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## Portable Distilling and Steaming Apparatus.

This is a cheap, handy, and portable apparatus for household purposes, capable of being modified to meet all the ordinary exigencies of domestic cookery, except baking. For steaming vegetables, etc., it seems to be specially adapted and also for any process of inspissation as the preparation of sirups, jams, preserves, etc., or the extraction of the volatile essences from vegetable or animal substances. It would seem, also, as though it could be easily adapted for purposes of distillation, a fact that might be taken advantage of to the detriment of the Internal Revenue Department.

The chamber, A, is double, having an inner receptacle—a furnace—for charcoal, resting on a grate at the bottom, and surrounded by an annular water chamber. At the top of this chamber is a funnel, B, which is removable by means of the handle, C, and can be continued to a chimney, if desirable, to conduct away the smoke. The boiler, D, is partially filled with water, or any other fluid desired, to a point above the opening of the pipe, E, which, of course, fills the annular space surrounding the furnace in the chamber, A. A second pipe, F, leads from the center of the bottom of the boiler, D, back to the annular space surrounding the furnace, returning the cooler water back to the bottom of the furnace, thus keeping up a continuous circulation. If the apparatus is to be used as a still, a pipe can be affixed to the upper portion of the boiler and conducted through a cooling medium to a reservoir for the reception of the products of combustion. It can be used for steaming food for stock or for the family, boiling water for tea or coffee, and, by an addition to the furnace, for heating sad irons, etc.

Patented May 7, 1867. For state and county rights address C. Daubert Louisville, Ky.

## A Veteran Soldier's Elixir.

We were requested to step down stairs to the street door, the other day, to confer with an old man who sent word he was too infirm to come up into our office. We found our visitor to be a tall keen-eyed healthy-looking man, robust and soldierly in appearance, by name A. Rullman, residence 643 Fourth avenue, New York city, by birth a Frenchman. He stated that he was 84 years of age and had served fifteen years in the French army under the first Napoleon, having been in the celebrated campaigns of Spain, Italy, and Russia. His health, he said, was capital; but his legs gave him some trouble. His hand writing is excellent. This old veteran has applied for a patent for a medical compound discovered by him many years ago, which he states is a specific for all troubles of the stomach. He expects that his elixir will keep him alive for a generation more, at least; and, to judge from his looks, he is not far out of the way in his calculations.

## SETTING BOILERS—HOW TO SET A HORIZONTAL STATIONARY BOILER.

The subject of boiler setting has not received the attention it deserves from engineers and mechanics, the method in which the work is performed and sometimes its plan, being left mostly, if not entirely, to the bricklayers. We give herewith an illustration and a description, by Mr. F. W. Bacon, 84 John street, New York city—an engineer of large experience—which will be found valuable by many of our readers and will answer repeated requests for such information, although some engineers may differ from him in some of the proportions and details.

The objects to be attained in properly setting a boiler are, economy of fuel, durability of the furnace and boiler, and an immunity from burning, bursting, or exploding the boiler. The cardinal points are:

1st, A good and sufficient chimney located out of the influence of counter currents caused by higher buildings or hills in the immediate vicinity; 2d, The boiler, if flue or

tubular, to have sufficient vent as compared with the grate surface; 3d, The boiler so set that there shall be sufficient vent over the bridgewalls to admit of a free draft; 4th, That the furnace shall be so arranged as to burn the gases and arrest the sparks and dust before they enter the flues or tubes. The chimney for the boiler we shall adopt for our illustration, should have 16 feet of grate surface, should be 18 inches square inside, or if round not less than

represented in the engraving for the purpose of distributing the concentrated heat over a larger surface of the boiler, also that the heat radiated from them shall go to the boiler instead of being thrown forward against the furnace front and doors. The spaces, D, serve to give room for the products of combustion to expand, thereby moving slower, giving an opportunity for the particles of unconsumed fuel to fall and not pass into the tubes or flues, also when they strike the bridgewall to be rotated and mixed, the hotter with the cooler. E are doors to clear the deposits collected in D.

The rear wall, F, should also have an inclined face for the same purpose, and to facilitate the change of the current. This space should be large, not short of 18 inches, better, where there is room for it, 24 inches, to give ample room for turning the direction of the current and that the heat may not be so concentrated as to injure the angle of the boiler. The furnace we have said should have about 16 square feet of grate, say its width is 3 feet 6 inches by 4 feet 6 inches long. The object of making it narrower than the diameter of the boiler is to make its sides inclined. Every practised engineer knows that when the walls of his furnace are vertical the action of the intense heat induces the fire bricks to fall in long before they are worn out. Now it will be seen that by giving an outward inclination to these walls they cannot fall in and will stay in their places until worn out. This, though an important consideration, is not the greatest advantage gained by it. It is a well known law that heat is radiated at right angles to the radiating surface—hence if the walls of the furnace are perpendicular the heat is thrown on the opposite wall, "each increasing each," until they are destroyed. Incline the walls and the radiated heat strikes the boiler and is utilized. In laying up these walls the bricks should not be "battered back" but laid on the proper inclination to give a plane surface.

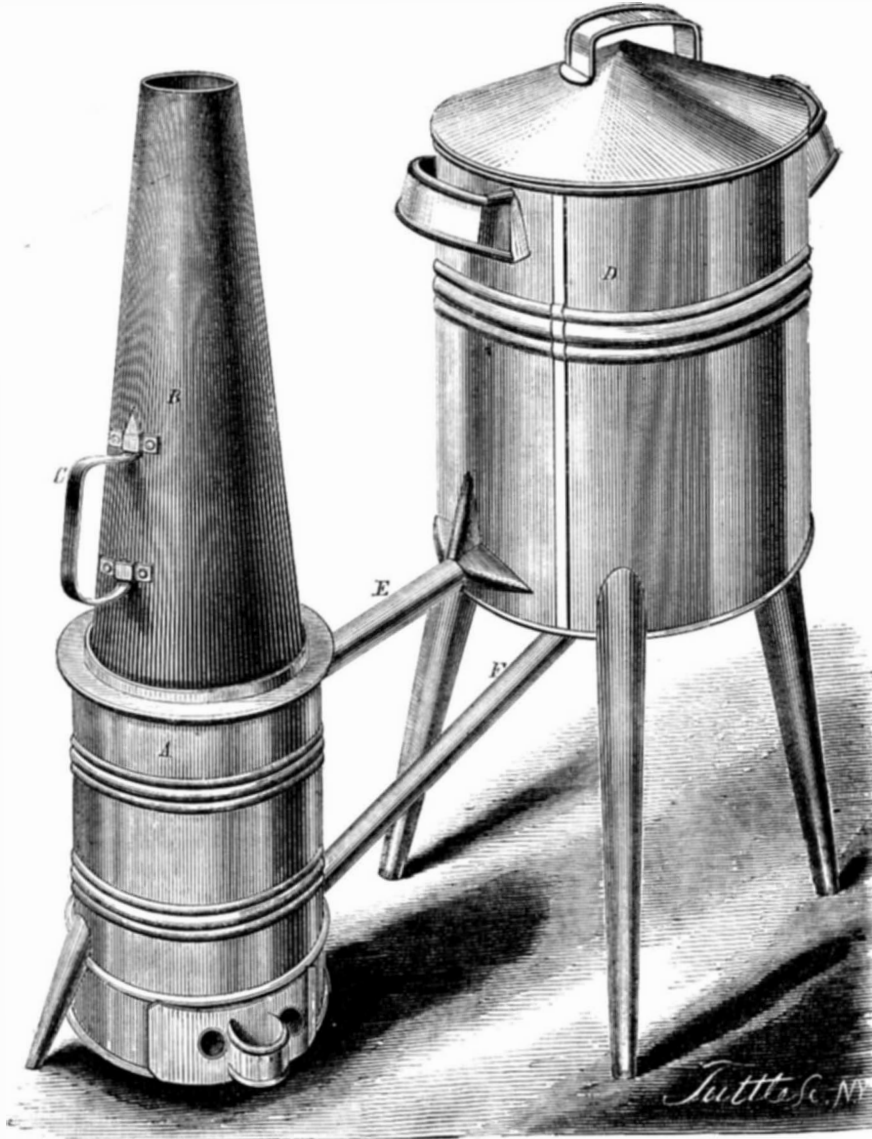
To burn the gases is an important consideration, and can be accomplished with but little expense and great economy. All smoke issuing from a furnace is fuel wasted; it can be consumed, thereby relieving the neighborhood of a nuisance and saving fuel. This can be accomplished by properly admitting air at the bridgewall where the products of combustion are yet at a sufficient temperature to ignite. The mode we have practiced is, to put a cast-iron pipe G, of 6 inches diameter across directly behind the first bridgewall perforated with holes 3-16 of an inch in diameter whose united area shall be equal to 1½ square inches to each square foot of grate surface. This pipe to be open at each end to the air. The object of the small holes is the same as that of the argand burner to insure an intimate mixture of atmospheric air with the gases, that they may be consumed. In case that the boiler should be of the class known as the fire box kind, the pipe cannot be inserted without difficulty. In this case the air can be admitted through apertures in the furnace door into a box fastened to the door perforated as above.

It will be found that the above fixture will be of great advantage particularly where bituminous coal, wood, or shavings and saw dust are burned. Air spaces should be left, as at H, in the side and rear walls the entire length, and sealed tight.

It will be noticed that the side and rear walls are carried above the top of the boiler. This is to hold ashes or some other non-conducting material to protect the otherwise exposed surface from condensation. It is known that owing to the difference in expansion between the boiler and brick-work large spaces will soon show themselves, thereby letting in air where it is not wanted, cooling the products of combustion and reducing the draft.

Now if we deposit a few pebbles along the line where the cracks will show themselves, and then fill in above with ashes, we will have, under any circumstances, tight joints.

The use of the pebbles is to prevent the ashes from going through the cracks. It will be seen that we have taken as



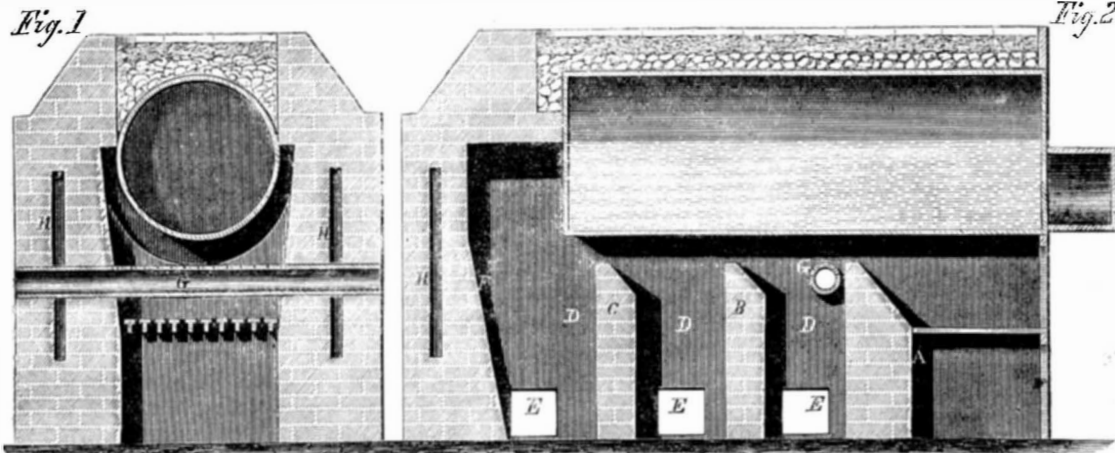
DAUBERT'S PORTABLE STILL AND WATER-HEATER.

20 inches diameter, smooth inside, and should be plastered. Its height not less than 40 feet. If more than 60 feet high it should be larger. It should be carried above the surrounding buildings, at any rate.

If there should be a duct from the boiler to the chimney it should be larger than the chimney. Should there be angles in the duct they should be made circular and larger than the straight line. The vent of the boiler, supposing it to be tubular, should have tubes 3 inches diameter by 10 feet long: they should not be less in diameter nor longer to insure a good draft. These tubes should collectively have an area of 320 square inches, which will give 20 square inches

to each square foot of grate. The vent or aperture between the bridgewalls, A, B, C, and boiler should be for the first, 400 square inches, the second, 350 square inches; the third, 320 square inches.

The faces of the bridgewalls should be made on an angle as



PLAN FOR SETTING HORIZONTAL BOILERS.

