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scratching, through the wax, lines of the proper form to produce the desired picture, and pouring nitric acid over the plate. Wherever the plate was covered by the wax it would be protected from the action of the acid; but in the lines where the wax was scratched away, the acid would dissolve the plate, forming channels similar to those made by the burin of the engraver and with a great saving of time and labor. The principal difficulty with this process has been, that as the acid dissolved its way downward into the plate it would also work sideways under the wax, thus widening the channels as well as deepening them. It has seemed that this must necessarily always be the action of acid in etching, and that the

to be removed as many times as there were variations of shade in the engraving. But by M. Vial's prothe copper is deposited first in the finest lines, while the action of the acid continues longest in those which are widest. Thus the depth of the engraving is proportioned exactly to the breadth and thickness of the ink-mark, and this by a single immersion of the plate in the bath. The process occupies but five minutes. The copper is removed by ammonia before the plate is used for printing. Old engravings may be reproduced by this process

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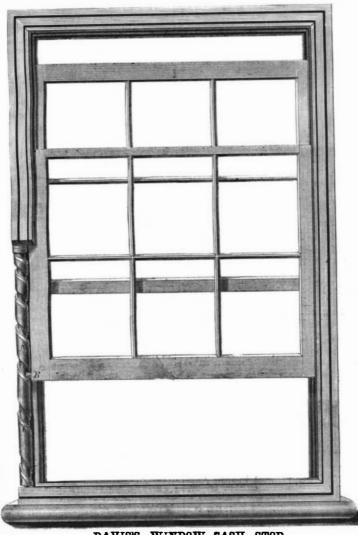
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frames of the window in which a roller attached to But this difficulty appears to have been completely the sash works; so that the lateral impulse, which is given to the sash by the spiral groove in moving the sash up and down, will not tend to make it work hard or draw out of place. The operation of this device is very easi y seen: when the sash is down, the spring is wound up, and the act of raising it causes the cylinder to revolve and aid the upward movement. It will be seen that the spiral on the cylinder is not of the same pitch throughout its length, but that near the top it becomes quicker; this is to compensate for the relaxed power of the spring as it becomes weaker the pitch is slower, and the cylinder revolves with more ease. When the sash is checked at any point it remains there supported by the cylinder and cannot possibly get away. There is nothing visible outwardly, the appearance of the frame being uninjured by fixtures of any kind. The invention was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency on Oct. 6th, 1863, by John Davis, of Council Hill Station III.; further information can be had by addressing him at that place.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN ENGRAVING.

In the process of engraving metallic plates by etching with acids there has been one obstacle to perfect work which we have regarded as in surmountable. As heretofore practiced, this process consisted in ocvering the plate with a thin coating of wax, then the further action of the acid; and the plate required

.y. There is also a vertical slot between the two | difficulty was in the nature of things insurmountable. overcome by a French invention which is one of the most beautiful that has ever been made in this delicate art. The inventor is Monsieur E. Vial, of Paris, and he gave a full account of his invention in a paper read before the Society of Arts, in London, on Feb. 4th, 1864.

A drawing is made with a greasy ink on a steel plate, and the plate is then plunged into a saturated solution of sulphate of copper containing 10 per cent of nitric acid. By the action of the steel the copper is reduced from the sulphate, and all portions of the steel plate not protected by the ink are instantly covered with a coating of metallic copper, which protects the steel from the action of the nitric acid. The acid soaks away the ink, and dissolves the steel, forming channels beneath the lines. But as the acid soaks away the ink it is followed by the copper solution, and a coating of metallic copper is deposited within the lines, protecting them from the further action of the acid. As the copper is deposited first at the edges of the lines, all action of the acids upon the sides of the channels is prevented, and as the acid continues its work longest towards the middle of the line, the channels are made of "V" form, which is precisely the form desired by the engraver.

In the old method it was necessary to remove the plate from the bath as soon as the finest lines were etched, and to cover these parts with wax to prevent