and other scientific authorities, while these creatures exist wherever organized matter is undergoing decomposition, it does not appear that the decomposing process is due to their presence. "Wherever organic matter exists in a decomposing state, there they abound, acting as scavengers in devouring, in the state of comminution and decay, those particles of decomposing matter which, if left to be diffused throughout the atmosphere, might be productive of the most pernicious malaria." [See Ehrenberg and Leeuwenhock; also Redfield's "Nature in Living Forms," p. 690.]

Brande, in his "Encyclopedia," says, It is not certain that dry rot is caused by parasites; on the contrary the terms are applied to "spontaneous decomposition without the presence of fungi," or where these parasites appear long after the commencement of the disease in the wood. We doubtless mistake the effect for the cause when we assume that parasites produce the decay of vegetable and animal substances. It would rather seem that they are generated in and are a product of the process of decomposition, and they live but to consume and assimilate those elements which would render the earth and air unsuited to the essential conditions of health and life. To this end, according to Ehrenberg, they multiply at the rate of millions daily. If the parasites had any active or vital existence before the albumen of the wood was in a state of putrefaction, they might possibly be destroyed, to some extent, by the application of heat or some other means. But they are chiefly distinguishable after the process of decomposition has fairly commenced. They are only found in animal and vegetable infusions after the same have been kept a sufficient time to develop their existence in and through the decomposition of such substances. [Orr's "Circle of Science," vol. i. p. 87.] Parasites may, therefore, be

regarded as a result, and not as the cause of decay in wood.

Second, Can these parasites be destroyed by the application of heat, as proposed?

We are assured by the best authorities that the polygastic infusoria are very tenacious of life; while they are injuriously affected by strong poisons, they are capable of enduring great extremes of heat and cold, and are found alike beneath the snows of the highest peaks of the Alps, and in the hot springs that perpetually boil from the heat of volcanic fires. [Redfield's "Zoological Science."]

But for the sake of argument let us suppose that the parasites, parasitic germs, or albuminoids may be destroyed by heat; will not the wood, after they have been destroyed, be again infested with new and similar formations which will be equally destructive? These germs exist in water and in the air, as well as in organized substances, and may be readily deposited on the surface and in the pores of the wood even after it has been subjected to superheated steam. If vegetable decomposition is due to the presence and action of the parasites, heat can protect the wood from their influence no longer than it is subjected to the temperature requisite for their destruction. As soon as it is exposed to air and moisture, at ordinary temperature, parasites may be again developed, and very rapidly; for, according to Ehrenberg, the *Hydrina seta* increased in twelve days to sixteen millions, and another species, in four days to one hundred and seventy billions. Besides, scientific experiments have already fully established the fact that any infusion of vegetable or animal substance may be boiled for hours, and if subsequently exposed to the atmosphere, it will soon swarm with myriads of microscopic creatures. By placing the wood in an exhausted receiver and thus excluding the air and establishing a condition incompatible with the laws which determine their existence, this regeneration or re-formation of parasites may be prevented. So it might be prevented by the continued application of heat at its boiling point, or at a sufficiently destructive degree of temperature. It is very evident that wood which has been treated with heat only, when no longer under its influence and not protected by an exhausted receiver, may, by exposure to the oxygen and moisture of the atmosphere, be in a short time covered in surface and have its pores filled with infinitesimal germs and forms of life, which may cause it to decay [Orr's "Circle of the Sciences," vol. ii. p. 217.]

But suppose it is true that the parasitic germs or albuminoids are co-existent with the wood, that they are the cause and not the result of decay, the next question of importance is, how can they be destroyed, and their re-formation and re-infestation prevented in the cheapest and most effectual manner?

The application of heat, simply, either in hot air or in superheated steam, may destroy them, as your correspondent claims, and it will also coagulate the albumen of the sap, etc., but it cannot protect the fiber against the effect of oxygen and moisture, nor can it prevent the regeneration or re-attachment of the parasites after the wood is again exposed to the air. Besides, this treatment will empty the pores to some extent and leave the ligneous fiber unprotected. The capillary tubes, being left open and exhausted of the vital elements of the living tree, will readily take up an increased quantity of water. This water will escape by evaporation when the wood is exposed to the action of the sun. And by the constant vicissitudes of temperature and the ever-varying degrees of moisture, the elasticity of the fiber will be diminished, and in time the integrity of the wood destroyed.

Hence it is that the celebrated Dr. Ure, in his dictionary of the arts, affirms that, "although the albumen contained in the sap of the wood is the most liable and the first to putrefy, yet the ligneous fiber itself, after it has been deprived of all sap, will, when exposed in a warm, damp situation, rot and crumble into dust. To preserve wood, therefore, that will be much exposed to the weather, it is not only necessary that the sap should be coagulated, but that the fibers should be protected from moisture." This necessity of further protecting the wood from atmospheric influence, after the albumen has been coagulated, becomes greater if, according to the theory of your correspondent, decay is caused by parasites,

which the atmosphere furnishes so abundantly. Now the question recurs, and your correspondent has done well in raising it, what is the best means of driving out the surface moisture, of coagulating the albumen, of destroying the parasites, parasitic germs, or albuminoids, and of preventing all parasitic influence upon the wood thereafter?

In one of your issues of February I saw a very able article upon the process of preserving wood, invented by our American genius, Louis S. Robbins. According to my recollection, he proposes the use of coal tar and other oleaginous substances in vapor. It seems to me that these vapors will be found as hot as hot air or as superheated steam, that they will permeate the wood as readily, and more effectually destroy the parasites, parasitic germs, or the albuminoids referred to.

Now, coal tar is about thirty per cent creosote—which, as its very name imports, is an antiseptic, that is, preservative against putrefaction and decay. This creosote, in superheated vapor, will permeate the wood thoroughly, and destroy, not only by its heat but by its inherent poison, all the destructive parasites and other infusoria, and, at the same time, prevent putrefaction, and, besides, the wood, being thus saturated with a deadly poison, will be protected against any attack from the parasitic infusoria which might originate after the treatment.

Then, by the heavier oils eliminated by distillation, the wood is saturated and completely primed, and the fiber is thus protected from the oxygen and moisture of the atmosphere, as recommended by Dr. Ure. The ancients were accustomed to preserve both vegetable and animal forms and substances by a process that rendered them so far imperishable that many of them, in spite of parasites, have come down to us in a surprising state of preservation. Specimens may be found in museums of Egyptian and other antiquities, in which even three thousand years have neither obliterated the outlines of mortality, nor destroyed the cements that inclose them. They employed bituminous substances in their embalming or preserving process, and, as we believe, in the shape of vapor, while others have vainly attempted the same results with metallic solutions. Bethell, of England, and Louis S. Robbins, the American inventor, are the only two who have resorted to the application of bituminous substances, Bethell using them in liquid form, while Robbins applies them more effectually in the shape of vapor.

So far as we are able to judge, the process of Mr. Robbins is the nearest approach to the treatment resorted to by the ancients. *

New York, Sept. 20, 1866.

Chimney Drafts.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Some facts in my experience compel me to believe that Prof. Horsford, as quoted in your issue of Sept. 8th, page 160, has not given the true reason for the diminished draft of chimneys in very hot weather. As foreman of mining claims in Grass Valley, in 1855, the question of fresh air for the workmen, often a serious one, involving heavy expense, compelled me to familiarize myself with the conditions on which increased or diminished draft depends. The air from our adit level, one-fifth of a mile long, was stopped off from the hoisting shaft, 120 feet deep, and conveyed in a large wooden pipe to the work, several hundred feet further under the hill, and 200 to 230 feet below the surface. In this way the hoisting shaft was made to act as a chimney; now what made it draw? The temperature in the "diggings" was nearly constant the year round. During the night (the nights are very cold in California), a candle held at the end of the pipe indicated a strong current of cold air flowing along the level back through the works and up the shaft. After sunrise the draft became less and less, and ceased entirely whenever the temperature outside was the same as that in the diggings. During the heat of the day a current flowed down the shaft and out at the level, and the hotter the day the stronger the current.

Our supply of fresh air was best when the thermometer indicated the greatest difference of temperature between the air in the diggings and on the outside; the draft being up the shaft when the air was coldest outside, and down when it was warmest.

The interior of the house is often cooler during the heat of the day than it is outside, hence a current naturally flows down the chimney and out under the door. This downward current often gives trouble when the fire is being started. If the "upward currents on the outside of the house, arising from the heated surface of the roof and walls, draw the air outward by friction through cracks, open doors, etc.," why do they not draw it out of the chimney also, thus increasing rather than diminishing the draft?