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an example the cylinder tubular boiler; the same rules apply to the two or more flue or cylinder boilers.

In case the duct from the boiler to the chimney is carried under the ground, great care should be used to have it so arranged as to be easy of access for clearing, the upright part and in the angles large, and that the duct be either square or round, not a parallelogram, in order that as little surface as possible may be presented to the passing current.

These under ground ducts have sometimes given trouble in certain localities, in sugar houses, distilleries, breweries, and other places where fermentation is going on, liberating large quantities of carbonic acid gas, which being heavier than air fill the lower spaces and render it impossible for the products of combustion to pass to the chimney until the gas is removed. We have done this by exploding a few ounces of gunpowder by means of a slow match in the duct, taking care to have the breeching closed so that the gas be blown up chimney.

The above difficulty only occurs when the boiler is newly set, or has been standing cold for some time.

#### EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

*Who is Prussia?—The Question Answered but not Settled—The German Spirit and its Characteristics—The King—His Habits—Bismarck, the Iron Man—The Habits of the People.*  
BERLIN, July 23, 1867.

In the show window of one of the numerous shops in the beautiful street called "Unter den Linden," is a characteristic double picture. One represents a solitary mounted figure clothed in the splendid uniform of an Austrian Huszar. Underneath are the words, "Who is Prussia?" The other represents two mounted cavaliers—one an Austrian, the other a Prussian. The latter answers laconically "Here is Prussia," having, in the mean time, drawn his sword and knocked off the Austrian's cap in the coolest manner possible.

Such, at this moment, is the situation of the two nations which the group represents. Austria seeking to control the destinies of the German Confederation finds in Prussia a power to dispute her claims, and in the seven weeks' war of 1866, the former inquires "Where is Prussia?" One year ago, on the sanguinary fields of Koniggratz and Sadowa, the question was answered, "Here is Prussia."

Germany has always puzzled me a good deal—and when the question has been asked, "Where is Germany?" the answer has been: Austria, Bohemia, Bavaria, Westphalia, Wurtemberg, Saxony, Prussia, Hanover, Hesse Cassel, Saxa-Coburg, Saxa Weimar, besides a score of other petty Dukedoms—a sort of mosaic work of little states—so that a traveler is fairly bewildered by their number. At one time the provinces of Rhenish Prussia could not be reached from Berlin, in a direct route, without passing through territories governed by other rulers. The success of Prussia in war has altered this state of things, and now she has a free pass to go in a straight line. The King of Hanover has voluntarily exiled himself rather than to yield his regal rights, but his Queen refuses to go, and is compelled to submit to the authority of the King of Prussia, who, it is said, appoints her household servants. The Duke of Nassau, for the same reason, takes up his abode in the mountains of Switzerland, and reminds his people that for six years his father was wrongfully deprived of his ducal rights, and if need be, he can stay away as long. It must not be supposed that the success of Prussia in war has made a homogeneous people. On the contrary, while the population on the lower Rhine shout lustily, "God save the King and Bismarck," up the Rhine, and much nearer to this capitol, there is a sullen bitterness of feeling which often vents itself in language of unmistakable disapprobation, and the presence of the most loyal troops are required to secure obedience.

Military surveillance, however, is not so rigidly exercised over the people in Prussia as it is in France. The Germans are a brave and well educated people, and it would not be safe to undertake to reduce them to a position of military vassalage such as exists in Russia, Austria, and, to a great extent, in France, where the masses are unlearned, and by long habit have bowed the neck to the most grievous burdens.

It is said that every soldier in the Prussia army is able to read and write. By law all the children, male and female, between the ages of six and fourteen, are compelled to attend school. They are taught reading, writing, and the elementary studies generally, to which is also added singing and religious instruction. It is not at all strange, therefore, that in time of war an army so composed should be strong and reliable—a band of Spartans who fight for "God and Fatherland." The whole population is trained for war, but not for the army, so that when the war-cry is sounded the people drop their implements of peace and seize the musket, to the use of which they are thoroughly well skilled. Two years ago King William and Bismarck were very unpopular, but the events of 1866 have rendered them both objects of mingled pride and popularity. Had they failed, a fearful retribution would have covered them with oblivion and contempt.

King William is in one sense an accidental Sovereign, for although of the royal family, he succeeded to the throne in 1861 upon the death of his brother, who left no heirs. The shop windows of Berlin testify to the general admiration in which the King is now held by the people. The photographic art seems to have exhausted itself in presenting him in almost every posture that befits his position, and the chisel is now being employed to mold the kingly features into comely form, though it must be confessed that His Majesty is by no means a poor subject. He has a somewhat commanding figure, a bright blue eye, with a smiling open countenance, which reveals a great deal of the *bon homme*, while his habits

are very simple and correct. At his summer residence of Babelsberg, in Potsdam, either himself or some one else has shown a great deal of excellent taste and good judgment. It is not exactly a palace; on the contrary, it has the outward air and style of a fine place upon our own romantic Hudson. The gardens are very beautiful and well kept, and but for a knowledge of the fact beforehand, nothing inside would indicate to the visitor that it might not be the residence of some private gentleman who had plenty of money to purchase fine pictures and other rare and beautiful objects of art and *virtu*. The bed-chamber of the King is a curiosity, for instead of finding richly carved furniture, garnished over with tinsel, the visitor sees a small plain cottage bedstead made of maple wood, and provided with a blue cotton chintz curtain and a leather pillow, while upon the walls of the room there are no ornaments other than some neatly framed steel engravings, chiefly of battle scenes. The sitting room adjoining is also quite simple, and with the exception of many beautiful small articles, it is less elaborate, and much more sensibly furnished than would satisfy some of our would-be nabobs who ape the manners and customs of aristocratic wealth. The King was at one time excessively fond of the chase, and the halls of Babelsberg, in the number of mounted stag and deers' heads, abundantly testify to the skill of the royal hand.

Bismarck is the power behind the throne—"an iron man"—who destitute of that magnetic influence which draws the multitude—insensible to fear, and courting not the eclat of popular applause—furnishes the State with cold, calculating brains. Gen. Moltke, a name but little known in our country, is regarded by the Prussians as entitled, more than any one else, to the credit of the military plans of the campaign of last year. The Royal family, in the persons of the Crown Prince and Prince Frederick Charles, distinguished themselves as commanding generals. They both exhibited the characteristics of Frederick the Great, who could play the flute, write poetry, and fight a battle.

To speculate upon the future of this nation is useless; but certain it is, that the people so suddenly expanded are by no means free from apprehension that in some way a new war is approaching; but I trust that human sacrifice to elevate and maintain Kings and Emperors, who seem to be a great set of commercial and political robbers, may finally come to an end in the universal peace and brotherhood of nations. I cannot, however, dismiss this subject without expressing a word of commiseration in behalf of the present King of Saxony. He was just stupid enough to sympathize with Austria. The result has been, that though occupying his royal palace at Dresden, he has really none of the attributes of a King. His army is commanded by the King of Prussia, and he has not even the poor privilege of controlling his own telegraphs, post-offices, and railways, and even his custom house appears to have disappeared, as no examination of baggage took place on the Saxon frontier. The Saxons say he is still king; but ask them how, and with a shrug and a grunt they answer, "we don't know."

The soil of Prussia is generally poor, but by patient industry and careful tillage it has been made to yield an abundance of grain, grass, and fruits, besides horses, cattle, swine, and geese, which seem to abound in the more northern sections. Her natural productions of iron, lead, copper, silver, salt, coal, marble, and granite are very abundant, while the mountains and forests afford a generous supply of wood and timber. The Germans are a steady, industrious, and externally moral people. A very rigid pietist would exclaim that they are an irreligious people. To some minds of peculiar caste this might easily be made to appear, but a somewhat careful observation satisfies me that such a charge would be in a great degree unfounded. Throughout the large cities and towns there is much less external vice than appears either in our own Country or in Great Britain. They all love their wine and beer, but gin, rum, and whiskey are not used, therefore drunkenness in the public streets is rarely ever seen. In the city of Leipzig, which contains 85,000 inhabitants, there were only thirty arrests made for drunkenness in three months. Can the same be said of any city in the United States of one half the size of Leipzig? The Germans go to church on Sunday. Their churches are generally well filled, and as for their congregational singing, it cannot be beaten. At nearly all their churches, both Protestant and Catholic, the choirs are made up of the whole body of worshippers who pour out their music in most rapturous strains. It is impossible that this land of philosophy, science, literature, and song—which gave birth, also, to the great Reformation, should be essentially immoral or irreligious. The Germans, it is said, resort to the beer garden on Sunday. That is true; but no one can fail to notice that the most perfect decorum is always observed, and without the presence of the police. I think, however, that the universal habit of swilling beer by all classes, old and young, which obtains throughout all Germany, is a bad practice, and tends very materially to destroy those finer physical developments which are more common among the rural population of our country. The people, however, are amused in very simple ways, and seem to be happy. They are provided with parks, museums, open air or suburban gardens for beer drinking, concerts, and plays, all of which suit their gregarious habits. Therefore, as regards the habits and moral character of the people, I do not see that in the aggregate we have any superiority to boast of.

Berlin is a fine city. The public buildings and palaces are numerous and usually very fine specimens of architecture, and by no means wanting in taste in the interior adornments. The museums and picture galleries are rich in ancient and modern curiosities, sculptures, and paintings. I was particularly pleased with the very superb collection of Egyptian antiquities, which is said to be one of the most curious in Europe. Such museums constitute great educational estab-

lishments which instruct the whole people. The streets and public places of Berlin abound also in fine memorials to the great men of the nation, but owing to the flatness of the ground in and around the city, for miles in every direction, much of the fine architectural effect is lost. The weather has been miserable. I have never before experienced such cold weather in mid-summer. On the 20th of July, wrapped in an overcoat and dressed in winter clothing, I was stirring about the streets of Berlin in search of health and curiosities.

S. H. W.

#### Special Correspondence of the Scientific American. MARINE ENGINES AT THE EXPOSITION.

PARIS, July 23, 1867.

The number of large marine engines in the Exhibition is not great, there being not much over half a dozen, and of these but one is in motion under steam. There is, however, a tolerably large collection of models, many of them executed at great expense and showing perfectly well the design and construction of other forms of engines. In the French annex, the engines for the *Friedland* have been erected, with the line shaft and screw propeller in place, and are to be supplied with steam from two of the eight boilers which the engine will require when in actual service. In another building, devoted entirely to the objects from the works of Messrs. Schneider & Co., Creusot, are two marine engines, one a three cylinder back-acting, and the other having but two cylinders of smaller diameter. In the Swiss annex is a paddle engine with two inclined cylinders, and lastly, in the English building, is an engine built by Messrs. John Penn & Son, and of their usual type of trunk engine. Beginning with the last mentioned, there is nothing strikingly new in design to notice, but it is remarkable for the beauty of the workmanship throughout, from the smoothness of the castings to the finish of the rods and bearings. The main pillow blocks are formed in well ribbed castings projecting from the face of the cylinder, and on the other side of the shaft are placed the condensers and air pumps, connected with the cylinders and framing only by the sole plate. The air pumps are placed quite low down, so that this connection comes very near the line in which the strain of the pumps will act, and is ample for sustaining this. The pumps are worked by rods, directly from the pistons of the engines. The exhaust passes from the cylinders through copper pipes over the shaft. The momentum of the reciprocating parts is counterbalanced by weights secured to the back of each crank cheek by a wrought iron strap passing around the latter, an arrangement which brings the counterweight just where it should be, while the straps are finished in such a manner as not to disfigure the crank shaft. The link motion is used for reversing, in combination with another valve placed above the steam chest for cutting off at any point from one third to one fifth. There is, of course, the objection to this arrangement, of the large space beneath the cut-off valve. The engine has surface condensers, the tubes being arranged in a vertical, cylindrical casting above the air pumps, and covered at the top with a large bonnet. The condensing water is supplied by a pair of centrifugal pumps placed back of the condensers and driven by a very neat pair of vertical engines, with the cylinders above. These, though constructed entirely separate from the main engine, are placed so as to be within reach of the engineer standing on the platform, for starting the engines. This first pair of engines is kept in motion by a portable engine connected by gearing to its shaft coupling. Messrs. Penn & Son have also on exhibition a set of twin screw engines with boiler, such as they make for ships' launches, and intended to work at a high speed. The boiler is of the locomotive type, and the cylinders are bolted to the sides of the fire box and the shaft bearings also lower down, but the strain between the two is sustained by a strong bolt passing directly from one to the other. In the same room is a working model of one quarter size of a pair of vertical screw engines by Wm. Denny, of Dumbarton, kept in operation by steam from the boiler of the portable engine already referred to. The central space of the engines is occupied by the surface condensers, the cylinders being placed above these, and having their guides formed on the sides of the condensers. These engines are said to be very much liked where in use. Messrs. Humphreys & Tennant also exhibit two beautifully executed models of their styles of engines, on a scale of one twelfth full size. One represents a form of engine which has been advocated for some years by this firm, in which the required economy of room athwart ships is obtained neither by back action nor the use of a trunk, but by employing a very short connecting rod. The makers argue that the amount of friction caused by the great inclination of the rod, is after all not excessive, and preferable to the evils attending the other modes of construction. Their other model, however, is of the more usual back-acting type. Four piston rods transmit the motion of each piston to its cross head, and the air pumps are also worked directly from the pistons. These makers have established a reputation for the construction of very economical engines.

