

Bobbin-turning was commenced by Thos. Van Riper, on Peckman's creek, about 1795. Mr. Van Riper afterwards carried on the business for many years in Paterson. His son, P. V. H. Van Riper, has done a great deal to develop this branch of business, and his factory is at least the second of its kind in importance on this continent. Mr. Van Riper has invented or improved a large number of machines, and the speed with which a dog-wood pole is devoured by these "dogs of war" may well excite surprise. Roughing machines are made to despatch from 5,000 to 15,000 pieces per day; a finishing machine 20,000, and so on. Cotton, wool, silk, rope, and all other descriptions of bobbins are made at these works, and sent east, west, north and south. The number of employees usually ranges from 40 to 50. Two other shops in Paterson employ 15 hands each. One of these (John Cutler's) has been sixteen years in operation, and is prepared to fill orders of every kind in the line. This business was carried on for many years by Chauncey Andrews and Abm. Carter, previous to their decease.

The manufacture of plain and fancy woodwork for carpenters and builders is carried on very extensively by Andrew Derrom, whose establishment in West-street is now pronounced the most extensive of its kind in the neighborhood of New York. Mr. Derrom began business in 1845, and has since enjoyed an unusually prosperous career. The works, built up from a small beginning, are capacious and fitted with all the modern improvements, the whole being driven by a new steam-engine of 25-horse power. The boiler arrangements are of a superior character, combining economy with convenience. Each of the four stories in the main building is occupied by a distinct department of the business. In one the lumber is received, sawed up and planed at railroad speed; elsewhere it is prepared for housebuilding, or cut up into sashes, blinds, moldings, and the like. The consumption of lumber per annum is fully one million feet, besides large quantities sold to other parties. The works at present employ about 70 men and boys. To the self-sacrificing exertions of Mr. Derrom, in a great degree, the people of Paterson are indebted for their excellent system of public schools, which are probably unsurpassed by those of any city of equal size and population.

Wood type-making was introduced, in 1842, by Wells & Webb, who lately dissolved partnership, each prosecuting the business on his own account. Mr. Wells has lately added the preparation of box-wood for engravers, together with all sorts of printing materials. His office is at No. 120 Fulton-street, New York. The business now employs from 12 to 15 persons.

The manufacture of carriage-ware, such as hubs, spokes, felloes, &c., was commenced by Quackenbush, Hathaway & Holt, at their Empire works, in 1858. In the same building Wm. H. Goetschius is engaged on chair stock. Bone-turning is carried on by Frederick Hencke, and moldings made by Ackerman & Snyder. The total number of hands employed around these works is from 25 to 30.

Tanning has been prosecuted since 1825 by John P. Brown, who employs 10 men constantly, and has 60 pits in operation. Most of his ware is sent to Newark and New York for harness. Benjamin Geroe has also been several years in the tanning business, employing some half a dozen hands in all.

Harness-making and carriage-building have been mainly carried on for home market. About half a dozen parties are engaged in one or both, and employ from 50 to 75 hands. Peter Mercelis has for two or three years been making harness; and H. P. Fox has commenced building carriages for the outside world.

The tobacco manufacture was begun by S. Allen (now Allen, Reynolds & Co.) a quarter of a century ago, and gives employment to 35 hands. The product of their factory has an extensive sale in the neighboring country, and as far west as Chicago or Nebraska City.

Coffee-roasting and grinding, as a distinct business, is of more recent date, having been introduced by J. P. Huntton in 1841. Since then Mr. Huntton has applied himself very energetically, and built up an extensive trade, which extends as far west as the "father o' waters." The annual sales of coffee alone are 250,000 lbs. The Excelsior mill, built by Mr. Huntton in 1855, is a large, neat and commodious structure, driven by steam, and keeping 10 or 12 persons at work. Mr.

Huntton also laid the foundation of similar establishments in Newark and New Brunswick.

Soap and candle-making has been carried on since 1846 by A. Worth & Co., who have also built up a prosperous business. About 200 boxes of the former and 100 of the latter are made every week.

Brick-making is conducted by Van Blarcom & Co., and latterly by Westervelt & Scott, the total product being about five millions the present season. Van Blarcom & Co. have been nearly 20 years in the business, and send pretty largely to Bloomfield and Newark, as well as to Paterson.

John Bentley runs the only flour mill in the place, consuming about 250 bushels of grain daily, principally for the home market.

That whole section of the State is underlaid with beds of fine sandstone, extending to an unknown depth. At Little Falls these quarries, after having been worked so many years, are abandoned. Since 1852 the business has been successfully prosecuted near Paterson by Samuel Pope and by Hartley & Bradley. Mr. Pope's quarry employs from 25 to 30 men, and will yield this season about 8,000 tons of stone for building purposes and monuments. This is delivered in Paterson, along the line of the Erie Railroad, and elsewhere. The Passaic county prison, a beautiful structure, was the first building of importance constructed of Mr. Pope's stone. The quarry has already been sunk to a depth of 90 feet, and will be continued probably an equal distance further, in order to allow a railroad to be laid down between it and the Morris Canal. The different layers of stone, from the surface conglomerate (once a sea beach) downward to the clear grit sandstone, are well worth a visit by the practical geologist.

The Paterson and Hudson River Railroad was chartered in January, 1831, and opened to the Bergen Hill junction in November, 1832; Philemon Dickerson (afterwards Governor of New Jersey), being the first president. Six years ago it was leased by the New York and Erie Company, who laid down a second track, and otherwise added to the facilities previously afforded. Their repair shop for the Union division, under the judicious management of Ezra Osborne, is located at Paterson, and employs 20 mechanics, besides laborers and others around the depot yard.