It seems to me that the diminished draft of chimneys in very hot weather is due, first, to the tendency of the air in contact with the cooler surfaces within the house, to flow out under the doors, thus creating a draft down the chimney; second, to the diminished relative difference between the specific gravity of the air outside and that of the rising column of hot air within the chimney—the force of the draft depending entirely on such difference. Just as, other things being equal, a balloon will rise with the greatest force when there is the greatest difference between the specific gravity of the inclosed gas and that of the outside atmosphere.

J. W. PIKE.

Windham Station, Ohio.

Fire and Sunshine Experiments.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Our furnace No. 1 weighed 11 lbs., 6 oz. No. 2, 11 lbs., 10 oz. They were both of the same pattern and by the same maker. We dried in an oven 24 lbs. of charcoal, allowed 12 lbs. to each furnace, used 12 oz. of wood and shavings, and half an ounce of spirits of turpentine to each furnace for kindling. The furnaces were open on the top. We started the fires simultaneously at 11 o'clock, A. M.; thermometer 96 degs. in the shade; the day was calm. Furnace No. 1 was placed in the direct rays of the sun, and No. 2 in the shade. Both furnaces were placed on benches 14 inches from the ground.

No. 2 was re-weighed at 11 o'clock and 27 minutes. No. 1 at 11 o'clock and 29 minutes. No. 2 consumed 15 oz. more fuel in the shade in 27 minutes than No. 1 did in the direct rays of the sun in 29 minutes.

The next day being favorable, the experiments were reversed. Thermometer 96½ in the shade. No. 1 furnace was placed in the shade, and No. 2 in the direct rays of the sun, and the experiments were carefully repeated, with the same results.

We conclude, therefore, that the cause of the difference in the consumption of fuel arises from the rarefaction of the air, there being even less oxygen in a given bulk in the sunshine than in the shade. The electrical state of the air may have something to do with these experiments, but we have no facts at present to prove it.

It is often said that when the fire burns brightly the family of the house are cheerful and happy. These two effects are produced by one cause, viz., the density of the air. Our lungs are physical furnaces; and the health and natural heat of our bodies depend as much upon the consumption of oxygen, as they do upon the consumption of food. The lungs, therefore, receive more oxygen with every inspiration in cold weather, than in warm. When, therefore, the air is cold, dry, and dense, fires will burn brightly and freely, and man will feel cheerful, and be more genial in his conduct.

As you published Prof. Horsford's experiments on this subject, I am induced to beg the same favor, so that we may draw out similar facts from other experimentalists.

JAMES QUARTERMAN.

New York City, July 18, 1866.

[From our own Correspondent.]

FOREIGN SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

LONDON, Aug. 18, 1866.

Scientific news during the past week has been at a minimum. The Nottingham meeting seems still to absorb public interest, and in the general paucity of such information we are anxiously looking forward to the Congress of the Social Science Association, to be held at Manchester in the early part of next month. Great preparations are being made for this meeting, and highly interesting proceedings are anticipated.

The complete success of the Atlantic cable has occasioned the formation of several rival companies,

designed to break up this monopoly, as it is even now characterized by many. In addition to the projected line over Behring's Straits, and another from Spain to Florida, via the West Indies, both of which are owned by Americans exclusively, there is the new English enterprise of completing telegraphic communication by means of several short lengths of cable between Scotland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, and Labrador. The route has been thoroughly and efficiently surveyed, and a contract has been made for duplicate cables for the whole distance of nearly four thousand miles.

One of the results incident to the successful recovery of the lost cable, is the fact lately published that the *Great Eastern* is thereby entitled to a large amount of salvage money, so that at last even she may prove a profitable invention and enrich her stockholders.

It is stated that the directors of the cable company are about completing a contract for a term of years with the Associated Press whereby the American papers are to be furnished with a daily telegram of forty words, for which the neat little sum of \$110,000 in gold is to be paid annually, that is, \$350 is daily to be paid for what can easily be printed in five lines.

The project of Mr. Hawkshaw, for tunneling the channel—which plan, by the way, is nothing new, but has been regularly proposed at intervals for many years past—meets with a counter project in a proposed international railway bridge, composed of pontoons, reaching from Calais to Dover, a distance of twenty-two miles. The bridge is to have several draws to allow the passage of vessels, is to be two hundred and fourteen feet in width, and to be constructed at a cost not exceeding sixteen millions of pounds sterling.

The water supply of London justly occupies a large share of public attention, for it is a most important subject for public consideration. The most feasible plan for furnishing the city seems to be the one proposed by Mr. Fuller, an English engineer of note. By his plan water is to be conveyed from near the source of the river Wye, in North Wales. The area of water shed of this river is one hundred and eighty thousand acres, with an available rainfall of sixty inches per annum. Mr. Fuller estimates the total cost at seven millions of pounds sterling.

M. A. C.

An Opportunity for American Gun Makers.

From our foreign advices we learn that Victor Emanuel, having failed in obtaining the Prussian needle gun for his army, has decided to invite inventors and manufacturers of fire-arms throughout the world to present their systems and specimens for trial, whether they relate to an entirely new weapon, or the conversion of the present musket. A special commission is to be appointed to test, examine and report upon the models, and decide which shall be adopted.

This is certainly an excellent opportunity for our inventors to achieve a fortune for themselves and reflect credit upon American enterprise and ingenuity. This trial, in connection with the great French Exposition, will furnish a means of introducing to Europeans many of our improvements, and of giving us the position, as a mechanical and manufacturing people, which our progress deserves. Probably the details of the applications will soon be made public, and we hope to see our inventors and manufacturers improve the opportunity.

The Grasshopper Scourge.

The Kansas farmers in Brown county and the adjacent territory, appear to have been lately subjected to a plague similar to those inflicted on Pharaoh. The obstinate grasshoppers appeared in countless numbers, covering a track twelve miles in width, and consuming almost all vegetation. The Marysville *Enterprise* says:—

"They alighted upon fields, gardens, fruit trees, and everything green or eatable, and, like a march of two hundred and fifty army corps, devoured every thing they touched. This whole country has been taken by them, and the rear guard is still with us, guarding what vegetables and green leaves the army has left. Farmers are seriously alarmed lest the corn will be totally devoured. They seem to be passing in a southwest direction."



S. N. T., of Md.—The adhesion of the metal in electroplating, depends mostly on the careful cleaning of the matrix. Some electro-platers give the article to be plated a thin coating of quicksilver before immersion in the cyanide. For coating with quicksilver, the carefully cleaned article is immersed for a moment in a weak solution of nitrate of mercury, and is then well rinsed in water. Failures in plating are often due to a want of harmony between the strength of solution, intensity of the battery, etc.

M. C. B., of Ill.—Shellac will probably prove to be the best cement for your purpose. If you can use it without dissolving, the joint will be more perfect.

S. M. H., of N. Y.—The substitute for nitric acid in Grove's battery, to which you refer, is a strong solution of bi-chromate of potash to which has been added sulphuric acid.

W. S. P., of N. Y.—First, We prefer to express no opinion in regard to the reliability of the paper to which you refer. Second, Brass, if furnished after polishing, will retain its luster better than if only polished. Still, it will tarnish in time, however close the particles of the surface. Third, Eight ounces of madder, four of fustic, and three ounces of logwood infused in one gallon of water applied hot; then an infusion of two ounces of nutgalls in one quart of water, after the first application is dry, will stain an imitation of black walnut. The proportions may be varied at will. Fourth, A dealer in metals could furnish you the number of the thinnest steel of commerce.

—, of N. Y.—Send to Henry Carey Baird, 406, Walnut street, Philadelphia, stating the sort of mechanical books you need, and he will furnish you with what you want.

T. M. R., of Ala.—A vessel filled with hydrogen gas is heavier than one whose interior is a perfect vacuum.

R. C. N., of Ky.—Coal oil, or petroleum, is totally unfit for a hair dressing. By reference to page 397, Vol. XIV, current series, you will find a reply to a similar query.

A. V., of Pa.—We know of no depilatory preparation that is not injurious to the skin. Sulphuret of arsenic, a rank poison, is sometimes used, and so is lime, perfumed. Both are hurtful.

G. A. A., of Mass.—If you wish to convey steam 175 feet under ground, protect your pipe with hair felt and inclose the whole in a board box, packing the pipe in spent tan, sawdust, straw, or fine charcoal.