The rest of this annex is chiefly devoted to models of ships, both of the navy and those constructed by the principal British builders for the merchant service, at home and abroad. The former comprises a collection of half models of all the screw vessels constructed for the navy since the introduction of the propeller. The changes that have taken place in the forms of vessels in the last quarter of a century, are very strikingly shown by these models, and of these changes, the most remarkable are those which have occurred since the adoption of iron plating, and rams.

The larger Creusot engine is intended for the iron-clad *l'Océan*, and is of 950 nominal horse-power, but will work up to 3,800 actual horse-power. It is quite similar in its most

important features to the Indret engines for the *Friedland*, and a description of the former will suffice for both. As already stated, there are three cylinders side by side, acting on cranks placed at angles of 120° with each other. The middle cylinder alone receives its steam directly from the boiler and is unjacketed, while the outer ones are jacketed and receive their steam from the exhaust of the middle cylinder, forming together the equivalent of the low-pressure cylinder in engines on Woolf's plan, so common in Europe. It will be seen that with this arrangement with three cylinders, it becomes necessary to commence the release of steam from the high-pressure cylinder at about three-quarters the stroke, but it is not necessary on that account to cease admitting fresh steam to the cylinder, since that which passes out of this, acts on the piston of the adjoining cylinder, which is just commencing its stroke, though if a higher degree of expansion is required, the steam may be suppressed at any portion of the stroke. One important point, however, which has been attempted in the construction of these engines has been to make as many of the parts as possible interchangeable, and with this object the valves for all three of the cylinders are made exactly alike, and are set so as to open and close at the same relative point in each case. This latter condition involves the suppression of the steam at about three fourths the stroke, and introduces some anomalies in the distribution, which do not exist in the ordinary arrangement with two cylinders. Tracing out the distribution of steam to each cylinder, it will be seen that we have, first, three fourths the stroke of the high-pressure cylinder with full boiler pressure steam; then, admission to the second cylinder, and expansion in both till the latter has made three fourths of this stroke or the first crank two thirds of a revolution; then suppression in the second, and at the same time the piston of the first being at about one fourth of its return stroke, opening of the valve to the third cylinder and expansion between that and the first until the completion of the revolution. The valves are of the D-shape, and the steam is admitted beneath and released above them, the valve faces being placed on the top of the cylinders. The valves are worked from cranks in a revolving shaft connected with the main shaft by gearing; and with an arrangement of internal gears by which the advance of this secondary crank shaft may be changed as required for reversing. The exhaust connections are made by means of copper pipes of elliptical section, so made to economise height, and furnished with stay bolts along their shorter axis. The condensers are of the ordinary kind, and the air pumps are placed below and are worked from arms forged on the piston rods. The pumps are of the ordinary double-acting kind, and, as is too frequently the case with this form of pump, the delivery valves being placed at the top of the water chamber and the foot valves at the bottom, all the air contained in the condensed steam has to pass through the body of water in the pump, which it can not do rapidly, from its finely subdivided state, and accordingly the vacuum obtainable in the pump is very much impaired. The foot valves should be placed at the top of the body of water, the delivery valves being close by, so that the air immediately passes out at the latter without having to percolate through a great mass of water. The shaft of this engine is furnished with a strong universal joint coupling—simply a Hook's joint. The pillow-block brasses are in two pieces, and are set up sideways only, by wedges and nuts above the binders. The framing is very stout and extends directly across from the cylinders to the condensers on the level of the main shaft. The other pair of engines by the same makers are very similar in general construction of details, but are of the ordinary cylinder type, with valves placed at the sides and worked by a link motion. They are of 265 nominal horse-power, being one of a pair of such engines intended for one of the new French vessels.

The design of the engines built by Messrs. Schneider & Co., appears to be the most common for large power in the French marine. As already stated the engine which is in operation, built at the Indret works, is of the same kind, and in addition to this, among the very interesting collection of moving models exhibited by the French admiralty, the design occurs more than once. It will not be necessary to say much more in reference to the Indret engine therefore, except to mention a few points of difference between it and the one already described. One of the most noticeable of these differences is in the arrangement of the guides for the main crosshead. In the Creusot engine, these consisted of a pair of top and bottom surfaces on each side of the journal of the connecting rod, and between that and the arms to which the piston rods were attached, as often found in our own engines. The bearing on the crosshead was formed by two blocks of cast iron encircling the wrought iron crosshead, and secured to each other by feathers on their meeting faces. The wearing faces of these castings are recessed and filled with Babbitt metal. In the Indret engine only a single bearing is used directly beneath the connecting rod journal, and this is made very wide so as to give ample surface when running ahead, but the lips which form the upper bearing over the sides of the crosshead block have apparently not half the surface so that the conditions for running backwards are not so favorable, though perhaps there is as much surface as is necessary for the purpose. The condensers are placed at the extreme sides of the engine, outside of the piston rods of the outer cylinders; the space therefore between the three sets of guides and connecting rods is entirely clear. Beneath the guides are pumps worked in some cases by rods from the steam pistons, and in others by lugs projecting downward from the piston rods. The arrangement of valve gear is the same as in the engines already described. These engines are working regularly every day, but one boiler being fired to supply them with steam, and they appear to run very smoothly, re-

quiring but moderate attention. The appearance they present when operating in this manner with the blades of the huge screw beating the air and creating a strong current is novel and imposing. They are so arranged that visitors can walk around every part of them and examine the working of each portion. In the same annex is Meazeline's three cylinder engine of 450 nominal, or 1800 actual horse power. It is very similar to those of the same type already mentioned, and is a very creditable job as regards workmanship. Beside it stands another engine of similar size and type, in which the singular and not disadvantageous plan has been adopted, of omitting in the erection, nearly all the main castings and framing, thereby showing all the details of the moving parts—portions which in the usual course are entirely hidden through their construction. The outer packing ring of the pistons is of cast iron, a single ring, the full width being used. The follower bolts are secured from working loose by portions of a ring of wrought iron, let into a groove turned in the follower just by the side of the square bolt heads. As these rings in their turn are held in by screws, the question is, how much less liable these latter are to work loose than the follower bolts would be with no additional provision. The foot valves are placed at the side of the air pump chamber but in an inclined position, the valves being on the under side. These consist of long rectangular rubbers, giving a long and narrow opening on each side of the guard, by which arrangement it is supposed they will have stiffness enough to close promptly, notwithstanding their downward inclination, while the upper end of the valve, at which most of the air would escape, being close to the delivery valve, the air would have but a small volume of water to pass through before making its exit from the chamber, a circumstance always favorable to the attainment of a good vacuum.

The engine by Messrs. Escher Wyss & Co., in the Swiss annex is a very neat job, but presents no particularly striking novelty in its design. There are a pair of inclined cylinders of about 30 in. diameter by 42 in. stroke placed side by side and connected to the upper frame, containing the main pillow blocks, by the guide bars only in the direction of the strain. These are of wrought iron and made tolerably heavy to resist flexure, but appear rather light from being unsupported throughout their length. The top casting is as usual, supported on turned wrought iron bolts resting on the bed plate below, to the further end of which the cylinder castings are also bolted. The air pump is vertical and single acting, placed directly beneath the crank shaft and worked by a connecting rod and trunk from a crank in the center of the shaft. The exhaust from one cylinder passes through a high arched pipe into the exhaust chamber of the other and thence a horizontal pipe leads along the bed plate to the condenser under the shaft. The valve motion is of the ordinary shifing link kind.

While we are in the Swiss annex we must notice a very good horizontal engine that is placed there, where not half the people who visit the Exposition will see it. It is fitted with a gear for variable expansion which seems to be very well designed and not liable to derangement, though it is not at all new in its general features. The steam chest is placed on the top of the cylinder and the valves, which are balanced poppets, are situated at each end of the former. These are raised by means of revolving cams on a shaft running from a bevel gear wheel at the shaft along the side of the cylinder, and the governor by moving a wedge-shaped piece causes the closing of the valve, under the action of the cam, to take place earlier or later as the case may be. The cut-off gear is in fact almost identical in its operation with that applied to some of Wright's segmental engines. The exhaust is effected by separate valves placed beneath the cylinder. The governor is on Porter's principle, and a very noticeable fact is, that this governor has been generally adopted on the Continent since the Exhibition of 1862 when Mr. Porter first brought it before the European public.

Just outside of this building we find in the portion of the grounds allotted to the Russians, a model of an apparatus by which it is proposed to conserve the power usually expended upon the brakes of trains descending steep inclines of railways, and to apply it to trains running up the hill. It consists merely of a frame carrying four wheels on top of which by the intervention of friction gearing is mounted a pair of heavy flywheels. The tractive power of the train in descending is expended in imparting velocity to the flywheels, and this is to be used for assisting the return trains in their ascent. The model incline is about 110 feet long and has a rise of about one in 25. The machine used upon it is very well made and it really appears to reserve and give out a large proportion of the force expended in the descent, but it will at once occur to practical men how many drawbacks there would be to its use in practice. In the first place it would be necessary to apply the reserved power at once, or it would expend itself in internal friction, and if the trains could be so timed as to render this possible the old plan used in coal mines of connecting the loads to the opposite ends of a rope passing over a pulley at the top might better be employed. Then again the inequality of the speed at the top and bottom of the incline, owing to the accumulation and expenditure of momentum would be a disadvantage, besides the great weight of flywheel that would be required to store up any large amount of power, or else the very excessive loss inevitable with high speed. This is doubtless a problem on which very many have exerted their ingenuity, and it is not improbable that we may some day have a practiced solution of it. Certainly the great injury to permanent way from the use of the heavy locomotives necessary at present on steep gradients besides the cost of furnishing power to overcome the force of gravity is an inducement to seek some means of equalizing the tractive force required. The storing up of

power in a small space either permanently or temporarily is an exceedingly difficult task, and were we able to do so, great economy of coal would, in many cases, be possible. But as a rule there is no such concentrated essence of power at our command as a lump of coal, and, as yet, we have not been able to recompress it into the same space when once liberated.

SLADE.

## Correspondence.

The Editors are not responsible for the opinions expressed by their correspondents.

## Sneering Allusion to the Steam Bureau.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The sneering remark of one of your daily cotemporaries relative to awarding to Mr. Isherwood, the distinguished chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering, "a leather medal for his improved armor" is no doubt intended as a blow at the gentleman.

I have no means at hand of ascertaining whether Mr. Isherwood either ordered or planned the armor of the *Onondaga* but I am confident that if he really did either, it was after profound reflection and exhaustive calculation. And knowing the great margin this officer always allows for safety—such as putting a 5-inch piston rod in 20 pairs of 30-inch diameter by 18-inch stroke engines—you may rest assured that if, as has been asserted, 4-inch hammered plates without backing can be pierced by the ordinary naval guns, that Mr. Isherwood has been misinformed in relation to some of the dynamic elements which are germane to this problem, or else he never could have made a mistake on so simple a point. No man understands better than Mr. Isherwood the exact dynamic relations between guns and armor plates. As early as 1862 this important subject had engaged his attention and as a result of his investigations he proposed to build an iron ship of 7,000 tons, protected by 4½-inch plates without backing. Mr. Isherwood fully appreciated the liability of wood to decay, hence his opposition to the use of such an ephemeral substance.

B.