This series will not inaptly terminate by a short description of the Roswell House and adjoining grounds. Previous to 1837, the hill on which it stands was a naked mound of sand, extending in a continuous ridge nearly to the center of the town. At that time the late Mr. Colt began the erection of his magnificent mansion, which now adorns the summit, forming the first and most conspicuous object which meets the stranger's gaze. Along the precipitous sides of the hill carriage-ways and foot-paths have been constructed in every direction, now opening on the surrounding mountains, woods and fields; then on the bustling city, with its hundred factories; again on the noble edifice, flanked with greenhouses; and at other times on ponds where gracefully swim birds from the tropical climes, or graperies nestle, burthened with their luscious product. Through the liberality of the Colt family, these grounds have been thrown open to all well-disposed persons; and few visitors from a distance fail to feast their eyes on the scene, paying a merited tribute to the genius of Thom, whose "Tam o' Shanter" and "Souter Johnny," products of the Little Falls quarry, silently guard the entrance of the Roswell House.

P. S.—In a previous article, it should have been stated that the yarn and duck mills of Mr. John Colt, as well as Mr. Carrick's factory, ran throughout the crisis of 1837.

AN ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK.—There is in the town of Nantucket, Mass., an astronomical clock, made by Hon. Walter Folger, when he was only 22 years of age. The plan of the whole of its machinery was matured and completed in his mind before he commenced to put it together. It keeps the correct date of the year, and the figures change as the year changes. The sun and moon, represented by balls, appear to rise and set on the face of the clock, with all their variations and phases, as in the heavens. It also indicates the sun's place in the ecliptic, keeps an account of the motion of the moon's nodes around the ecliptic, and the sun and moon's declination.

A CURIOUS FACT.

At the time of the explosion on board the *Great Eastern*, a curious fact was noticed: those who were most hurt and who first died seemed the least injured when they first appeared above deck, and even were able to walk aft without assistance. On this point a writer in the *London Times* says:—

"A man blown up by gunpowder is a mere figure of raw flesh which seldom moves after the explosion. Not so with men blown up by steam, who, for a few minutes are able to walk about, apparently unhurt, though, in fact, mortally injured beyond all hope of recovery. This was so with one or two, who, as they emerged from below, walked aft with that indescribable expression in their faces only resembling intense astonishment; and a certain faltering of the gait and movements like one who walks in his sleep. Where not begrimed by the smoke or ashes, the peculiar bright, soft whiteness of the face, hands or breast, told at once that the skin, though unbroken, had, in fact, been boiled by the steam. One man walked along with the movement and look I have endeavored to describe, and seemed quite unconscious that the flesh of his thighs (most probably by the ashes in the furnace) was burnt in deep holes. To some one who came to his assistance, he said, quietly: 'I am all right. There are others worse than me; go look after them. The poor man was the first to die. He expired quietly as if falling into a refreshing sleep.'"

SYMPATHY OF THE NERVES.—When the nerves, from long habit, have become accustomed to transmit their messages from distinct parts, and are suddenly cut off from them, they will retain along their trunks the sympathetic or sensational actions. Thus, a man who has a leg amputated will feel distinctly along the course of the trunk of the nerve sensation from toes which no longer exist. The mind is also influenced by this; and frequently this peculiar direct nervous action can only be allayed by that which is negative and reflex. A curious instance occurred within my own experience. An old sailor suffered much from this. He retained his diseased foot too long, but at last consented to an amputation. I knew him with only a wooden leg. When he had his nervous pains he always called for hot water, into which he put his wooden stump. If told of his folly in supposing that such a proceeding could do any good, he would become enraged, and his paroxysm of pain would increase; but if gratified, he took things easy, and the process actually appeared to do him good, though all must know there could be no real benefit. Still, here is the effect of mind over matter.—*New York Medical Press.*

THE OKRA PLANT.—The consumption of this plant has materially increased within a few years. Mr. John Buckland, of Monmouth county (N. J.), now raises seven acres per annum. When the pods are in a fresh state, they are used for soup, and give off a mucilage which enriches the soup materially, while the less soluble portions of the pod are softened together with the seeds, and produce an admirable potage. The "gumbo" of the South is made with this plant. The soup is always easy of digestion, and very nutritious. When the plant is suffered to ripen, the seeds are large and hard, and the amount produced is very great; these by being burned produce an imitation of coffee, scarcely inferior to the best Mocha, while the fibrous character of the pod strongly recommends it to paper-makers. It is perfectly evident to those who have examined it, that neither the aloe, the beechwood, ordinary straw, or any of the substances now being made use of in place of cotton or linen for paper, can surpass it for this use; and we are surprised that it has not found its way into general consumption.—*Working Farmer.*

LEHIGH ZINC.—The first merchantable spelter, viz., three car loads, 25 tons, were shipped, week before last, by the Pennsylvania and Lehigh Zinc Company, via North Pennsylvania Railroad, to Philadelphia. We learn that Mr. Wetherill has also shipped spelter both to New York and Philadelphia, in small lots, made by a process differing from that of the Pennsylvania and Lehigh Zinc Company, and said to be more expensive. The works of the latter company at Bethlehem are under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph Wharton, of Philadelphia.—*March Chalk Gazette.*