R. E. C., of vt.—The advertisement you refer to appears to be a catch-penny affair. Send to H. C. Baird, 406 Walnut street, Philadelphia, for catalogue of books.

W. E. S., of Conn.—In our issue of Sept. 15th, we gave all the information we possessed in relation to the "Zopiss iron cement." At present its ingredients are a secret.

NEW INVENTIONS.

The following are some of the most prominent of the patents issued this week, with the names of the patentees:—

CARD CASE.—F. A. LAMOTAGNE, Montreal, Canada.—This invention consists in the construction of card cases with a combination of springs and slides for the discharge of a card at a time without opening the lid, by simply pressing a slide on the top with the finger. It is designed for the use of ladies especially.

MACHINERY FOR WASHING WOOL.—JOHN PETRIE, Rochdale, Eng., and JAMES TEAL, Towerby, Eng.—This invention relates to that class of machines for washing wool and other fibrous materials, in which the said materials are placed upon a feed apron by which they are delivered into a vat or other vessel and are agitated therein, at the same time being moved forward to the other end of the said vessel, where they are lifted out of the fluid by a drum, armed with movable prongs, which at the proper moment retreat so as to deliver the material into an endless apron, from whence they are taken by a pair of squeezing rollers.

CIPHERING MACHINE.—SAMUEL J. KELSO, Detroit, Mich.—This invention relates to a machine which can be used for adding, subtracting and multiplying figures of any desired magnitude, with the greatest ease and facility.

PUMP.—LOUIS DRESCHER, Matanzas, Cuba.—The object of this invention is to construct a pump which can be used in a very deep well, and which is so arranged that it is not liable to burst from the high pressure to which it will be exposed, and that it does not become choked by stones or other material dropping down in it. It is also so constructed that it can readily be raised out of the pump, and that easy access can be had to its valves.

ARTIFICIAL LIMB.—JOSHUA MONROE, New York City.—This invention consists in the arrangement of elastic straps in combination with an artificial leg or arm, to be secured to a stump below the knee or elbow joint in such a manner that the side irons can be dispensed with, and thereby the weight of the limb is reduced, and furthermore said straps can be readily so adjusted that the limb is drawn up tight in any position to which the joint is brought.

BORING ATTACHMENT TO TURNING LATHES.—C. E. MCBETH, Hamilton, Ohio.—This invention is an improvement in boring attachment to turning lathes, by means of which holes can be made round, smooth and straight. And it consists in combining a thimble, bush, and cap with each other, with the hollow spindle, and with the mandrel of the lathe.

MANGER.—JONATHAN JOHNSON, Kent, Ind.—This invention has for its object, to furnish an improved manger, which may be kept

free from short hay, chaff, etc., and by which the grass seed may be separated from the short hay and chaff, so that it will be ready for sowing when taken from the manger.

BUTTON AND FASTENING.—ARTHUR WM. BROWNE, Brooklyn, N. Y.—This invention has for its object the construction of a button and fastening, in such a manner that the button may easily be attached to a dress, and be firmly held thereon, without the use of sewing; and that it may be detached at will from the cloth by simply pressing upon a small stud projecting above the surface of the button, thus preventing the tender and fine wire spring fastening from being easily destroyed.

SADIRON HANDLE.—FR. REHORN, New York City.—This invention relates to a movable handle for sadirons, said handle being attached to the iron by a dovetail socket, and held in position by a lever catch which is pivoted to one of the standards of the handle, and which, when the handle is in position, catches over a cam and locks the handle firmly to the body of the iron. The main part of the handle is cast in one piece, the standards being united by a cross-bar, to which the wooden handle is secured by simple pins, whereby the construction of the whole is greatly simplified and its cost is reduced to proper limits.

LAMP BURNER.—GEORGE J. CAPEWELL, West Cheshire, Conn.—This invention relates to that class of lamp-burners which are provided with draft chimneys, and has for its object the lighting of the wick without the necessity of removing the chimney from the burner, and at the same time have the wick tube, when the lamp is lighted and in use, in the proper relative position with the cone or deflector, so that a proper illuminating flame may be obtained.

GAS APPARATUS.—N. TREADWELL, New York City.—This invention relates to a method of fitting dry diaphragm gas holders, and distributing the gas throughout a boat. It consists in pumping the gas directly into the holder without the use of atmospheric air, and by a simple change of valves use the same pipe for forcing the gas to the burners throughout the boat, so that the pump acts as a regulator as well as a pump, and thereby the possibility of the lights being put out by any motion or jar of the boat is prevented.

STEAM VALVE.—DAVID SEXTON, San Gabriel, Cal.—This invention consists of a thimble-shaped valve, provided with a transverse partition and fitted on a central spindle, which is held in position by a suitable temper screw, in combination with a cylindrical valve chamber and with suitable steam and exhaust ports situated on opposite sides of the transverse partition in such a manner that by said partition the pressure is separated from the exhaust end of the valve and thrown entirely on a center or pivot, and a valve is obtained which works free and easy, and the position of which can be regulated from the outside.

BROADCAST SEEDING MACHINE.—W. S. COFFMAN, Coldwater, Mich.—This invention relates to a broadcast seeding machine of that class which are designed to be carried by the operator and worked by him while being carried.

BALING PRESS.—C. C. CONVERSE, New York City.—This invention relates to a press designed for compressing substances for baling, more especially cotton. The object is to obtain a press which will be simple in construction, economical to manufacture, and quite portable or of limited dimensions, and still operate with great power and efficiency, without injuring the fiber of cotton or other substances operated upon.

DEVICE FOR SOWING MANURES.—H. S. PALMER, Norvell, Mich.—This invention relates to a device for sowing plaster and other pulverulent manures, and it consists of a shaft provided with a right and left screw, and fitted in a suitable box, having a slide at its bottom for the purpose of regulating the discharge of the manure, a hopper being placed on the box, and the latter secured to the rear end of a wagon, whereby the manure, as the wagon which contains it is drawn over the field, may be sown or distributed upon the soil in an even manner, and with very little labor.

RESPIRATOR.—T. A. HOFFMAN, Beardstown, Ill.—The object of this invention is to provide a convenient and economical article or apparatus for filtering the air which is inhaled in breathing.

PRUNING INSTRUMENT.—G. F. WATERS, Waterville, Me.—This invention consists in the employment, in connection with a proper shaped hook for catching hold of the twig or branch, of an eccentric cutter operated by a hand lever suitably connected therewith.

ROOFING.—WM. GILBERT, Detroit, Mich.—This invention consists in the employment of a layer of long fibers of swamp grass, hemp, straw, or any other tough, fibrous material placed between the layers of felt, the raw fibers not to be woven into cloth, but spread in so as to form a net work, and put together by a cement. It also consists in the employment or use in the making of roofs of a cement consisting of distilled coal tar and common slacked lime.

REFLECTOR FOR LANTERNS.—W. A. BUTLER, New York City.—This invention consists in a novel combination and arrangement of reflecting surfaces for lanterns, whereby the reflection of light through the glass or open front of the lantern case is greatly augmented and more concentrated than with the ordinary mode of arranging such reflecting surfaces.

HAY AND STRAW KNIFE.—DANIEL FASIG, Rowsburg, Ohio.—This knife or cutting device is for cutting hay and straw from the stack, and is designed as an improvement over the angular knives now in use for such purpose.

BRICK MACHINE.—COLLINS B. BAKER, Troy, N. Y.—This invention relates to a mechanism for scraping off and leveling their upper surfaces after the molds have been shoved from underneath the press box. Its object is to obtain a simple device for the purpose and one which may be operated rapidly and in a perfect manner; the clogging of the strike, which has a reciprocating movement, being effectually prevented and the strike only allowed to act upon the molds in one direction so as to scrape the superfluous clay off from the molds at the end of the machine.

DEVICE FOR MOVING CARS ON THE TRACK.—J. W. PETTENGILL, Rockford, Ill.—This invention relates to a device for moving cars on the track, and is designed to supersede the pinch bar, the implement now used for such purpose.

CORN PLANTER.—J. S. RINKEL, Geneseo, Ill.—This invention relates to a device for dropping and covering corn, and it consists in a corn-dropping mechanism applied to a coverer, in such a manner that by a simple manipulation on the part of the operator the seed may be dropped and covered at the points where the furrows intersect each other, the field being furrowed both ways previous to the dropping or planting of the corn.

WATER WHEEL.—SIMON SHERMAN, Weston, Mo.—This invention relates to a horizontal water wheel of that class which are operated under the direct and reacting power or force of the water, and it consists in a peculiar construction of the scroll and buckets, and in the manner of applying the buckets to the wheel.