## The Mines of Montana. Better Machinery Needed.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Montana offers a broad field for scientific research in her immense deposits of mineral wealth, and for mechanical enterprise in the thorough displacement of the old and useless machinery, which has been shipped from the East, and with which we can save but a fraction of the royal metals contained therein. It has ever been the custom to look to the East for light, but in the present case, Messrs. Editors we must look to the West for proper machinery and men to crush, manipulate, and save, with the smallest possible loss, the precious metal contained in the auriferous and argentiferous ores. As a proof of this assertion, I will just cite a case or two in point.

We have here several mills and arrastras constructed; one, with thirty stamps, (fifteen only working), crushes but five tons per day (of twenty-four hours) while the tailings show a prodigal waste of quicksilver and gold. Another of twelve stamps, obtains but seven dollars per ton, while from the working of a few tons from the same lode by the common arrastra process, the amount obtained was fifty two dollars and fifty cents per ton. I think, gentlemen, with the light of past experience before us and the proof just adduced, we of Montana and capitalists interested in our Territorial development, would do well to apply to the Golden state for some valuable instruction before investing money in unprofitable machinery. It would relieve many anxious and doubting minds here, it would induce hosts of timid capitalists to invest their superabundant wealth in our mines, and with a branch mint in Helena would usher in a new and glorious era for these rocky mountains and the whole Republic that would help move the moneyed world along.

Hoping soon to see the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN again, you have the best wishes of your nomadic subscriber and friend.

F. M.

Trout Creek, Montana.

## Importance of Good Material in Agricultural Machines.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Will you in behalf of the farmers, urge that makers of reaping and mowing machinery contend for excellence in the quality of iron used in their implements. There are already a number of patented machines which are each admirably adapted for their work. The serious fault, with many lies in the use of inferior metal for castings, rivets, and cutter-bars.

It may be safely said that the manufacturer who establishes a general confidence in the quality of his iron, will command the bulk of an immense and increasing trade in reapers and mowers. The farmers would cheerfully pay for the assurance of tough, well handled, and honestly made iron work on agricultural machinery.

HAY FARMER.

Frankfort, Ky.

## How to Harden Cast Iron.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Your correspondent N. D. J. of Mass. in your last issue Vol. 17, page 87, inquires for a way to harden small iron castings. The simplest and best way that I know of, is to heat them to a bright red heat and then immerse them in common whale or lard oil. If the scale is taken off the castings, they will case-harden quite deep. I have seen quite a respectable cold chisel made from a piece of common cast iron in this way. The harder the nature of the iron, the better it will harden.

J. W. JOHNSON.

U. S. Armory, Springfield, Mass.

## Promoting Fruitfulness of Trees.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Every one knows that the "sap" which gives life to the leaves is received through the "tap root"

and that which brings the fruit to perfection through the "lateral roots" now, where there is a vigorous growth of leaves and no fruit, it is evident that there is some defect in the furnishing quality of the lateral roots, the sap root giving a superabundance of sap. This can be obviated thus: Let the farmer dig a trench (commencing some six or eight feet from the tree in order that the lateral roots may receive no injuries) deep enough to enable him to strike the "tap root" some three or four inches from its junction with the main portion of the tree. Cut this with a saw or sharp knife, fill up the excavation and the good effects will be seen the following season. This should be done before the sap rises.

READER.

Richmond, Va.

#### Philosophy of Preserving Eggs.

MESSEURS. EDITORS.—Cobbet says, "A preserved egg need be run from, than after." The thousands and one recipes given from time to time are in fact as worthless as the mermaid stories or those of the snake monster of the sea. Many who put forth these stories for the million do not know what a fresh egg is; many do it for notoriety, and some ignorantly. No egg is fresh that will shake; this is because it has lost some of its albumen. No egg has ever been preserved over a month that will not shake, except it be air-proofed, which is a term not generally understood, and is a new process. If they are put in solution, no matter what it is, the egg will absorb it; if put up in dry measures the albumen will escape by transpiration through the shell. The egg has been coated with every conceivable composition, even in solid stone, and galvanized, yet the watery material escapes. The philosophy of this is that there is air in the egg before it is treated, and this uniting its oxygen and carbon, produces decomposition by carbonic acid gas, the yellow of the egg first breaking, then follows the destruction. Eggs are naturally designed to last as long as the hen requires to get her brood, and the life germ can be preserved a few weeks—seven or eight—but no longer. The egg itself may be kept in a preserved state for two years by greasing with butter, oil, or lard, but from the time it is thus put up to the end of two years it will daily lose its albumen by transpiration, and while its carbonic acid escapes to a certain extent, the egg meat will be reduced fully two thirds, and will shake. For culinary purposes they will do very well. But we want a whole egg, not a half one, and we want them fresh. Butter and lard and suet have been used for half a century, still nothing has recommended itself over the old liming system in a commercial point of view. The theory always has been, and still is, that to keep an egg fresh the air must be excluded. It is the only philosophical treatment of it that can be made. Eggs are composed of more than half a dozen chemical ingredients, and these components are very volatile; hence the atmosphere with its powerful agencies works quickly upon it. Externally kept from the air, the latter is powerless to do it harm, but the air inside no mortal can prevent, and that alone in time will decompose the egg.

AN EGG STUDENT FOR FIFTEEN YEARS.

New York city.

#### To Make Castings Free from Scoriae.

MESSEURS. EDITORS.—Your correspondent, J. C. W., in No. 6 current series, page 87 speaks of his difficulty in getting sound castings. Has he ever tried a "stodge catcher," which is nothing more than a largesprue set in front of the pouring sprue and gated heavy from one to the other? It should be gated not quite so heavy from under the stodge catcher to the casting in the nowell. Then by pouring fast enough to keep the iron well up in the stodge catcher the scoriae that goes into the pouring sprue will rise and stay in the catcher.

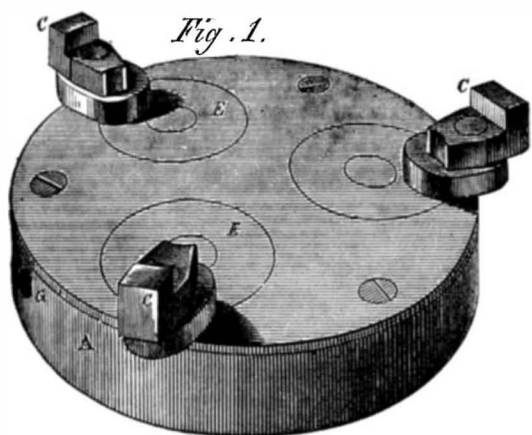
Iron should be poured hot, whether in dry or green sand molds; I consider it a great mistake to let iron cool in the ladle. If the mold is just right the iron can hardly be too hot. When the iron is poured hot the stodge rises, but if it is cooled down to the point many molders prefer, the scoriae catches on the sides of the mold and make an unsound casting.

JOHN K. RICHARDS.

New York.

#### JOHNSON'S UNIVERSAL LATHE CHUCK.

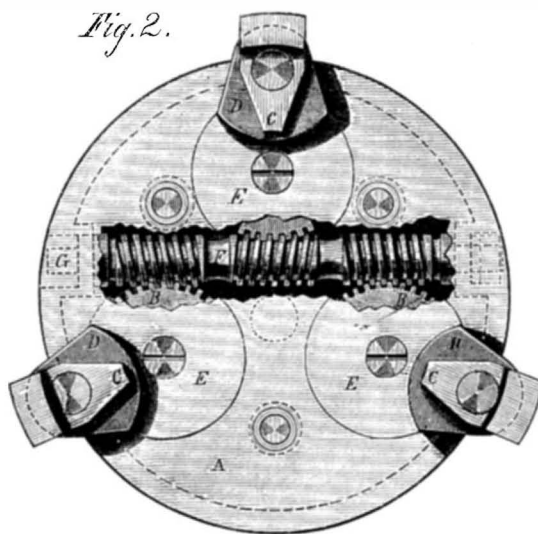
A good universal lathe chuck, one strong, durable, not easily got out of repair, or so choked up with chips and dirt as to



be impossible to use without consuming more time than would take to do the job, would be, as every machinist knows, an invaluable tool in the machine shop; but, as most machinists have experienced, one very difficult to obtain. This has confined the use of universal chucks to small work which could not well be done otherwise, and has led to the use of a less economical class of chucks as a substitute for holding larger work. The chuck here illustrated is upon a new prin-

ciple. has been most thoroughly and severely tested, and the patentee says, has proved itself perfect to do the work for which it is designed.

A socket wrench applied to the end of the worm shaft revolves the arms carrying the jaws, to and from the center grasping the work with the utmost precision and holding it firmly as in a vise.



The superiority of this chuck consists, briefly, 1st, in its entire freedom from dirt, and impossibility of chips or dirt getting to the working parts of the chuck; 2d, the simplicity of its construction renders it less liable to get out of repair than other; 3d, its accuracy strength and durability; 4th, the jaws, being simple in form, extra jaws for holding odd jobs of peculiar form or shape can be quickly made at a trifling expense.

A brief description and reference to the parts may aid in an understanding of its construction and operation: Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the chuck as ready for use; Fig. 2 is a view with a portion of the face broken away, exposing the right and left hand screw or worm and the worm segments; and Fig. 3 is a cross section through worm segment, chuck, and jaw. A is the body of the chuck; B, segments of worm gears having teeth around about six tenths of their circumferences; C are steel jaws pivoted to the projections, D, on the plates, E, which are rigidly a portion of the worm wheel segments and rotate with them; F is the worm shaft which engages with the gears and is turned by a socket wrench inserted at G, Figs. 1 and 2.

As the worm shaft is rotated by the wrench, it revolves the gears so as to bring the jaws either to or from the center. These jaws can be easily adjusted to receive objects of an irregular form, or they can be used as are those on the scroll chuck for the reception of regular shapes.

Patented by William Johnson, and manufactured by Cowin and Johnson, Lambertville, N. J., to whom all orders should be addressed. Responsible agents are wanted in all the principal towns in the United States.

#### The Central American States.

That portion of the continent lying between North and South America proper, known as Central America is becoming of political and commercial interest to the people of this country, and, because of its presenting the most favorable routes between the two oceans, to the nations of Europe. The following from the *Hartford Courant* will be read with interest:—

The large profits of the Panama railroad revive every now and then certain old projects for the construction of another railroad or the canalization of Central America. There can be no doubt that had the people of the region which lies between Mexico and South America been possessed of ordinary commercial activity, two or three well traveled routes would ere this have been opened from ocean to ocean. But like the inhabitants of other portions of Spanish America, they have been too busy with revolutions and political squabbles to find any time or energy to devote to industry or trade. The five Central American republics all achieved their independence about 1821, and in 1823 formed themselves into a confederation, which lasted until 1839, when it fell to pieces and all the members set themselves up as independent powers. The largest one is Nicaragua, which is about the same size as Georgia; its capital is Managua, with ten thousand inhabitants; its total population is about four hundred thousand, of whom thirty thousand are whites, ten thousand negroes, and the remainder Indians and half-breeds. The next in size is Honduras, having about the same area as Mississippi; its capital, Comayagua, has eighteen thousand inhabitants; its total population is about three hundred and fifty thousand souls. Guatemala is the third of the Central American republics, being a little larger than Ohio; the name of its capital is also Guatemala, with forty thousand inhabitants; the total population is estimated at one million and one hundred thousand, or greater than that of all the isthmian powers together. Costa Rica is the next in size, its area being somewhat more extended than that of West Virginia; its capital, San Jose, contains thirty thousand souls; its total population is one hundred and twenty thousand. The smallest of these

powers is San Salvador, which does not cover quite as much ground as Massachusetts; its capital is also styled San Salvador, and its inhabitants number perhaps fifteen thousand; the whole population is believed to reach six hundred thousand. The existing constitution of Nicaragua was adopted in 1858, of Honduras in 1865, and of Guatemala in 1847. The presidents of all the republics serve four years—unless they are overthrown by a revolution—except the executive of Costa Rica, whose term of service is three years. The term Central America is generally considered to include, besides the five republics, the state of Yucatan, in Mexico, and the state of Panama in Colombia.

#### SHEA'S PATENT BARREL AND TANK.

The demand for kegs, barrels, pipes, and tanks is constantly increasing. They are the most convenient vehicles for the conveyance of liquids and many solid materials from place to place, and upon their proper construction depends largely the amount and the condition of the material they hold upon their arrival at the place of destination. The engravings exhibit a new method of constructing barrels, tanks, etc., patented January 29, 1867. Fig. 1 presents a view of a barrel partly in section; Fig. 2 is an end view of the staves of the barrel, and Fig. 3 is a cross section of the improved head. This improvement consists in forming a V-shaped encircling projection, A, upon the edge of the head, leaving a shoulder above and below. It will be seen that when the head is seated in the barrel it forms shoulders above and below the croze, bearing against the chimes and preventing them from being broken. The incline of the edge of the head also gives additional security, as the greater the internal pressure the closer will be the fit of the head to the staves.

