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To Collect the Perfume of Flowers.

The ordinary mode of obtaining the perfume of flowers is by distillation; this plan has been adopted for many ages. Shakspeare tells us that—

Flowers distill'd, though they with winter meet,
Leese but their show, their substance still lives, sweet.

Or, in plain prose, that by distilling flowers we may possess their sweetness in winter, when their beauty has passed away.

The odor of flowers is owing to a minute portion of a volatile oil being constantly generated, and thrown off by the plant.—This perfume is termed an *essential* oil by chemists. When the flowers are distilled with water, the essential oil rises with the steam, and is condensed with it in the still worm. The following plan of procuring the odors of plants is entirely upon a different principle to the above, and, being devoid of apparatus, will be found a delightful and economical amusement to a vast number of our readers who possess gardens. In all gardens there are flowers that—

Waste their fragrance in the desert air.

And there is no reason why it should not be collected by the following easy method. In the first place, the flowers must be gathered, and that with as little stalk as possible, then place them in a jar three parts full of sweet olive or almond oil; after the flowers have been in the oil from twelve to twenty-four hours, the whole must be put into a coarse cloth, and the oil forcibly squeezed from them, then fresh flowers must be added, and this process repeated for several days, according to the strength of the perfume desired. When the odor of only one flower is required, an incredible quantity of flowers are necessary to produce a scented oil, and for that purpose they would require special cultivation.

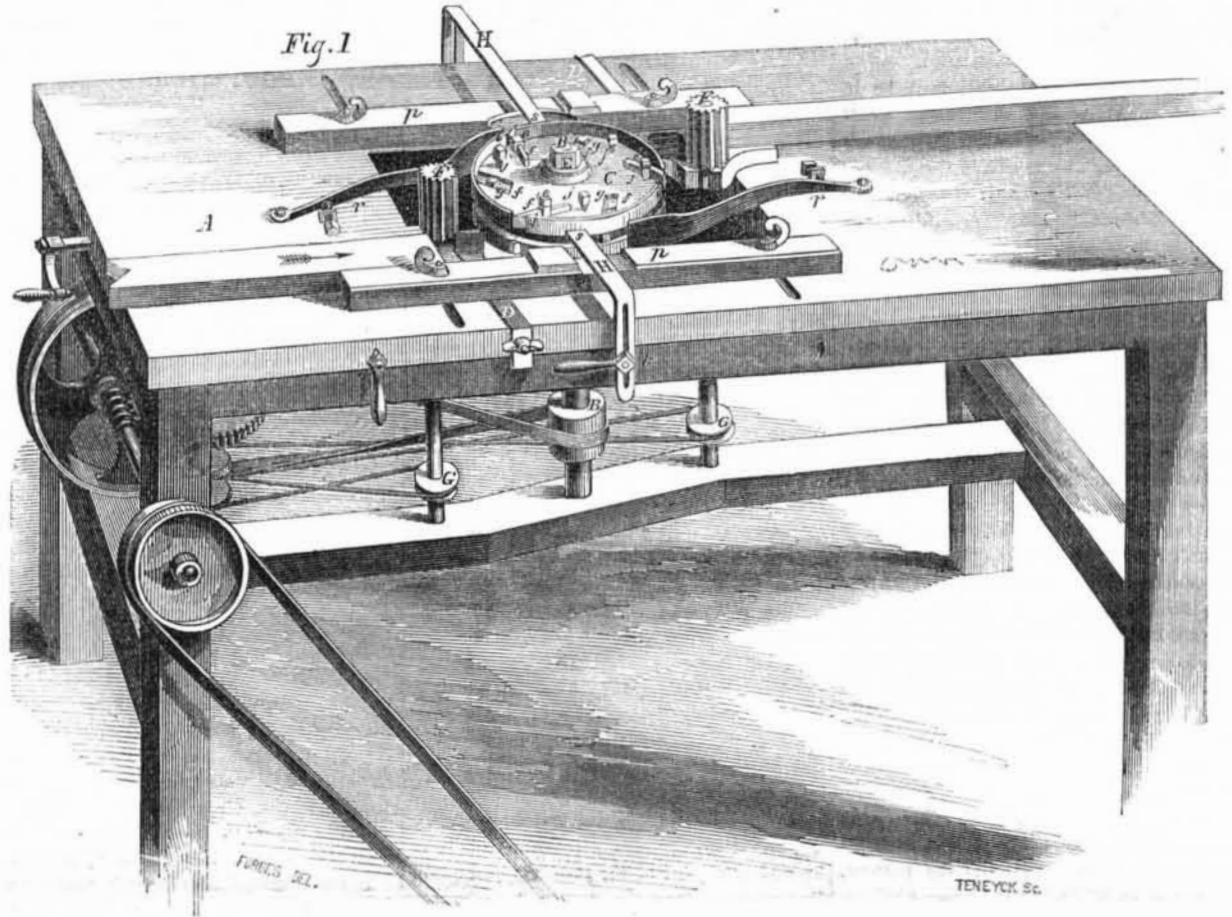
The amateur can only expect to produce a mixed perfume, *millefleur* (or "thousand flowers,") as the French call it. Thus he may use most flowers that come to hand having an odor. It is better to choose for this purpose all the smaller kinds, such as sweet pea, mignonette, stock, clove pink, clematis blossom, &c. Lily of the valley, roses, and the larger blossoms, are not applicable for use by the novice, as they take up more room than is compensated for by the odor they impart. The sweet or fat oil being thus thoroughly perfumed with the essential or volatile oil of the flowers, is to be mixed with an equal quantity of pure rectified spirit, and shaken every day for a fortnight; at that time it may be poured off quite bright, and will be found highly charged with the odoriferous principle previously in the sweet oil. The perfumed spirit thus obtained completes the process. It is as well to state, that those flowers which are just going off their bloom are as applicable as those in their prime. Thus the garden need not be robbed of its beauty.