CAR WHEEL.—E. S. ROBINSON, New York City.—This invention has for its object the obtaining of a strong and durable car wheel by a very simple and economical mode of construction. It consists in having the body or main portion of the wheel of cast iron and composed of two plates of disk form, the convex surfaces being at the outer side, said plates being connected at their peripheries by cross pieces, the two plates and cross pieces being all cast in one piece. The tire or tread of the wheel is of wrought iron or steel, and is secured up on the body or main portion by means of rivets.

SHEEP HOLDER.—D. R. REED, Orangeville, N. Y.—This invention relates to a machine for holding sheep while being sheared. It consists in using, in connection with a stationary or fixed bed piece, on which the body of the animal rests while being sheared, two clamp wheels placed on screw shafts and a head rest, whereby the sheep may be readily adjusted in proper position and turned as required during the operation of shearing.

SEEDING AND SOD-CUTTING MACHINE.—J. M. CARR, Omaha City, Neb. Ter.—This invention relates to a combination of a seeding and sod-cutting machine, whereby the seed may be sown and the sod cut and the earth pulverized so that a fine friable mold will cover the seed.

TWEER IRON.—BENJAMIN FISH, Mechanicsburg, Pa.—This invention furnishes an improved tweer iron for blacksmiths' use, by means of which the size of the fire may be regulated, according to the requirements of the work; to which the cinders will not adhere, and which will not leak.

LADY'S SKIRT.—DWIGHT M. CHURCH, Derby, Ct.—The object of this invention is to furnish a lady's skirt the lower part of which may be detached when soiled, and replaced by a clean part, without its being necessary to wash the entire skirt every time its lower part becomes soiled.

STUFFING BOX AND PISTON-ROD PACKING.—CHARLES P. BENOIT, Detroit, Mich.—This invention relates to the packing of the piston and valve rods, plungers, etc., and consists of an arrangement of several novel devices which operate together effectively in preventing the escape of steam, water, or air, by keeping the packing next the rod smooth and in good order, while in constant use for a long time, without the trouble and expense of the frequent renewal of the packing generally required.

PAPER SHIRT COLLARS.—L. M. CRANE, Ballston Spa, N. Y.—This improvement consists in having a thin layer or sheet of gutta-percha or other material impervious to water, interposed between the layers of paper of the collar, whereby moisture is prevented from striking through the same, and the tearing of the fabric or material around the button-holes prevented in putting on and taking off the collar.

MACHINE FOR WASHING AND WRINGING CLOTHES.—EDWIN CHESTERMAN, Roxbury, Mass.—The object of this invention is to produce a machine for washing and wringing clothes which shall be compact in form, simple in operation, and easily operated. The invention embraces several particulars, one of which relates to the form of the cam by which motion is communicated to the working or pressing rollers of the machine.

ROTARY CULTIVATOR.—ANDREW THOMPSON, Ottumwa, Iowa.—This invention consists in so constructing a pulverizer that the teeth revolve upon the ground, and is so constructed that the cylinder in which the teeth are secured can be elevated or lowered, thus gagging the teeth to any desired depth.

ATTACHMENT TO PLOWS.—WILLIAM VEBER, Shingle Creek, N. Y.—The nature of this invention consists in constructing a device and attaching it to a plow, so as to prevent it from clogging under the beam, or in front of the colter.

COMBINED BOOT-JACK AND BLACKING CASE.—BERNARD DOUGLAS, New York City.—This invention relates to a very simple apparatus which will especially recommend itself to travelers, as it confines within a very small area a blacking box and brush, and when opened receives the shape and properties of a boot-jack of the common style.

Inventions Patented in England by Americans.

[We intend publishing hereafter a weekly report of all English Patents taken out by American citizens, all applications for the same, and such matters of interest as we may obtain from the "Commissioners of Patents' Journal."]

APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT.

- 2,115.—METHOD OF STORING PETROLEUM AND OTHER OILS, NAPHTHA AND OTHER PRODUCTS OF DISTILLATION CONTAINING ESSENTIAL OILS.—A communication by Seth Haskell, New Bedford, Mass. August 27, 1866.
- 2,215.—MODE OF PREVENTING OXIDATION OF LEAD BALLS IN FIXED AMMUNITION.—A communication from Barton Howard Jenks, Bridesburg, Pa. August 28, 1866.
- 2,224.—REPEATING FIRE-ARM.—A communication from Oliver Fisher Winchester, New Haven, Conn. August 29, 1866.
- 2,229.—LOOM.—A communication from Thomas Robjohn, of New York City. August 29, 1866.
- 2,231.—BRECH-LOADING FIRE-ARM.—A communication from Barton Howard Jenks, Bridesburg, Pa. August 29, 1866.
- 2,233.—LIFTING JACK.—A communication from Augustus Bryant Childs, Rochester, N. Y. August 30, 1866.
- 2,236.—SORTING, DISINTEGRATING, AND BLEACHING VEGETABLE FIBERS.—James Montague Mellor, New York City, chemist. August 30, 1866.
- 2,242.—MACHINERY FOR HULLING AND CLEANING COFFEE AND OTHER BERRIES OR SEEDS.—A communication from William Van Vleck Lidgerwood, a citizen of the United States, now Charge des Affaires at Rio de Janeiro, in the Empire of Brazil. August 30, 1866.

2,247.—APPARATUS FOR BORING BOILER TUBE HEADS, DRILLING ANGLE HOLES, OR CUTTING CIRCULAR GROOVES IN METALLIC SUBSTANCES.—A communication from James Miller, New York City. August 31, 1866.

2,251.—MACHINE FOR MAKING EYELETS.—Thomas Garrick, Providence, R. I. September 1, 1866.

2,261.—DETACHING BOATS FROM THEIR DAVITS.—A communication from Thomas Huntington, New York City. September 3, 1866.

2,264.—HOOP SKIRT.—A communication from Augustus James Colby, New York City. September 3, 1866.

PATENTS SEALED.

696.—ROTARY STREAM ENGINE.—Aaron Charles Baldwin, Boston, Mass. March 7, 1866.

704.—DREDGING AND ELEVATING MACHINERY.—Sylvester Franklin Schoonmaker, New York City. March 8, 1866.

719.—PUMP.—A communication from Asher Burr, Middletown, Conn. March 9, 1866.

720.—WEIGHING SCALES.—A communication from Daniel Hand Wilcox, New Haven, Conn. March 9, 1866.

827.—PROCESS OF AND APPARATUS FOR DISTILLING PETROLEUM AND OTHER MINERAL OILS.—A communication from Edward Braggins, Matthew Patrick Ewing, and Hiram Bond Everest, Rochester, N. Y. March 20, 1866.

874.—HOISTING APPARATUS.—A communication from Samuel Munson Longley and Andrew Conkey Getty, Hudson, N. Y. March 24, 1866.

1,164.—MACHINERY FOR MAKING TWIST DRILLS.—A communication from Andrew Reynolds Arnold, Newark, N. J. April 25, 1866.

PROVISIONAL PROTECTION FOR SIX MONTHS.

1,958.—ROTARY ENGINES.—A communication from Truman Merriam and James Cushing, Waterloo, Wis.

1,995.—IMPLEMENT FOR THE USE OF BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.—A communication from David Henry Barber, Cambridge, N. Y., and George Mellen Wells, Chicago.

1,997.—APPARATUS FOR RAISING AERIFORM AND OTHER FLUIDS.—A communication from Jeremiah William Foad, San Francisco, Cal.

2,001.—MACHINERY FOR CUTTING DOVETAIL JOINTS.—A communication from Frederick Woolcot Armstrong, Plainfield, N. J.

2,007.—MODE OF SECURING CORKS AND STOPPERS IN THE NECKS OR MOUTHS OF BOTTLES, JARS, AND OTHER VESSELS.—A communication from Arthur Barbarin, New Orleans, La.

2,017.—SEWING MACHINE.—A communication from George Lynden Jenks, Florence, Mass.

2,033.—APPARATUS OR MACHINE FOR REMOVING SEEDS OR STONES FROM RAISINS OR OTHER DRIED FRUIT.—A communication from William Emerson Baker, Boston, Mass.