Fig. 2 shows a new method of securing the staves one to the other. B represents metallic dowels, slightly curved, to correspond to the curvature of the cask, and feathered at each

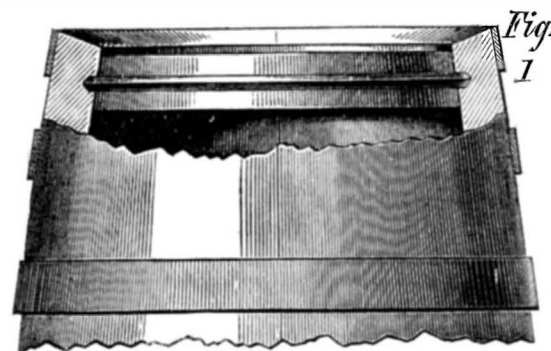
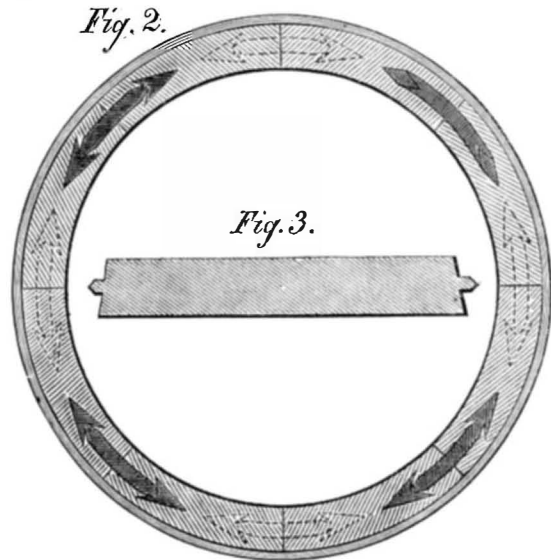


Fig. 2.



end. These are driven into suitable recesses in the ends of the staves, thus firmly binding them together. Fewer hoops are required for barrels thus built than for others.

The use of this dowel is particularly applicable to heavy work. The inventor says that, casks made in this way will cost no more than others, require less labor, and will overcome all the disadvantages of the present style of construction. A factory is now being built in New York for the manufacture of casks under this patent, having already very large orders ahead from brewers, distillers, oil merchants, and sugar refiners, who, through their patronage have given substantial evidence of their appreciation of the improvement.

The patentee will sell manufacturing and territorial rights and will furnish the necessary machinery for the manufacture of these improvements, or will alter any now in use at a moderate cost. Address Samuel Shea, Corry, Erie county, Pa., or at Jersey City, N. J., or H. W. Quitzow, 24 South William street, New York city.

SETH GREEN, Holyoke, Mass., writes to the New York Farmer's Club that he is hatching shad by the million, artificially, and he wants to say to everybody that he will give them all the young shad and impregnated ovas that they will come and take away. The day before writing he hatched 5,000,000.

PARISIAN TASTE is rather an indefinable sense. The Chinese have never been accused of over fastidiousness in the selection of their food, but what with horse flesh, frogs, snails, and so on to the end of the chapter, the same may soon be said of this more favored Western nation. The latest delicacy introduced in Paris is whale's flesh, and shark and dolphin steaks.

**Adjustable Heads for Gear-Cutting and Slotting on Lathes.**

In small shops it is often required that a gear should be cut for some specific purpose where the demand for this sort of work is not sufficient to warrant the purchase of a gear-cutting engine; and if a milling machine or planer cannot be at liberty to be used for fluting reamers, taps, etc., then some convenient attachment to the lathe might be advisable and handy. To fill both these requirements is the object of the inventor of the devices shown in the engravings.

Fig. 1 shows Parker's gear-cutting attachment for engine lathes. It is a standard to be secured to the lathe carriage by a bolt passing through the curved slot in the projection, A, which carries a spindle in the box, B, that supports the bearing, C, and the index wheel and finger, D. Under the platform is a plate secured to the upper part of the lathe carriage by a bolt similar to that used in fastening the ordinary tool post, so that the appendage can be swung around in such a position as to meet all exigencies. The blank to be cut is secured to the arbor, E—shown in blank—in the usual way. The screw, F, elevates or lowers the index wheel and its parts and the set-screw, G, secures them in place. The segmental slot in A allows the attachment to be turned at an angle to the ways of the lathe in order to accommodate itself to the cutting of "slashed" or spiral teeth, and the means of elevation or depression by the screw, F, adjusts the arrangement for different sized gears or ratchets. Every machinist will see how readily it may be adapted to the cutting of the straight, bevel, miter, or spiral gears, from the smallest up to those of ten or twelve inches diameter, with any desired number of teeth. For cutting bevel gears it is only necessary to set the arbor, E, with its connections by means of the nut on the end of the box, B, to give the proper incline to the arbor, and its appurtenances. The arm of the finger, D, has a scale of figures marked on it to designate the number of the holes in each concentric circle on the index. It appears to be a very neat and complete device for the purpose intended.

Fig. 2 is a handy attachment to be affixed to the carriage of a lathe for fluting reamers and taps and splining studs and short shafts. The stationary center, A is furnished with a radial clutch, B, to receive the tail of a dog or any other device for holding the shaft or taps, having a set-screw to prevent "back-lash." On the end of this center, at C, the index plate of the other device can readily be affixed. The other center, D, can be moved from point to point and secured by the set-bolt. The center of this movable part is dressed down to allow the action of a milling tool or cutter to the lowest point. No further explanation is required by the practical workman.

These appliances are the subjects of patents, one issued July 3d, 1866, and have been tested for more than a year and proved to be valuable aids to the machinist. All additional information desired can be obtained by addressing the manufacturers, Warwick Tool Co., Middletown, Conn.

**Science Familiarly Illustrated.**

**STARCH, ARROWROOT, SAGO, AND TAPIOCA.**

All the above are only synonyms for one and the same substance, that of starch, the difference between them being mainly those occasioned by the differing proportions of the constituents and the presence of more or less foreign matters. Starch is a component of many articles of food, all the farinaceous vegetables containing a large proportion. That manufactured variety known as corn starch is prepared from the maize called the "white flint." Before being ground, the corn is soaked in vats, and then is run through the stones with water. The mass is then filtered and the residue is dried in a kiln until all, or most of the water is evaporated, when it is again ground to a dry powder.

Arrowroot is a term loosely applied to the starch extracted from a number of roots and cereal products, as the maranta, mandioc, tacca, arum, potato, etc. That from the maranta of the East and West Indies is the true arrowroot, but much of that in commerce is from other substances. It is a simple food, very nutritious, containing no nitrogen, and well adapted for producing adipose matter or fat.

Sago is a farinaceous substance prepared from the pith of a species of palm growing on the islands and main land of the Indian Archipelago. To obtain it the tree is felled and the trunk split. The pith is then removed, macerated with water, and beat with paddles, when the woody fibers separate and float. These being removed, the grains settle and the flour or grain, after being dried, is sifted and then generally bleached with chloride of lime. Pearl sago is prepared from the ordinary sago by being heated on an iron surface. In cold water neither forms of the sago are solvent, but only in hot water, when they form a thick starch-like solution, and make an excellent and very nutritious food.

Tapioca is prepared from the root of the mandioc or cassava, grown in the West Indies, South America, and some parts of Africa. The root grows sometimes to the weight of thirty pounds. It contains, with the starch, a large proportion of a

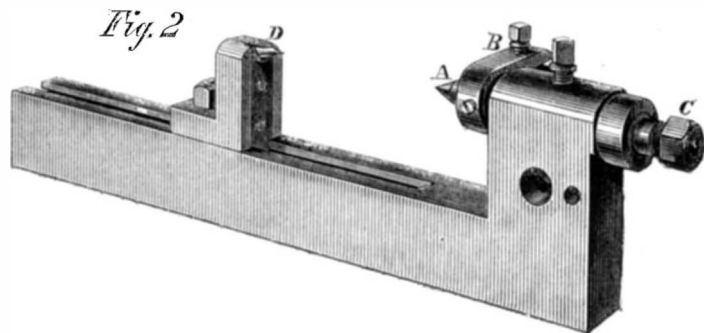
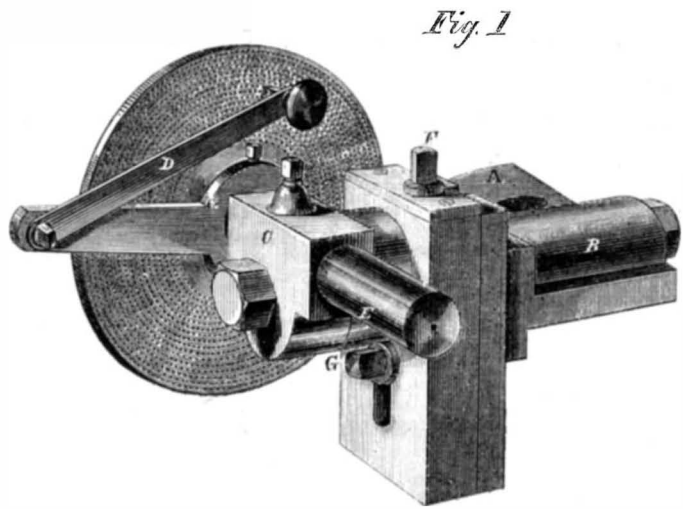
poisonous, milky juice, containing hydrocyanic acid and an acrid bitter substance. The poisonous principle is used by the inhabitants of northern South America to poison thorn arrows thrown from their *pucunas*, or blow guns, for the killing of game. The root is brought from the mandioc patch and then washed and peeled. The peeling is usually performed by the teeth; after that the root is grated, the grater being a wooden slab about three feet long, a foot wide, slightly hollowed, and set in diamond-shaped patterns with sharp pieces of quartz. The grated pulp is then partially dried on a sieve and placed in a long cylindrical basket of elastic fibers. One end of this basket is affixed to the limb of a tree or a stout peg in the wall and a pole passed through a loop on the lower end. One end of the pole is rested under some projection and the Indian woman seats herself on the other end as the power. Her weight draws the sides of the basket

The inventor of this combination wheel believes that its value for durability is far in advance of those generally in use, and that it is cheaply made and easily kept in repair, as the tire can be removed at any time when worn and replaced by a new one; or any other part can be similarly replaced.

This plan was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency July 23, 1867, by David Forrest assignor to himself and James Eldridge, Jr. For further information address Forrest and Eldridge Eastport, Me.

**Railway Bridge Excitement in Hamburg.**

Hamburg is in a state of alarm and excitement, as there is some reason to believe that Prussia is seriously contemplating the expediency of constructing the much talked-of railway bridge across the Elbe, at a spot that has hitherto never entered the wildest dreams of the most speculative engineer—namely, below Altona, near the terminus of the Kiel and Altona Railway. There can be no doubt that, as the two banks of the river belong to Prussia, that power has as much right to build a bridge there as over the Rhine at Cologne and Coblenz, where both banks are also Prussian; but should the plan be really executed, Hamburg will be cut off from all direct communication with the sea, and then good-bye to its commercial prosperity. From being fully as much of a sea



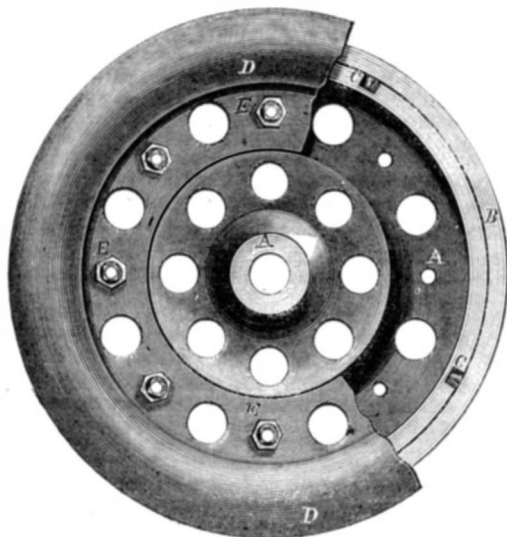
**PARKER'S GEAR-CUTTING ATTACHMENT FOR LATHES.**

together until it assumes the shape of an inverted cone. The milky juice drops into a vessel placed to receive it. The pulp is then removed and dried in a kiln or oven. This pulp is known as *semonilla* and used for a bread. The poisonous liquid deposits the starch known as the tapioca of commerce. This deposit is dried either in the sun or by rude, kilns and granulates, as is seen in that so extensively used for puddings. Sometimes it is denominated Brazilian arrowroot, but under whatever name, it is the product of a root which in its natural state is one of the most virulent of poisons.

