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How to Make the Gas Burn in Cold Weather.

Many persons, during the late excessive cold weather, experienced some difficulty in making the gas burn in their houses, caused by obstruction to the supply pipes and meters. Mr. Cresson, the engineer of the gas works, says the difficulty may be removed by pouring boiling water on a cloth spead over the meter and pipe that comes in through the front wall. This removes the frost in the meter and pipe, leaving a free course for the gas to flow.—[Philadelphia Ledger.

[The difficulties described by the *Ledger*, were experienced on quite an extended scale in this city, as well as Philadelphia, during the late severe frost. The method of remedying the evil suggested by Mr. Cresson, has been tried with success here.

Singular Optical Illusion.

The Paris correspondent of the *New York Times* states that a gentleman living in Brussels, somewhat troubled by spots in his eyes, rubbed them one night with a few drops of extract of belladona. In the morning the whole outer face of the world had changed. His newspaper, which had been placed by bed-side, was composed of type so small that he could hardly decypher it. He got up in a great fright, and looked after his clothing; they were the garments of a child, but as his own limbs had diminished in proportion, he easily got into them. He found his wife and children at the table, the former a dwarf and the latter a row of dolls. He hurried off to his physician; the horses he met looked liked dogs, and dogs like rats. Lotions were applied to the victim's eyes, and the next day Brobdignag returned, bringing back the spots.

The Submarine Telegraph Across the Black Sea.

The London *Times* speaks of the departure of a steamer with the wire for a submarine cable, intended to be laid between Varna and Balaklava, a distance of 400 miles. Morse's system of telegraphing is to be used. By the end of February a direct telegraphic communication will be opened between the head-quarters of the allies in the Crimea and the two great western capitals, London and Paris; for the French and English Governments have made such arrangements that the gentlemen who are proceeding out to the Black Sea confidently expect, by the time their vessel reaches the Euxine, the overland telegraph from Varna to Bucharest will be finished, thus completing the electric communication of the Crimea with England.

Galls from the Harness or Saddle.

Maj. Long, says the *American Farmer*, in his valuable account of his expedition to the Rocky Mountains, says, that his party found white lead moistened with milk to succeed better than anything else in preventing the bad effects of the galls on the horses' back in their march over the plains that border the mountains. Its effect in soothing the irritated and inflamed surface was admirable.

PATENT WINDOW WASHER.

The annexed figure is a perspective view of a method and apparatus for washing windows, for which a patent was granted to Geo. A. Meacham, of this city, on the 30th of last month.

This improvement enables any person to wash windows by ejecting a stream of water upon them, from the nozzle of a pipe, and by employing no other means to do so, than a pail, a post, and tube. It is applicable to the washing of windows inside of any room. E is an apron secured on the sole of the window to catch the water; it has a pipe in its lower side, which allows the water to run into a pail, as shown, so that no water is spattered on the floor. A is a pail, and B is a portable stand post. It has pins secured on it as shown, and on its top there is a collar with a hole in it to guide and hold the pail in position. The pail has a shank or handle secured in its under side, which shank passes through the top collar on post B. The shank of the pail has also a metal ring secured on its lower end, which encircles the post, B, and is held at any point of elevation by the pins, as shown. C is a tube screwed into the bottom of the pail, and *p* is a faucet to open and close the tube; D is a rose, or perforate nozzle—and a piece of sponge may be employed in the end of the tube, C.

By filling the pail, A, with water, and raising it to the hight shown—the top of the window—as represented, it is evident that when the faucet, *d*, is opened, the water will rise to the hight of the fountain head (the surface of the water in the pail, A,) and be ejected upon the window, as illustrated by this figure.

This is a simple apparatus for accomplishing the object specified; it allows of windows in the interior of buildings being washed in a superior manner by a girl standing on the floor, without the necessity of getting upon a ladder or bench, as is now the practice to do so. Either a brush or sponge may be used on the end of the nozzle. All will understand the operation of this apparatus, and its utility and usefulness are apparent.

More information may be obtained from the inventor at 290 Broadway, room No. 13.

The large new frigate *Niagara* is now building at the government Navy Yard in Brooklyn. Messrs. Pease & Murphy, of this city, are building the engines, which will soon be ready, and do them credit.

American Linen Cloth and Thread.

We saw, last week, at the rooms of George F. Wilson, some specimens of flax in the various stages of manufacture, from the coarse raw material dressed without rotting, to the yarn fine enough to spin No. 100, and the woven cloth handsomely finished and beautifully bleached. Twine, thread, and other manufactures of flax were also exhibited. The various processes by which these results have been accomplished are most creditable to American ingenuity, and open new and important avenues to American enterprise. Flax is raised in large quantities for the seed; it is easy of culture, and the raw material can be supplied in any quantity that may be desired. By the new processes of bleaching and spinning, the manufactured article can be afforded at prices altogether below those that it now commands. The times are not just now propitious for new enterprises, but as soon as money can be had for anything, we should think that these improvements would attract the attention of capitalists.—[Providence Journal, (R. I.)

[We believe this is the first fine linen cloth and thread which has been manufactured in our country. Linen twine and shoemakers' coarse thread have been extensively manufactured, but we have never seen a single yard of American linen on exhibition at any of our Fairs. Rhode Island is the mother of American cotton manufacturing by machinery, and it may yet prove to be the parent of the American linen manufacture, for we do not see anything to hinder our country from manufacturing linen as well as cotton cloth.

Late News from Europe.

The most recent news from Europe brings information of a complete disorganization of the coalition British Ministry. Lord John Russel had resigned because he could not continue in a Ministry that mismanaged the affairs in the Crimea so wretchedly. Of 54,000 British troops sent to the seat of war, there were now only 14,000 on duty, and only 2,000 of these were in good health. The London *Times* is savage upon the incapacity of the British aristocracy, and asserts that the interests of the country have been sacrificed to routine and aristocratic incompetency. It is perfectly reasonable to suppose that aristocrats, like the English nobility, cannot be educated to command and guide soldiers, or others. How can they project measures and carry them out for the welfare of soldiers during a campaign, they being brought up to have others care for and look after them. They are no better than grown up children in that forethought necessary to provide for themselves, and how can it be expected that they are qualified to take care of the soldiers under them? The only way to improve the Britsh government and army, is to throw open all offices to meritorious and capable men—plebians as well as patricians.

Garden Seats.

A correspondent of the *Gardener's Chronicle* says: "Every one finds great difficulty in keeping garden seats more than a year without constant painting. Gutta percha thinly laid on, and turned round the sides and nailed, will last forever."

Moore & Hascall's Patent in Congress.

On the 10th inst., the enacting clause of the Bill to extend Moore & Hascall's Reaper patent was ordered to be struck out by a vote of 96 to 34—thus defeating it completely.