2,156.—PROCESS FOR BLEACHING WITH THE AID OF HYDROSTATIC AND PNEUMATIC PRESSURE, CONJOINTLY OR SEPARATELY, WOOD, STRAW, AND OTHER FIBROUS MATERIAL, FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PAPER PULP, AND FOR BLEACHING FLAX, HEMP, THREAD, YARN, FELTS, CLOTHS, AND OTHER FIBROUS AND TEXTILE MATERIALS.—A communication from Henry Jones and Duncan Farquharson, Rochester, and Isaac Cowles Cotton, Buffalo, N. Y.

PATENTS HAVING BECOME VOID.

1,941.—MACHINERY OR APPARATUS FOR CUTTING CORK, PART OF WHICH IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO CUTTING PAPER, CAOUTCHOUC AND OTHER SUBSTANCES.—Amos Pierce Chamberlain, New Orleans. August 25, 1859.

2,072.—MANUFACTURE OF CARTRIDGES.—Communicated from Albert Hook, New York City. August 20, 1853.

THE MARKETS.

The continued inflation of the currency, with the consequent want of confidence in the permanence of present values, and the knowledge that the governmental deposits of gold are increasing, have tended to delay the expected activity of the Fall trade. Purchasers confine their demands to stocks for immediate use, as do the people at large. Gold has risen about one per cent., but without exerting a very marked influence on prices generally. Breadstuffs have advanced, principally from the injury to crops at the West by the late storms. There are indications, however, of a reaction in the prices of these articles.

ASHES.—Pots are in demand, but the supply is limited. Prices, \$9 50 per bbl. Pearls are nominal.

BRICKS.—Common Hard, \$10 50@11 50. Croton and Philadelphia are \$16@17 for the former, and \$4@4.50 for the latter.

COAL.—Foreign scarce and in demand. Liverpool Orrel, \$18; Cannel, \$20, delivered from yard; Lehigh, at Elizabethport, \$7 50. Cumberland, at Georgetown, D. C., \$5 50. Freight on Cumberland \$2 25. Stove retails at \$7 50@8 50.

COFFEE.—Demand for Rio. Laguayra, 18 1/2@19c., gold; 26c., currency. Costa Rica, 20c. Java, 25 1/2c.

COPPER.—Detroit, 31@31 1/2c.; Portage Lake, 31 1/2c.

COTTON.—There has been a continued active speculative and spinning demand, and prices have further advanced 1c. per lb., and in some instances still higher prices have been paid. Ordinary, 30@31c.; Middling, 33 1/2@34c.; Good Middling, 41@44c.

FLOUR.—Prices have materially advanced. Common brands rule from \$10 50@12 10; Ohio fancy brands \$12 15@12 20; Genesee extra, \$12 60@14 50.

GRAIN.—Wheat advanced slightly. Milwaukee, \$2 25@2 31 Amber, \$2@2 88. Rye—\$1 05@1 08 for No. 1 Western; \$1 25 for Canada. Barley, \$1 35. Oats—50@55c. for Chicago; 55@58c. for Milwaukee; 57c. for Ohio. Corn—80c. for inferior Western mixed; 90@91c. for shipping, 96c. for choice White.

IRON.—The market for Pig continues very firm, with moderate supplies and a steady fair demand for home use. The sales are 50 tons Gartsherrie Scotch at \$47 50@48 ex ship, and 50 from yard; 500 do. Glengarnock, from yard, \$48; and to arrive \$46 50; 600 do. No. 1 American, \$48@49; 100 do. No. 2 Allentown, \$47 at Elizabethport. Trenton refined bar, \$105@107 50 per ton cash. Swedes, in store, \$170 per ton.

LATHS.—Are firm, with sales of Eastern at \$4, three months.

LEAD.—Pig is steady, with a fair demand; prices unchanged.

LEATHER.—The market for Hemlock Sole is active, and prices are very firm. We quote Rio Grande and Buenos Ayres Light Weights, 83@84 cents; Middle do., 85@86; Heavy do., 86@87; California Light, 31@32; Middle do., 33 1/2@34 1/2; Heavy do., 34@35; Orinoco, etc., Light, 31@32; Middle do., 32@34; Heavy do., 32@33; Slaughter Upper in Rough, 31@33. Oak Sole is in light stock, and the market is firm. French and American Calf Skins are firm with a fair demand.

LIME.—The market for Rockland is steady, with sales of 4,450 bbls., at \$1 70 for Common, and \$2 10 for Lump, cash. Rosendale Cement, \$1 75, cash.

LUMBER.—The market for Eastern Spruce and Pine is moderately active, with sales at \$21@22 50, usual terms.

MOLASSES.—Centrifugal and Clayed Cuba, part mixed, at 42@46c.; 204 hds., 27 tons, and 26 bbls. Cuba Muscovado, 48@51 1/2c.; 474 hds., 18 tons, and 15 bbls. Barbadoes, at or about 58; 51 hds., Trinidad, 23, 45; 177 Meric and Demerara, 50@72; and 65 hds., and 50 bbls. Porto Rico, 62 1/2@70, for our months.

NAILS.—Cut may be quoted at 7 1/2c., the lower rates for lots of 500 kegs and over—8d., 10d., 3d., and 8d. Fine are very scarce—Clinch, 8 1/2 (8d are very scarce); forged horse, 32; pressed do., 22@24; copper, 50; yellow metal, 32; zinc, 20; and wrought ship and boatspikes, 7@8, cash.

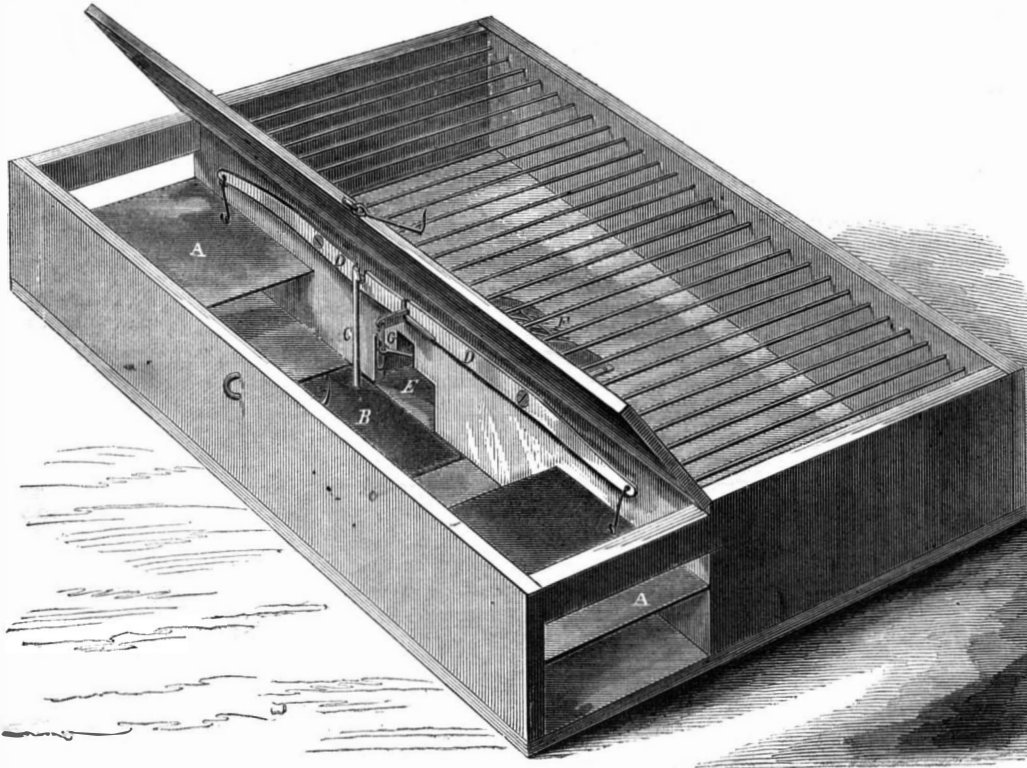
SUGAR.—Prices unchanged from former quotations.

WOOL.—The demand for low and medium fleece has been moderately active, but at the low prices previously current, and the market is rather weak for all kinds, except those suitable for combing, which are scarce and wanted at slightly improved quotations.

ZINC.—9 1/2c. less 4 per cent. for gold; 13 1/2c., currency, for Lehigh.

Self-setting Animal Trap.