It is almost impossible to believe that one of the most nutritious and palatable of the elements of our *cuisine* should be derived from one of the most fatal poisons known in the vegetable kingdom, yet such is the case.

**FORREST'S COMBINATION CAR WHEEL.**

The engraving presents a double view of a car wheel intended to overcome the objections to the common cast wheel and the wrought wheel used on European roads. It is composed



of three distinct parts, secured together by screw bolts. The hub and body, A, of the wheel is either cast from suitable iron or forged from good wrought iron—which is preferable—to prevent breaking. The tire, B, is a separate piece of chilled iron, or cast steel. It has projections, C, on its inner surface which fit into corresponding recesses in the rim of the body, A, which reach partially across its face. The disk-flange, D, is either of chilled iron or steel, and is made to fit over the central projection of the body, A, and confine the tire in place. The three parts are secured by square shanked bolts, seen at E, which may be of any convenient number. To procure lightness, the webbing of the wheel may have a number of holes of any form made through the parts. The flange of the wheel and the webbing of the wheel outside of the hub is in one piece and when bolted to the mass of the wheel secures the tire place. The tire or tread may be of the hardest metal, as steel or chilled iron, as its position on the wheel rim does not depend upon shrinkage. The advantages of wrought over cast car wheels have never been acknowledged in this country, where chilled cast car wheels have been used to the exclusion of wrought wheels, ever since the first successful running of railroad cars. But in Europe, except Russia, the rule is that car wheels should be of wrought iron or steel tired.

port as London, at present, it will become as much an inland city as Dresden or Berlin. The trade of Altona will also be totally ruined by the bridge, but as that town is now Prussian, the government has the right to do what it likes with it. As far as regards Hamburg, however, the case is different; and in an international point of view, it is very doubtful whether Prussia has the right to cut off the traffic of an independent state and preclude it from direct commercial intercourse with the rest of the world.

**Editorial Summary.**

**METEORITES.**—M. Daubr e, who has been investigating the specimens of meteorites in the Paris collection, divides all meteorites into two primary groups—Siderites and Asiderites—the former being characterized by the presence of metallic iron, and the latter by its absence. The Asiderites contains one group only, which is termed Asideres. The Siderites are divided into two sections: in the first the specimens do not enclose stony particles, and in this we find the group of Holosideres; in the second both iron and stony matter are present. This, then, induces two groups: Ssideres, in which the iron is seen as a continuous mass; and Sporadosideres, in which the iron is present in the form of scattered grains.

**SURGERY AMONG THE INCAS.**—M. Broca, says the *British Medical Journal*, has presented to the Academy a skull found in the tomb of the Incas four miles from the city of Cuzco, which is chiefly remarkable from bearing marks of having had a surgical operation performed upon it. The skull gives evidence that it underwent a fracture and denudation of the frontal bone, and traces prove that trepanning was performed. A circular white spot is visible which shows an inflammation of a portion of the bone, terminating in death, as is believed, in about fifteen days after the operation. M. Broca thinks that the trepanning was performed with a gouge.

**FOSSIL IVORY.**—About forty thousand pounds of fossil ivory, that is to say, the tusks of at least one hundred mammoths, are bartered for every year in New Siberia, so that in a period of two hundred years of trade with that country, the tusks of twenty thousand mammoths must have been disposed of—perhaps even twice that number, since only two hundred pounds of ivory is calculated as the average weight produced by a pair of tusks.

It is said the Indians have an ingenious way of setting fire to houses with their arrows. They wrap with a rag some powder on the heads of their arrows, and on the tip of the arrow head place a percussion cap. When the arrow strikes the object to be fired, the cap is exploded and the powder and rag ignited. The rag burns long enough to set combustibles with which it may come in contact on fire.

**THE FRENCH SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION** promises to take the lead of all the Continental organizations in promoting the cause of science. It has this year appropriated 78,000 francs for investigations and experiments. In future, its *Bulletin* is to be published every week instead of monthly, as heretofore.

**SUBSTITUTE FOR COFFEE.**—In Germany the seeds of grapes are frequently used in place of the coffee berry. When pressed, they yield a quantity of oil, and afterward when boiled, furnish a very economical, and it is said, a very delicious substitute for the genuine Mocha.

CUTTING GLASS.—Take an old three-cornered file, heat it red hot and suddenly plunge it into a previously prepared mixture of salt and ice, stirring it about so as to cool as rapidly as possible.

CHLOROCARBON, the new anaesthetic of Dr. Protheroe Smith, is a tetrachloride, or as it used to be called, bichloride of carbon. Although powerful and rapid in its effects, consciousness is rapidly restored after its use.

IS SWEDEN A RISING NATION?—Sir Charles Lyell, thirty-two years ago, from an examination of some ancient sea marks on the Swedish coast, concluded that the peninsula was rising at the rate of three feet a century.

CARRIER PIGEONS lately traveled the distance between Brussels and Cologne, one hundred and ten miles, in from three to five hours. One bird flew thirty-seven miles, another twenty-two, and others twenty miles per hour.

BEER VERSUS BREAD.—The amount of nutriment contained in beer is generally greatly over estimated. Liebig asserts that in 1,400 quarts of the best Bavarian beer, there is exactly the nourishment of an ordinary two and a half pound loaf of bread.

THE NIAGARA SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—Ever since the middle of March, 1855, from thirty to forty railway trains have passed over the Niagara Bridge daily. With the exception of the removal of the timber girders, and some other wooden parts which showed signs of decay, no part of the suspended system has ever been disturbed.

ANOTHER NEW FIBER.—By a late patent, a species of nettle, which grows luxuriantly and spontaneously throughout the Mississippi valley, is employed in the manufacture of cord, rope, cloth, bagging and paper.

FISH BISCUIT.—Professor Rosing, of Asa, France, has invented a process of making flour from a species of sea fish, which he forms into biscuit, thereby providing a very nutritious and compact article of food.

LECTURES AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The Imperial Commissioners have made arrangements for the delivery of a course of lectures, at various places within the buildings and grounds, on various subjects, such as caoutchouc, artificial ice, iron smelting, brass founding, and other kindred themes, connected with the mechanical and art displays in the Exposition.

AN INEXHAUSTIBLE ICE HOUSE.—A company has been formed in France for supplying towns in the southern provinces with ice from the sides of Savoy Alps. The glacier ice is loaded on vehicles at the foot of the mountains, transported to Geneva and thence by rail to its destination.

WE are indebted to Mr. H. T. Anthony, 501 Broadway, N. Y., for samples of Lithographic paper, from Paris, which we find excellent for printing photographic pictures.

J. H. HALL, 102 Fourth Avenue New York, cured by his patent process; for one man in Cincinnati last year 11,000 dozen eggs. They were so well preserved that the dealer sold them in February as fresh eggs.

MESSRS. NOTMAN & Co., of Boston, Mass., have sent us some photographic cards which indicate excellent skill in portraiture.

National Academy of Science.

This association held its semi-annual session in Hartford, Conn., during the past week. A report of their proceedings, which we had prepared, is crowded out of this issue by other matter, but will appear next week.

Patent Report for 1867.

We are glad to learn that the contract for engraving the diagrams for the Patent Report for 1867 has been awarded to Messrs. E. R. Jewett & Co., Buffalo, N. Y., whose excellent work has for many years adorned these important volumes.

Distances from San Francisco to New York.

THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD ROUTE.

The following complete table of distances and elevations of points on the Central Pacific Railroad of California, and other roads connecting therewith, between San Francisco and New York, is useful for reference.

Table with columns: Names of Places, Distance from point to point, Total distance, Elevation in feet, Names of Places, Distance from point to point, Total distance, Elevation in feet. Lists various locations from San Francisco to New York.

MANUFACTURING, MINING, AND RAILROAD ITEMS.

The oldest mills in Pennsylvania are in the quaint old town of Bethlehem Pa., built by the Moravians in 1793, and are now in good running order.

A stationary engine of 500 horse power is being built in Newburgh, Cuyahoga Co, Ohio. This, the largest stationary engine in the Western States, is the property of the Cleveland Rolling Mill company who are erecting immense Bessemer steel works in the former place.

Large importations from Belgium are annually made of rough plate glass, there being hitherto, a lack of suitable apparatus for manufacturing the article in this country.

The salt springs of New York produce nearly 7,000,000 bushels of salt per year. The wells are owned and worked by the State, the water being purchased for evaporation by private parties, at a fixed rate per bushel of salt varying from one to twelve and a half cents per bushel.

The work of changing the North Missouri railroad from a broad to a narrow gauge, for a distance of one hundred and seventy miles, to Macon, was finished in four days. Quick work.

The Viceroy of Egypt is said to be the owner of more than one hundred steam plows. We would like to get drawings of them for publication.

Ransome's concrete stone, is to be manufactured in this country by a joint stock company of Baltimore. The process of making this artificial stone is simple enough. The sand or chalk is intimately mixed with its proper proportion of a solution of silicate of soda; the plastic material is then pressed into molds or rolled into slabs, and afterwards immersed in a solution of chloride of calcium, when the silica combines with the calcium forming insoluble silicate of lime, firmly cementing the sand particles together.

The Montana people are congratulating themselves over the discovery of genuine sapphires in that territory. The precious stones found on El Dorado Bar, are familiarly known in that locality by the name of "Collin's diamonds" and are said to be quite plenty and easily procured.

The largest dye-house in America is about to commence operations in Paterson, N. J. Its appointments are on a very extensive scale and all its arrangements have been made under the direction of a French gentleman, for many years superintendent of the largest dye-house in Lyons.

An exceedingly rich bed of cinnabar has been discovered about four miles south of San Jose, Cal. There is a solid ledge about twelve feet wide and eight feet thick, between walls of rock, which grows richer as the excavation proceeds.

A sudden reduction has been made in the working force at the Springfield Armory, in consequence of an order to reduce the production of breech-loaders to two hundred a day.

A train on the New York Central Railroad ran from Spencerport to Rochester, a distance of 10 miles, the other night, in 9 minutes.

The net profits of the Anglo-American Telegraph company for the eleven months ending on the first ult., was more than sufficient to meet the sums of \$125,000 and \$25,000 payable to the company as a first charge upon the working of the two cables and the lines of the New York Newfoundland and London Telegraph company.

Natural soap, it is again announced, has been discovered in Missouri some sixty miles from St. Louis. What has been really found, is probably "fullers earth" a variety of clay which from its unctuous touch might easily be mistaken for soap.

The Mount Cenis railway is to be forty-eight miles long. The initial point on the French side is 2,438 feet, and the summit of the pass, 6,322 feet above sea level. For six miles before reaching the summit the ascent must be on an average gradient of 1 in 14.

The largest iron works in the country are located at Johnstown, Pa. The works are run day and night and give employment to 3,000 hands.

Steel boilers, it is said, are coming into use on French locomotives. Twelve express engines, with steel boilers, are employed on one railway leading out of Paris, fifteen on another, and several on other roads.

The entire tankage capacity of Oil City, nearly 200,000 barrels of oil, is awaiting a rise in the river for transportation to Pittsburg.

The new bridge at Louisville, Ky., is to be 5,220 feet, or nearly one mile in length. The longest span will be 360 feet, thirty-six feet longer than the longest span of the Montreal "Victoria bridge."

The Anglo-Indian Telegraph company propose to build a direct telegraph line, via Egypt and Aden, with subsequent extensions to Singapore, China, Japan and Australia. The direct route from London to Suez will, it is anticipated, be in actual work during the present year and the company have entered into a contract with responsible parties for laying a thoroughly efficient line from Suez to Bombay.

It is found necessary on some railways having numerous short curves, to have the flanges of the driving wheels of the ordinary 6-wheeled engines turned anew as often as every six weeks.

For the past three years, \$4,000,000 worth of boots and shoes have been shipped annually from Worcester, Mass. This business gives employment to 2,000 hands in the city, and as many more in the neighboring villages.