"Of their sweet deaths are sweetest odor made."

SEPTIMUS PIESSE.

London.

MORSE'S DOUBLE-ACTING SASH AND MOLDING MILL.



The accompanying engraving is a perspective view of an improved machine for sticking sash, blind slats, &c., for which a patent was granted to C. B. Morse, of Rhinebeck, N. Y., on the 16th of January last.

The figure represents a machine as it stands in the factory ready for use, excepting having on the cap, it being removed to show the interior of the cutter head. The object of this machine is to cut moldings on two separate pieces of stuff at the same time, with one cutter head, thereby finishing sash bars, mountings, blind slats, &c., before leaving the machine—one piece passing the cutter head to the right, and the other to the left simultaneously, the machine in this manner doing double the quantity of work of machines heretofore employed for the same purpose, without extra expense, and work of a superior quality, as the molding on each side of a piece is an exact duplicate of the other.

A is the top of the machine. When in operation the cap covers the machinery of the cutter head, prevents all danger to the attendant, and conducts chips under the machine through an opening, so that they are never scattered about the shop; B is a vertical shaft, having its bearing in a transverse cross-piece on the upper part of the frame, and its foot in a cross-piece under the table; C is the cutter stock upon the upper end of shaft, B. It is formed of two flanged disks so constructed that while they are made adjustable to accommodate different thicknesses of sash stuff, there will, by its rotation, be a partial vacuum created in its interior, (the cutter stock) and the inward draught thus formed, will pass the edge of the cutters, and remove the shavings from them as soon as formed, and thus admit of the cutters acting twice during each revolution of the cutter head, without clogging or injuring the stuff; g g are slots through the upper disk to allow the cutters, f f f, which are attached to the lower disk, to project up behind the flange of the slotted disk, so as to present a

cutting edge over the whole space which is made by the opening or closing of the disks; j j, are set screws to open or close the disk, in combination with the tightening nut, E, on the cutter shaft; B; F F are feed rollers having their upper bearings in the frame, and their lower ends in the cross piece under the same; D D are adjustable shields placed in grooves in the top between the feed rollers and cutter head. They form mouth pieces to the cutters and prevent the feed rollers from lifting the stuff when passing over the ends of it; p p are guides to conduct the stuff through the machine; r r are springs resting against the molding on each side of the cutter head; H H are springs placed opposite one another, and press upon the side of the stuff, holding it down to the bed, and the exact cutting point, s.

Motion is communicated to the feed rollers by belting passing over pulleys, G G, from pulleys on the small vertical shaft that receives rapid motion by gearing from the main shaft on the end of the machine. The top of the machine is raised and lowered by the crank handle shown above the driving pulley; from the latter there passes the belt that drives the cutter shaft, B. The machine is exceedingly compact, and embraces two valuable improvements secured by as many claims, viz., the construction and combination of the disks and cutters described, to produce an inward current, thereby causing the instant freeing of the shavings from the cutters, and allowing them to act twice on two separate pieces of stuff, as shown, during one revolution of the cutter shaft, also the adjustable shields, D D, in combination with the feed rollers, for the purpose specified.

Mr. Morse has devoted his attention to improvements in such wood-cutting machines for a number of years, and has great practical experience in operating them; he is therefore well acquainted with their defects, and the remedies required to make them more perfect in all their details.

More information may be obtained by letter addressed to the patentee at Rhinebeck, N. Y., where a machine may be seen in operation, which Mr. Morse assures us only wants to be seen to be appreciated.

Vermont Gold.

The gold establishment at Bridgewater, Vt., about which some persons made such a blustering at what we had asserted, viz., that it would turn out to be a delusion, has "burst up," just as we pronounced it would. A 30 horse power engine was put up to crush the gold quartz, which after working for some time during the past winter, has finally ceased to run. We have been informed that from \$15,000 to \$20,000 dollars were expended on the project. All that was obtained from the gold mine was a few feeble gold specimens, no more, we suppose, than may be obtained from any quartz vein in the world. It contained about as much gold as paid for the powder which was used for blasting it out, allowing nothing for labor.

True Education.

The object of all true education is to vitalize knowledge. Some teachers instruct their scholars very thoroughly, who never educate them at all. They teach them to commit the rules of their arithmetic or grammar by heart, but never lead them to comprehend a single principle; make them learn thousands of names of places, without giving them any idea of geography.

The Largest Clock.

The largest clock, it is said, that was ever constructed, has recently been finished by Mr. Dent for the new Houses of the English Parliament. The dials are twenty-two feet in diameter; the point of the minute hand will therefore move nearly fourteen inches every minute, the pendulum is fifteen feet long. The hour bell is eight feet high, and weighs fifteen tons. The hammer weighs four hundred weight. The clock, as a whole, is eight times as large as a full-sized cathedral clock.