"Set a rogue to catch a rogue," is an old axiom, and in the engraving under consideration it is attempted to be put into practice. The "varmint," after being securely penned, is the unconscious instrument of the imprisonment of his fellows. The animal enters at either of the doors designated by the letter A, which turn on pivots sufficiently above their centers to allow them to fall when released. The bait is hung on a hook, and to reach it the rat must step on the platform, B, which has a slight movement on pivots sufficient to tilt the catch, C, which engages the connected arms, D. These arms are connected with the doors and retain them in an open position when the trap is set. When the trap is sprung and the doors are closed, the animal, seeing light through the opening at E, looks for escape in that direction, and passes through, lifting the wire wicket, F, which rests its lower edge in an inclined position on the floor. The lifting of the wicket sets the trap again by the wire loop, G, and the process may thus be continued indefinitely.



ELLIS AND ALBERTSON'S ANIMAL TRAP.

Patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, July 31, 1866, by Ellis & Albertson, whom address for further information at, Salem, Ind.

Improved Water Closet.

The convenience of a water closet in a dwelling, or any other inhabited building, is undeniable. Sometimes, however, from a defect in the principle of construction, or an unworkmanlike performance of the labor, it is more or less offensive, on account of the escape of unpleasant effluvia. The design of this arrangement is to make the rising of these gases impossible. It is claimed by scientific men that the offensive odors of water closets and cesspools are a

water pipe, D, which is opened by the hand at E, and closed by the weight and lever, F. The pressure upon the seat opens the valve, C, permitting the flow of water into the pan or bowl. The discharge pipe, G, is cut across by a gland in which is a vertical sliding valve, H, attached to the rod, I, pivoted to the lever, J, which is operated by the head, K.

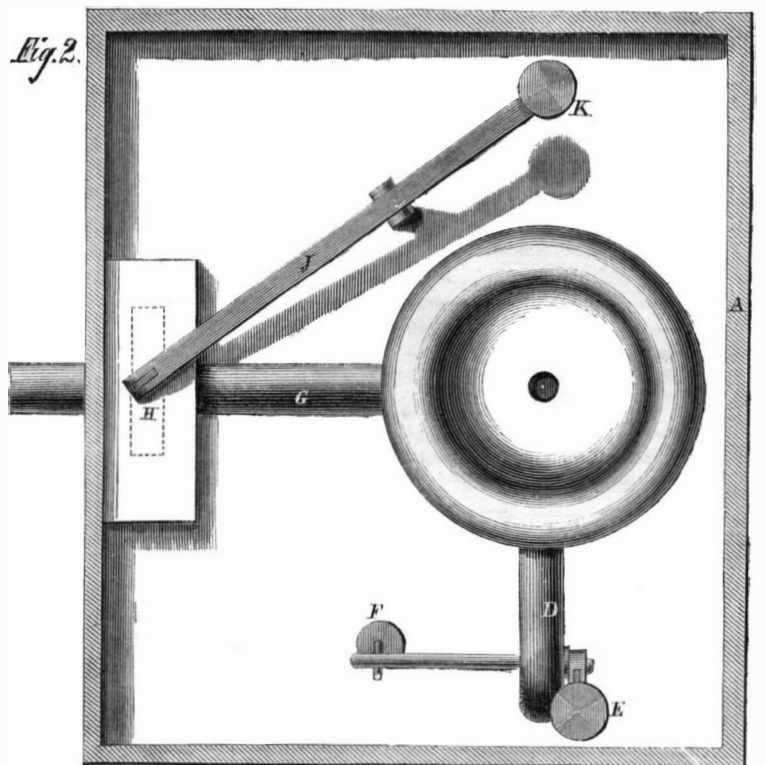
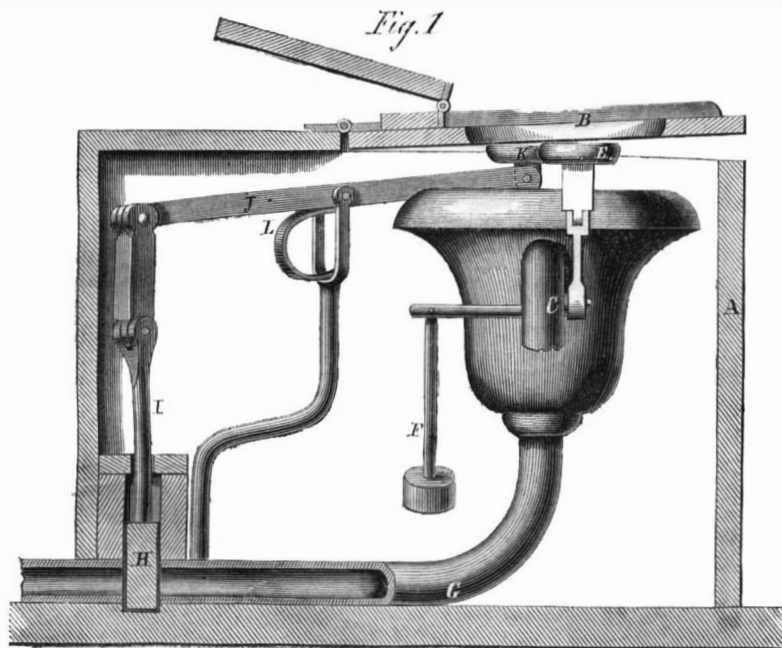
When the closet is in use the pressure upon the seat, B, depresses the head, K, and opens the discharge pipe so that the contents of the bowl have a free passage. When the pressure is removed the open spring, L, throws the valve, H, back into place. By this means the escape of gases is always prevented, both when the closet is in use and when not in use. The apparatus appears to be simple, effectual, and not liable to get out of order.

The Broken Atlantic Cable.

The London *Spectator* tells the following singular and most interesting story:—

"Night and day, for a whole year, an electrician has always been on duty watching the tiny ray of light through which signals are given, and twice every day the whole length of wire—one thousand two hundred and forty miles—has been tested for conduction and insulation. * * * The object of observing the ray of light was of course not any expectation of a message, but simply to keep an accurate record of the condition of the wire. Sometimes indeed wild incoherent messages from the deep did come, but these were merely the results of magnetic storms and earth currents, which deflected the galvanometer rapidly, and spelt the most extraordinary words, and sometimes even sentences of nonsense, upon the graduated scale before the mirror. Suddenly, last Saturday morning, at a quarter to six o'clock, while the light was being watched by Mr. May, he observed a peculiar indication about it which showed at once to his experienced eye that a message was at hand. In a few min-

utes afterward the unsteady flickering was changed to coherency, if we may use such a term, and at once the cable began to speak, to transmit, that is, at regular intervals, the appointed signals which indicated human purpose and method at the other end, instead of the hurried signs, broken speech, and inarticulate cries of the still illiterate Atlantic. After the long interval in which it had brought us nothing but the moody and often de-



PETTIT'S WATER CLOSET.

prolific source of disease, especially when cholera and kindred complaints are prevalent. Any contrivance, therefore, which prevents them from impregnating the atmosphere is an improvement.

A is the box of the closet, and B the cover, the seat of which is hinged. B is held partially open by a spring in the usual manner. C is the valve of the

Patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, May 15, 1866, by Oliver S. Pettit. For further particulars address Pierson & Pettit, No. 3 Park Row, New York.

GOLD mining is carried on to quite an extent and with good results, in the State of Vermont.

lirious mutterings or the sea stammerings over its alphabet in vain, the words 'Canning to Glass must have seemed like the first rational word uttered by a high-fever patient when the ravings ceased.'

THE mammoth Canada cheese is to be exhibited at the Paris Exhibition.

THE
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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, OCT. 6, 1866.

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THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH—ITS PRESENT AND PROBABLE USES,

The last laid Atlantic cable has been in successful operation about two months. It has, as yet, shown no diminution of its conducting power, and the recovery and employment of the lost cable serves to give additional hope that the permanency of telegraph communication with the old continent can be assured. Now, the question arises, why cannot two cables be laid at the same time, instead of confining the work to the laying of one? Or why not lay a cable containing a number of conductors? In our issue of Aug. 4th, we gave engravings of a cable composed mainly of copper and an insulating material, which, the inventor claimed, was capable of transmitting six messages simultaneously. It may be that this plan in practice would be inefficient, but possibly some plan on a similar principle might be devised, by which the laying of one cable would insure the connection of the two continents by several independent conductors. If this is impracticable, is it not possible to lay two cables lighter than the present one, but possessing sufficient strength for service, so that the *Great Eastern* might take on board the double line and deposit both at the same time? We believe the project is feasible and within the resources of science.