Recent American and Foreign Patents.

Under this heading we shall publish weekly notes of some of the more prominent home and foreign patents.

LATHES.—S. L. Hart, Milwaukee, Wis.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved device for attachment to lathes for the purpose of cupping the ends of wagon hubs, turning the interior of hollow wooden ware, and for similar uses.

BON SLEIGH.—G. O. Momeny, Locust Point, Ohio.—This invention has for its object to furnish a bob sleigh, or other sleigh or sled so constructed as to adapt it to all kinds of roads, and to enable the beams and raves of the sleigh to be readily removed from the knees and runners for convenience in storage, making the sleigh limber, strong, and durable.

OX YOKE.—W. A. Thompson, West Winsted, Conn.—This invention has for its object to so improve the construction of ox yokes as to diminish their weight and increase their strength and durability.

BEDSTEAD FASTENING.—L. L. Jackson, Paterson, N. J.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved bedstead fastening, simple in construction, reliable in operation and which will enable the bedstead to be easily and quickly set up and taken down.

SNAP HOOK.—W. S. Furlow, Geneseo, Ill.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved snaphook simple in construction, not liable to get out of order, not liable to freeze up in cold weather, and which can be manufactured at a small expense.

AERIAL MACHINE.—J. F. Elston, Elston Station, Mo.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved machine for navigating the air so constructed and arranged as to be completely under the control of the navigator.

FOUNTAIN PEN HOLDER.—J. S. Charles, Omaha, Nebraska.—This fountain pen holder is made in two parts, arranged to move the one within the other, and relatively so constructed that the ink can be drawn in at one end, and from the other discharged and expelled upon the pen, attached or inserted at such end.

WELL SEED BAGS.—A. D. Griffin, Meridith, Pa.—This invention relates to a method for closing the bore of an oil, artesian, or other well, and thereby stopping off the surface or other water, during the process of boring or working the said wells.

OX YOKE.—C. H. Post, Guilford, Conn.—This invention consists in attaching a hinged metallic plate to the yoke, the end of which engages with the bow in such a manner that the bow is securely fastened thereby.

OAR COLLARS.—Jackson Robinson, Cerrillosville, Pa.—This invention consists in supporting and moving the steering oar on metallic surfaces whereby the friction is greatly lessened, and the management of the steering or rudder oar is rendered much less difficult, and consequently the raft is much more easily managed than by the old method.

RADIATORS.—J. A. Marvin, Red Wing, Minn.—This invention consists in forming the flue through which the products of combustion pass, in such a manner that the heat from the stove is compelled to travel a long distance and be retarded in its course and radiated from the surface of the flues and the casing utilized.

WATCHES.—Thos. Baker, New York City.—This invention relates to that class of watches, which are provided with an arrangement of mechanism, for stopping and setting free the second hand, or the hand for indicating half, quarter, or any other fractional parts of a second.

COMBINED BUREAU AND BEDSTEAD.—John Stark, El Paso, Ill.—The present invention consists in so constructing a bureau, in such a manner, and in parts hinged or hung together, that they can be opened from each other and brought into a horizontal position for use as an ordinary bedstead, while at the same time, if so desired, they can be brought into an upright position and shut the one upon the other, forming a bureau, to all appearances, with the mattresses and other articles constituting the bedding, encased within the same.

SNAP-HOOK.—M. F. Mitchell, Waukau, Wis.—This snap-hook is so constructed as to be most durable and substantial, and most convenient and serviceable.

LUBRICATOR.—R. P. Underwood, Brooklyn, N. Y.—This lubricator is for the spindles and shafts of machinery, and is more especially intended for cotton and spinning machinery.

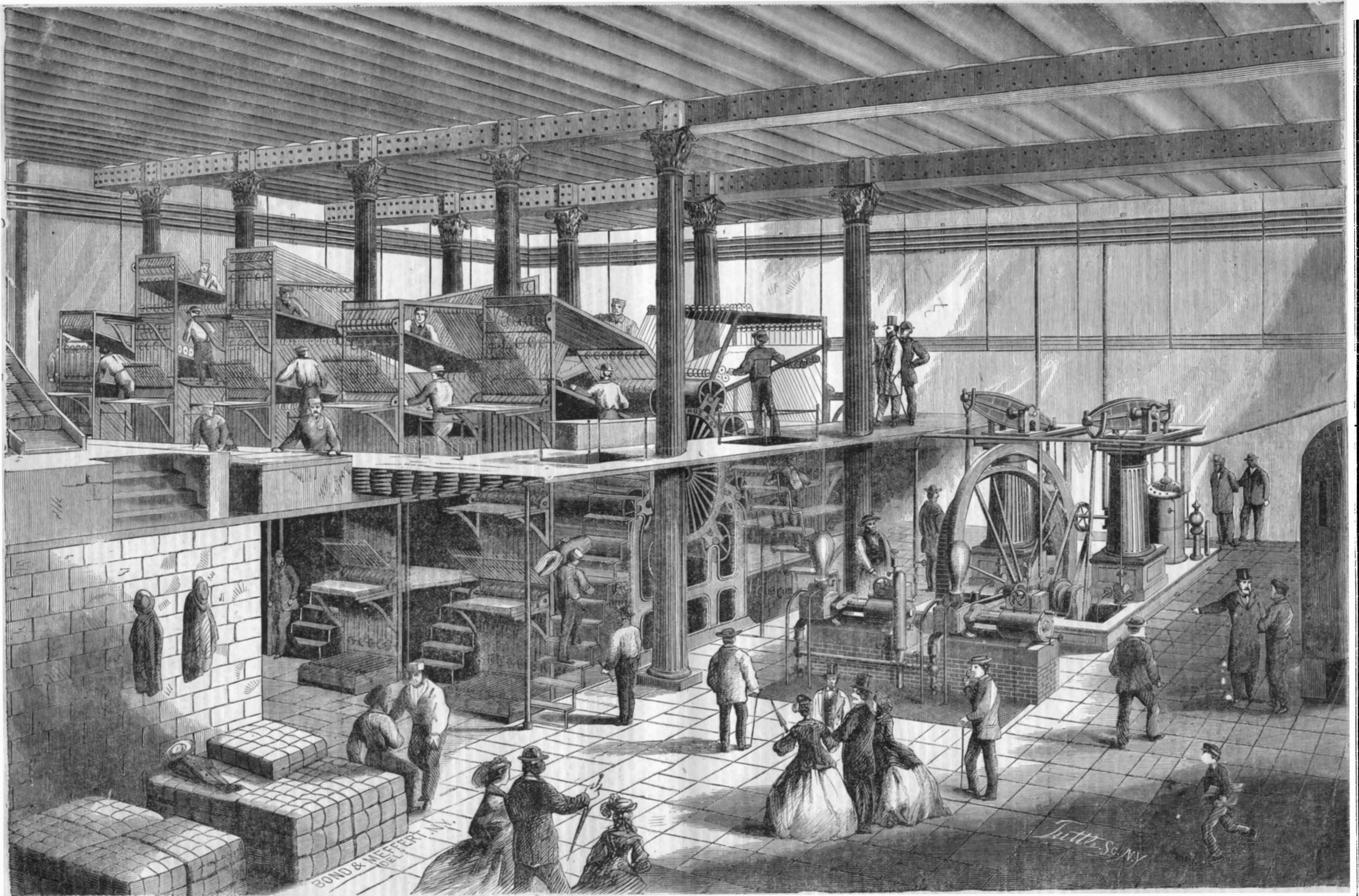
HOLDER FOR REINS.—Phineas Jones, Newark, N. J.—The object of this invention is to provide a simple device, whereby harness reins may be securely held, and whereby they will effectually be prevented from slipping out of the hand.

SPRING MATTRESSES.—Henry H. Vere, New York City.—The object of this invention is to so arrange and hold spiral springs in mattresses that the durability of the mattress will be increased, and to do away with the wooden frames now generally used in spring mattresses, that the mattresses may be easily handled, and may be reversed and used on both sides.

CALCULATING MACHINE.—A. Mendenhall, Cerro Gordo, Ind.—The object of this invention consists in constructing a machine by which figures of any desired magnitude may be readily added, subtracted, multiplied and divided.

STITCH ATTACHMENT FOR REGULATING THE LENGTH OF STITCH IN SEWING MACHINES.—George Robinson, Detroit, Mich.—This invention relates to a new and improved attachment for sewing machines, more especially designed for the Wheeler and Wilson machine, whereby the length of stitch may be regulated or varied as desired, with far greater accuracy and facility than by the ordinary cam attachment now used for that purpose.





PRESS AND ENGINE ROOMS OF THE NEW YORK "HERALD'S" NEW OFFICE, CORNER OF BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.





and has its peculiar features of mark, among which may be mentioned the handsome "council chamber" wherein the managing editor daily meets his staff to confer upon the affairs of the day, determine the course to be taken, and assign to each his rôle in the next morning's editorial demonstration. Near to this is the manager's private office, and connected with it an inner sanctum where a Wheatstone's telegraph communicates with the senior proprietor's residence on Washington Heights, eight or ten miles distant, by a private line of wires erected expressly for the purpose. The library is a large apartment not yet fitted up, designed for shelves from floor to ceiling, accessible by stairs and balconies, and to contain thousands of books of reference on the innumerable subjects constantly arising in a daily paper. The numerous editors and editorial writers have their separate apartments on this floor, and the reporters' room has accommodations for more than a dozen at once. There is also a reception room furnished with files of the daily papers, and a doorkeeper always in attendance at the entrance, to admit or exclude. The proof-reading room is a good-sized apartment on the floor beneath the compositors', connected with the latter—like the editorial and publication offices—by small hand elevators and pipes. One of the excellent features of the system is the index office, where every event and subject noticed in the paper is indexed daily, and may be referred to in a moment, many years back. For system, completeness, and extent, the new *Herald* establishment, editorial, mechanical, and commercial, is probably without a rival.

For the Scientific American.

**THE FIFTEEN-INCH BALL VS. ARMOR PLATES.**

The fifteen-inch cast-iron navy smooth bore cast by Alger, of Boston and sent to England for the British ordnance officers and iron plate commissioners to experiment with, underwent its preliminary trials for "velocity, range, and accuracy," at Shoeburyness, on the 27th June last. Fifteen rounds were fired with cast iron balls averaging a little more than 450 pounds each.

The first three rounds were fired with 35 pounds of the "mammoth grain" powder. Elevation 2 degrees; range, 711, 740, 737 yards respectively; velocity of ball averaged 920 feet per second; deviation of shot,  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a yard to the right.

Next three rounds with 50 pounds "mammoth grain." Elevation as before; range averaged 987 yards. Velocity of ball, 1,110, 1,120, 1,133 feet per second respectively; deviation from 2 to 3-2 yards to the right.

Next round, 60 pounds of "mammoth grain" powder—elevation the same. Range, 1,133 yards; velocity of ball, 1,210 feet per second; deviation of shot, 1-4 yards.

Next three rounds with 35 pounds of English powder of the following character and composition: Number of grains to an ounce, 500; niter, 75-3 per cent; sulphur, 10-3; charcoal, 14-4; moisture, 1-07; density, 1-74. Elevation the same; average range, 873 (?) yards; velocity, 1,044 feet per second; deviation of shot, ninth round "flew absolutely straight;" greatest deviation of the other two, 1 yard.

Next three rounds with 50 pounds of the same powder—elevation as before. Last round gave a range of 1,140 yards, with a velocity of 1,214 feet per second. Deviation—one round "flew straight to the mark;" last round deviated 2-4 yards.

Two rounds were then fired with 60 pounds of the "mammoth grain" powder, with about the same results as the other rounds with the same powder.

These preliminary trials seem to have astonished the British artillerists not a little, with respect to both velocity, range, and accuracy. *Engineering* remarks: "After Thursday's experiments we trust we shall hear little more of this parrot cry about *low velocity*;" and "As regards accuracy, we fancy the results must have surprised some of the judges not a little." Not only were the British artillerists astonished, but it was shown that one of the most distinguished of this fraternity, Captain Noble, of the Royal Engineers, who wrote the elaborate report to the Ordnance Select Committee, did not understand certain elements which should be regarded in computing the effect of large spherical shot. This officer, in the report alluded to, after extolling the power of the 9-inch wrought-iron Woolwich rifle, the favorite English gun, made a calculation which seemed to prove that the 15-inch American smooth bore was a mighty poor concern. These calculations, together with the termination of the gallant Captain's report, in which he pooh-poohed the American gun, seem to have been extremely gratifying to the British journalists. Ponderous leaders were written, and Lord Elcho was for the time pretty well put down for his Parliamentary attacks on the extravagance and inefficiency of the Ordnance Department of the government. He was for the time looked upon pretty much as our artillerists and engineers regard Mr. Ward.