The influence of the present telegraphic communication with Europe may not be, as yet, sufficiently marked to enable us to judge fairly of its future possibilities; but it is certain that it has already given a confidence to our business transactions and imparted a healthy tone to our commercial relations. Certainty has taken the place of conjecture, and diminished the opportunities for and discouraged the attempts at wild speculation, while, at the same time, it has aided the legitimate efforts of business men on both sides of the Atlantic. As the use of the telegraph becomes more general, by a reduction of the tariff rates, and by the facilities of communication afforded by a double line, we may expect increased life and energy will be infused into our trade.

In the diplomatic relations between this country and the nations of Europe the telegraph is destined, we think, to play an important part. By its mistakes can be rectified, misunderstandings corrected, and unpleasant complications avoided.

Occurrences trifling and unimportant in themselves, are often made by journalists the means of

exciting the passions and arousing the prejudices of the people. The European mails bring us accounts of speeches, and of the action of Parliament, the opinions of influential men and the intentions of those in authority, which are sometimes misleading and erroneous, the error being strengthened by editorial remarks in prominent journals. Before the next mail arrival the subject has been debated and discussed in the journals all over the country, passions inflamed, antipathies renewed, and the public mind put into a ferment. The telegraph, in such a case, will prove a ready means of correcting false impressions before they have taken root in the popular mind.

But with this pleasing aspect of the matter comes another of grave import. Both *termini* of the cable are on English territory. In case of a hostile feeling between the United States and England, she could cut off the communication between this Government and its agents in Europe, while at the same time she would be in almost instantaneous communication with her vast naval and military depots and arsenals on our coast and frontier, as Halifax, Bermuda, and Quebec. Still, in case of war we might easily raise and cut the cable, so that England could derive no benefit from it which she denied to us. There may be, therefore, no reason for anticipating national danger from the cable, but much for believing that the cause of civilization and the advancement of the whole human family will result from its success.

PROGRESS OF THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

On the first of September the Pacific Railroad was completed from Omaha City to beyond Fort Kearney, in Nebraska, a distance of over two hundred miles. The rate of progression is from forty-five to fifty miles a month, so that it is believed that another year will stretch the road to the Rocky Mountains. The route is from Omaha City, along the banks of the Platte river, the same course traveled by the pony express. The surface of the country is highly favorable to the work, being smooth, hard, dry, and almost level. A better road-bed could not be desired. The graders are at work along the third hundred miles, and will finish the fourth this fall.

At the other end the work is progressing rapidly—a work that will be considered one of the monuments of man's perseverance and industry. We have before alluded to the immense difficulties to be overcome in the construction of the road through and over the Sierras, and the success in surmounting them. To exaggerate the importance of this transcontinental highway is almost impossible. To a certain extent it will change the relative positions of this country, Europe, and Asia. The track of an army is a track of desolation. Its passage impoverishes and scorches the country through which it moves. Not so the track of commerce. That country which stands between the place of production and the mart of sale, which is the highway over which the wealth of nations must travel, enjoys a Danaean shower. This was the secret of the prosperity of Palmyra, the city over which the proud Zenobia reigned—it built Alexandria, sustained Carthage, and made Venice the strongest republic of the world.

With the completion of the Pacific Railroad, instead of receiving our goods from India, China, Japan, and the "Isles of the Sea," by way of London and Liverpool, we shall bring them direct by way of the Sandwich Islands and the railroad, and become the carriers, to a great extent, for Europe. But this is but a portion of the advantages of this work. Our western mountains are almost literally mountains of gold and silver. In them the Arabian fable of Aladdin is realized. To-day it costs almost a competence to reach them, and live among them for a year or two, until the labors of those weary months begin to make a visible return. Food, clothing, machinery, implements, and all other necessities are costly in the mining regions of Colorado, Nevada, and Arizona. This cost is largely that of transportation. Let the road be completed, and the comforts as well as the necessities furnished by Asia, the manufactures of Europe, and the productions of the States, can be brought by the iron horse almost to the miner's door, and in the production and possession of the precious metals, the blood of commerce, we shall be the richest nation on the globe.

But the substantial wealth created by the improvement of the soil and the development of the resources of the country is a still more important element in the results of this vast work. Ease of access, facility of intercommunication, and encouragement to travel, will invite thousands of the crowded inhabitants of Europe and our Eastern cities, and build up towns and cities, and make luxuriant farms where now nature exists in almost undisturbed wildness.

COAL, ITS ORIGIN AND NATURE.

There can be no reasonable doubt that all coals, bituminous and anthracite, are of vegetable origin. By a powerful microscope the vegetable texture of the mass can be distinguished, not only in the softer qualities, but even in the hardest anthracite. We have seen specimens of indubitable jet yield to the power of the microscope and reveal the original grain of the wood or vegetable fiber. Peat is the first combustible form of coal, and if our peat beds, now sought after with so much avidity, and judged to be such mines of wealth, were suffered to remain undisturbed, they would, at some future period, become beds of coal for warming and lighting the winters and nights of future generations.

Coal is not a material belonging exclusively to past geological periods, but is in process of formation now, as may be proved by an examination of the "brown coal," well known in Europe and frequently met with here. Thin slices, which allow the light to pass through them, show to the naked eye the original vegetable structure. It is universally acknowledged that this "brown coal," or lignite, is an undeveloped coal, not yet subjected to the changes of years which would transform it into pure bituminous or anthracite coal. To be sure, time is required to change the disintegrated porous mass of vegetable fibers, roots, and tendrils, leaves and *lignum* to hard, brilliant, laminated, or crystallized coal. But nature works slowly. We find it difficult to understand her processes or to comprehend her infinite patience, which watches through unnumbered years and countless ages for the slow and gradual progression of her agencies. But it is certain that her transforming processes have not suffered an abatement of their original power by the discoveries of man. They still go on, and will as long as this globe and the universe endure.

It is possible that the present *furor* about peat will lead to the discovery of accelerating the action of unaided natural forces, so that this material may be made to give out as much heat-power as the concentrated coal, but we much doubt it. The principal fault with our coal is, that it combines with its elements deleterious to iron, whether in a state of fusion or merely subjected temporarily to its heat. Stoves, for instance, which are constructed to burn wood only, will last a life time or longer; but burn anthracite coal and the parts warp, and crack, and oxidize, until the stove, or that portion exposed to the direct action of the heat, must be renewed yearly, if not oftener. With the bituminous coal it is worse still. The grate, with a hot fire, yields and falls in pellicles, melted from the mass, until, in a short time, the most important portions of the contrivance are useless. To withstand the concentrated heat they must be made of extraordinary thickness.

In reducing ores, also, and especially in fusing iron, these components of coal are the cause of much trouble. They are foreign bodies, which have become incorporated with the original vegetable mass, and hold, chemically or mechanically suspended, sulphur, silicon, and other elements, which are detrimental to the metal.

There is no reason to disbelieve that all varieties of coal have a common origin. They are vegetable masses, which, mixed with inorganic particles, have undergone different degrees of mineralization, the more recent still retaining much of the volatile elements, the bituminous less, and the anthracite still less, until this will burn with but little flame and no smoke.

DURING the last ten years the value of the industrial products of Massachusetts has increased seventy-two per cent; the population during the same time, only three per cent.

ATMOSPHERIC TRIP HAMMERS ARE made by CHAS. MERRILL & SONS, 556 Grand street, New York.

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WATER WHEELS.—THE HELICAL JONVAL Turbine, for first-class mills, where great economy of water is desired.

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CIVIL AND MINING ENGINEERING. At the RENSSLAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, Troy, N. Y. The next Annual Session begins Sep. 12.

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\$200 A MONTH IS BEING MADE WITH our IMPROVED STENCIL DIES, by Ladies and Gentlemen. Send for our free Catalogue containing Samples and Prices.

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ANDERSON & SCHERMERHORN, PATENT and Model Makers, Gearing Cocks, Valves, and Engines. Patterns of every description.

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BUERK'S WATCHMAN'S TIME DETECTOR.—Important for all large Corporations and Manufacturing concerns—capable of controlling with the utmost accuracy the motion of a watchman or patrolman.

\$150 A MONTH; NEW BUSINESS FOR TO BUILDERS.—Patent Rolled Plate Glass for Skylights for sale very low by E. & H. T. ANTHONY & CO., 501 Broadway.

TO RAILROAD AND TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.—Telegraph Circuit Breaker and Signal Apparatus, is readily used by Conductors and Brakemen.

GOVERNORS. THE GILLESPIE GOVERNOR COMPANY, of Boston, are now manufacturing GILLESPIE'S PATENT HYDRAULIC GOVERNOR.

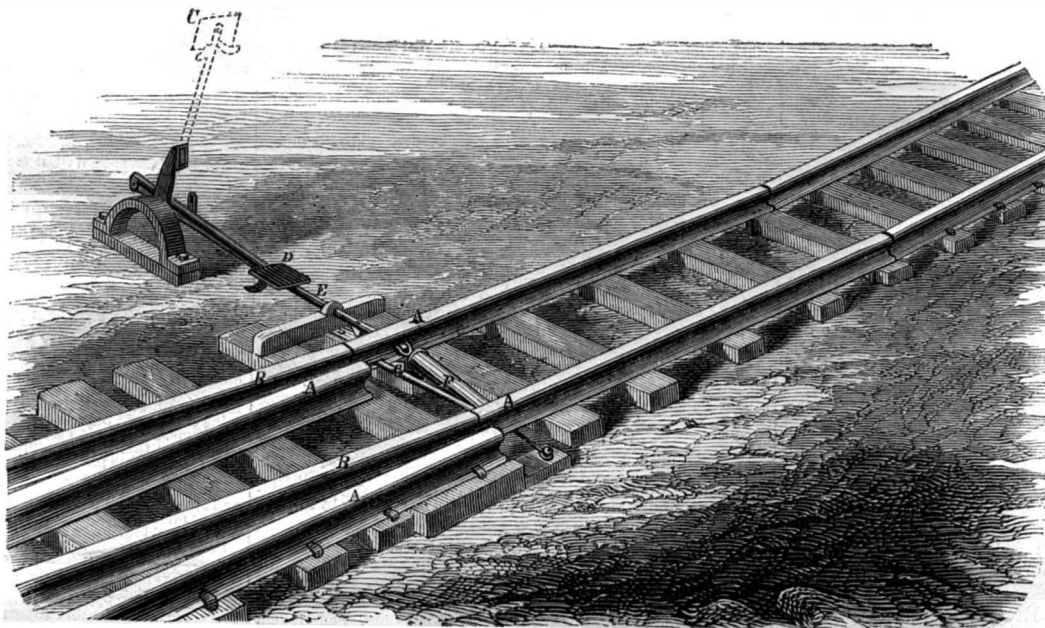
A few of the many testimonials which the Company has received, in regard to the operation of their Governors, were published May 19, 1866, in No. 21 of this paper.

Self-adjusting Railroad Switch.

The carelessness or inattention of switchmen has been one among the causes of some of the most deplorable accidents on our railroads. Wherever a siding occurs it is not in so constant use as the main line, and is generally designed for occasional and temporary purposes. Consequently, if a switch keeps the main line intact, except at the time while being operated, it subserves the usual purposes of a railroad switch. The improvement illustrated in the engraving is intended to firmly lock the line, and to bring the rails back to their normal position as soon as the force which removed them is withdrawn.

Let A represent the rails of the main line, and B the turnout. The switchman, to connect the switch with the siding, depresses the lever from its position at C, and brings it to a horizontal position, retaining it there by his weight upon the seat, D.

To assist him in holding it, a lug on D can be made to catch on the bar, E. When the lever is released, a strong spiral spring in the cylinder, F, brings the rails back to position, where they are held securely by the catch-spring, the end of which is seen at G. This spring has a projection which rises above the base of the rail and secures it firmly, so that no accident can displace the



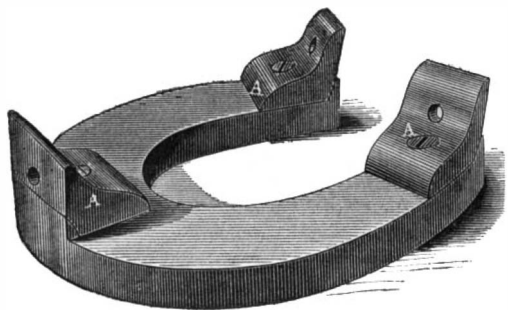
ZINN'S SELF-ADJUSTING RAILROAD SWITCH.

track. The first movement of the lever from its upright position depresses this catch-spring and permits the shifting of the track. The device appears to be a very efficient and desirable improvement.

It was patented March 13, 1866, by John W. Zinn, Caldwell, N. J., to whom apply for further particulars.

LITZENBERG'S ADJUSTABLE SHOE CALKS.

The engraving represents a new method of applying winter calks to horseshoes. Its object and mode of application can be readily understood by the engraving. The shoe itself is forged, very like the ordinary summer shoe, except that at the toe and heel are left slight projections, against which the adjustable calks abut. The improvement is intended



to admit of the sharpening and adjustment of the calks without the aid of the smith. They are secured by a screw, A, passing through the shank of the calk and tapped into the shoe.

It was patented Aug. 21, 1866, through the Scientific American Patent Agency, by William Litzenberg, to whom applications for rights and for further particulars should be addressed, at Macomb, Ill.

Railroad in the Alps.

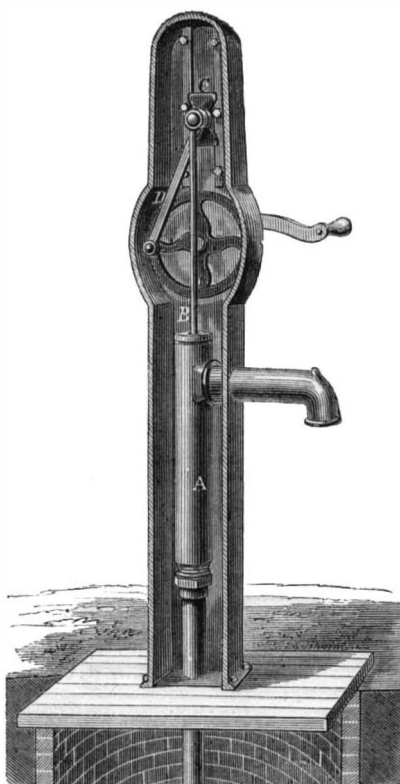
Dr. Prime, over the signature of "Irenius," is writing to the New York *Observer* very interesting letters from the continent. In his last he gives the following account of a railroad up the Alps to convey ice down to the European continental cities:—"Penetrating secluded regions where frost has been king since the world began, the rail has made

even the everlasting glaciers, these frozen cataracts, articles of merchandise. As the quarries in the mountains are worked by the art and spirit of man, so the icebergs that here grow from age to age, and scarcely seem to melt at all, are cut into blocks and transported by rail to Paris. The glacier of Grindelwald is drunk in brandy punches at the Grand Hotel and the Louvre. To get the ice, these mighty frozen seas are excavated in galleries and chambers and magnificent saloons. The depths of snow on the surface exclude the sunbeams, but calcium lights shed a brilliant luster reflected as from a thousand mir-

rors of glass, and in small apartments fitted up for the purpose, the furniture of a well appointed parlor, sofas, chairs, and cushions, invite to cold but not inhospitable repose. When the Mer de Glace is taken by rail down into Italy and thence by ship to the East Indies, ice will be reasonably cheap in Calcutta. And this will be more readily done than to tow an iceberg from the North Pole."

ANDREWS'S LIFTING AND FORCE PUMP.

Solomon said "to the making of books there is no end." The statement is equally applicable to that



household implement, so extensively used, the pump. Still, although there may sometimes be failure of improvement where alterations are made, yet the

pump has been improved; it could not well be simplified. The engraving of the pump herewith presented possesses qualities which, it is claimed, are not shared, combined together, by any other in the market. As will be seen, a rotary motion is easily transformed into a direct-acting reciprocating movement, and the pump can be used as a common lifting or as a force pump.

The pump itself is inclosed in a cast-iron case, one side left off in the figure, the case inclosing the working barrel, wheel, arm, and slide. A pipe leads down the well, and a nozzle or discharge pipe projects from the case. The common valves are contained in the barrel, A, and are operated by the rod, B, which is connected to the cross head, C, and receives motion from the arm, D.

It will be seen that all the motions affecting the working parts of the pump are direct, and that any part can be easily repaired when worn. It will also be noticed that there can be but little wear to these parts, and that, therefore, the pump may be kept in order for an indefinite time. It seems to be a very simple and effectual device for raising water.

Patented on May 8, 1866, by R. H. Andrews, whom address, Box 358, Washington, D. C.

POLISHING SLATE, brought from Bohemia, has been computed to contain in every cubic inch forty-one thousand millions of animalcules. Since a cubic inch of this slate weighs 220 grains, in every single grain there are 187 millions of skeletons, and one of them would therefore weigh about 1/187000000 of a grain.



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