On page 30 of his report, Captain Noble sets forth as the result of his calculations on the American smooth bore, that with 50 pounds charge of English powder and a 484-pound spherical shot, a velocity of 1,070 feet per second will be the result. This is equivalent to a dynamic force represented by 8,658,760 foot-pounds, and  $8,658,760 \div 50 = 173,175$  foot-pounds to each pound of powder.

Now on the trials for range, velocity, etc., which are given above, it is seen that Captain Noble himself propelled the 450-pound 15-inch ball with 50 pounds of English powder with the velocity of no less than 1,214 feet per second. The dynamic force of this ball was therefore represented by 10,328,400 foot-pounds, or  $10,328,400 \div 50 = 206,570$  foot-pounds to each pound of powder, that is,  $206,570 - 173,175 = 33,395$  foot-pounds *more* energy per pound of powder than stated in his calculation on which he based his erroneous opinion of the power of the gun.

In no case which has fallen under the observation of the writer has a pound of powder in the English 9-inch rifle developed a greater energy than 175,000 foot-pounds; this with a 250-pound cylinder will give a velocity of about 1,400 feet per second.

Having thus shown that Captain Noble made a mistake of 1,569,634 foot-pounds in his calculations based on a charge of but 50 pounds, let us turn to the trials which took place at Shoeburyness in July last with the 15-inch gun against armor. The target was constructed of John Brown's celebrated solid iron slabs, 8 inches thick, laid on a teak backing 18 inches thick, placed on the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch iron skin of the ship, to which were secured "a double number of supporting ribs." It is almost unnecessary to remark that such a cuirass as this is not carried by any French or English iron-clad, and that the *Warrior*, with her  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plates and 18 inch teak backing, represents the average impregnability of the iron-clads of the powers alluded to; and bearing in mind that the shot-resisting power of solid slabs varies as the square of their thickness, the immense difference between such a protection and the target fired at will be seen.

Against this target three rounds were fired from the 15-inch gun, as follows:

First Round—Range, 70 yards; American cast-iron spherical shot, weight 453 pounds, diameter 14-895 inches; charge 60 pounds of "mammoth grain" powder; velocity, 1,174 feet per second. The effect, according to the *London Mechanics Magazine*, was as follows:—"The shot struck the target near the horizontal junction of the armor plates, nipping about two inches only of the lower one, and smashing a deep indent of four inches into the plate, rebounded nearly entire—the striking face being flattened and a few largish fragments splintered off—twelve feet back from the front of the target. The armor plates were separated from each other vertically at the left edge about two inches, the space tapering along the whole plate to the right. The buckling from the indent extended over forty-one inches of area, and at the striking point (three feet from the left edge of the target) was inward to the extent of five inches," and the effect on the rear of the target was to bend the six supporting ribs "some inches," and to "slightly crack" them, and six butt-joints of the skin plates were opened along their entire length.

Second Round—Range the same. Pontypool No. 6 cast-iron spherical shot, weight 452-5 pounds, diameter 14-89 inches; charge same as before. According to the same authority, the effect was that the ball "struck about two feet six inches from the right end of the armor plate on the median line. Half the shot stuck in the indent (seven inches), the other half splintering off to a ragged, nearly flat face. Buckle on the vertical line; three inches at the middle of the width of the plate, and on the horizontal line, 1-6 inches, extending over a surface of five feet."

Third Round—Firth's steel spherical shot, tempered in oil, weight 498 pounds; charge same as before; velocity 1,134 feet per second; it pierced the plate 8-2 inches. The *Mechanics Magazine* says: "It struck about five feet from the left end and a foot from the top edge of the lower armor plate, and stood out from its front perfectly entire (except six or eight radiating narrow fissures) for about eight inches, the remainder being buried in the indent it had made in the plate."

Now in order that the reader may have a correct idea of the relation between the power of the 15-inch gun and the resisting capability of this tremendous target, it will be enough to state that about 40 per cent less than the real power of the gun was employed in these trials, and as an examination of the results show, a slight increase in the velocity of the big balls would have put them through the target. In short, as a cotemporary remarked, "what the effect of ten pounds more powder would have been, was dearily confessed by all the spectators of the trial." "The *Hercules*," says the *London Herald*, "ought to keep these missiles out; but she is not yet afloat. But it is something essential to know that henceforth no English man-of-war could be laid broadside against an American ship carrying guns of this caliber."

The English journals, both scientific and popular, have made a curious mistake with regard to the strength and quantity of the powder employed by us in the 15-inch gun. They call the "mammoth grain" powder used in these trials "American" powder, in contradistinction to their own, and state that sixty pounds of the "mammoth" is the maximum charge. The following extract from the instructions of the Naval Ordnance Bureau, issued during the war—April 1, 1864—while the experiments for endurance with the 15-inch gun were progressing, will show how very much less than the real power of the piece was used on the late trial: "Sixty pounds may be used for twenty rounds of solid shot. Cannon powder only should be used, as 35 pounds of this kind gives a greater range than 50 pounds mammoth powder."

Thus it is seen that the weight of the charge of "mammoth grain" used on the trial against the English target was equal to less than 42 pounds of such powder as is always used in the 15-inch navy gun, and 60 pounds of our powder gives a velocity of over 1,400 feet, against less than 1,200 obtained on the English trial ground against their target. Remembering that the power varies as the square of the speed, it cannot fail to be seen that the proper charge would have pierced and smashed this tremendous target. Seventy pounds of our cannon powder has been frequently employed on the trial ground, and a few months since a velocity of nearly 1,600 feet per second was achieved with the 15-inch gun with 100 pounds of "mammoth grain."

Perhaps the natural delicacy of John Bull has made him fearful of injuring the Yankee gun, but it is much more likely that his great care of the gun is due to his fear, not of bursting the piece, but of bursting his target and his reputation at the same time. N.

**GUNPOWDER—ITS MATERIAL AND MANUFACTURE.**

The origin of this composition, which may be considered, next to steam, as the most influential agent in human progress, is involved in hopeless obscurity. It certainly was known to the Chinese and Hindoos at a very early period. The Chinese histories make repeated mention of it at a time when European nations were sunk in semi-barbarism, and Philostratus in his life of Apollonius Tyanæus speaks of the Oxydracæ, a people living between the Hyphasis and the Ganges, whom Alexander declined to attack because "they come not out to fight those who attack them, but those holy men, beloved of the gods, overthrow their enemies with tempests and thunderbolts shot from their walls." Hercules and Bacchæ, who from Egypt overran India, were repulsed by these people "with storms of thunderbolts and lightnings hurled from above." The invention of gunpowder has been attributed to a German monk and alchemist of the 14th century, named Schwartz, and also to Roger Bacon, commonly known as Friar Bacon, who lived in the 13th century. But it is certain the latter referred to it as a composition already known as a scientific toy or means of amusement, and if so the claims of Schwartz who lived years afterward are of no value. It is somewhat remarkable that to ministers of the gospel of peace should be attributed the credit of inventing such an agent for the destruction of human life. It is singular, also, that the composition and the proportions of the constituents of gunpowder should remain radically unchanged from the earliest period to the present time.

Gunpowder is composed of niter, charcoal, and sulphur; according to Benton the proportions used by the United States government are niter, 76; charcoal, 14, and sulphur 10. According to the same authority the parts performed by these ingredients are shown by the following table:

COMPOSITION OF GUNPOWDER.

BEFORE COMBUSTION.		AFTER COMBUSTION.	
3 parts of carbon,	3 carbon,	3 carbonic acid (gas).	
1 part of nitrate of potassa,	6 oxygen,	1 nitrogen (gas).	
1 part of sulphur,	1 nitrogen,	1 potassium,	
	1 sulphur,	1 sulphide of potassium (solid).	

A gunpowder can be made of niter and charcoal alone; but it is not so strong as when sulphur is present; beside, the substance of the grain is friable, has considerable affinity for moisture, and rapidly fouds the arms in which it is used. Theoretically, sulphur does not contribute directly to the explosive force of gunpowder by furnishing materials for gas, but by uniting with the niter it affords a large amount of heat, and prevents the carbonic acid from uniting with the nitrate of potassa, or niter, and forming a solid compound, the carbonate of potassa. It is to the heat and carbonic acid thus formed that gunpowder mainly owes its explosive force.

Niter does not absorb moisture from the ordinary atmosphere, a very important quality in the principal ingredient of gunpowder; it is decomposed when strongly heated and oxygen is evolved at first; finally nitrogen is given off, and peroxide of potassium remains. When heated with combustible materials it is completely deprived of its oxygen; this is the part it plays in gunpowder. Charcoal is an absorbent of oxygen and very combustible. In burning, a large amount of carbonic acid is evolved. When first prepared by heating in a closed iron retort, it will, if pulverized, absorb so much of the oxygen of the atmosphere and so rapidly, as sometimes to ignite by spontaneous combustion. The properties of sulphur in gunpowder have been already described.

The explosion of gunpowder is a deflagration in which the combination of the ingredients is completed at once, the whole, or most, passing almost instantly into a gaseous condition by the influence of heat. The gases are combinations of the carbon of the charcoal with the oxygen of the niter; the sulphur serving to decompose the nitrate of potash by combining with its metallic base and thus setting free another atom of oxygen for producing more carbonic acid. The accession of heat thus engendered, also greatly adds to the effect. The sulphur and niter are refined to a point of almost absolute purity, and great care is exercised in the preparation of the charcoal and in the selection of the material from which it is produced. It is usually made from the twigs of the black dogwood, black alder, or the willow, the latter being exclusively used in this country. It is charred in closed retorts of cast iron at a low temperature, as it is found that the lower the heat by which the change is effected the greater the combustibility of the charcoal. Each of the ingredients is ground to impalpable powder and bolted. They are then weighed in proportions and sifted into a trough or cylinder in which are revolving fans which intimately mix the constituents.

They are then taken to a mill similar to that known as the Chilean mill for grinding gold-bearing quartz, which is simply a vertical shaft, having on two projecting horizontal arms immensely heavy rollers of cast iron which revolve on a circular cast iron bed having wooden sides. From forty to fifty pounds are put into the mill, moistened with water, and ground by revolving rollers. It is in this grinding process that those fearful accidents occur which occasionally horrify the public. The mill is isolated and at a distance from others, which are protected by trees or earth traverses. It requires from three to five hours to complete the grinding process. If a particle of grit gets into the mill during the process the result is almost unavoidably an explosion.

When taken out it is dried and presents the appearance of grayish black cakes called mill cake. It is then sprinkled with water and spread on brass plates in a press and subjected to immense pressure. This press is a hydraulic press, as the flying dust of the powder might become ignited by the friction of a screw. It comes out in thin, hard cakes, and is broken and granulated by being passed between fluted rollers, one series after another, being passed from one to the other over sieves which have a reciprocating or shaking motion.







tion with the devices as shown when constructed and operating as herein set forth and for the purposes specified.
67,820.—WINDOW SASH.—Horace Tupper, Bay City, Mich.
I claim the head piece, A, when provided with a slot for the admission of the glass in combination with the continuous grooves in the vertical bars and the slots in the horizontal bars, as and for the purpose described.

67,829.—HARVESTER CUTTER.—Wm. N. Whately, Jerome Fessler, and Oliver S. Keller, Springfield, O.
We claim the nail rod, E, provided with the right-angled flange, F, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.
67,830.—PHOTOGRAPHIC CAMERA STAND.—F. E. Wilke, Brooklyn, N. Y.
I claim, 1st, The device for raising and lowering the sliding frame of a camera stand which consists of a vertical screw, G, which is held between the cross heads, H and A, which are part of the stationary and sliding frames, respectively, said screw being operated by means of gear wheels, I and J, and by a handle, B, or a shaft, J, all as set forth.

2,729.—SUGAR EVAPORATOR.—Francis Farquhar and Robert E. Doan, Wilmington, O. Patented Sept. 25, 1866.
1st, I claim a sugar evaporator having its fire box and flues arranged so as to be surrounded with the juice to be evaporated, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

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