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An Indian Shroud of Gold.

Hon. Thomas Ewbank, ex-Commissioner of Patents, communicates to the *National Intelligencer* some interesting information in regard to recent discoveries in the excavation of Peruvian tumuli. The information was received by Mr. Ewbank from W. W. Evans, engineer of the Arica and Tacna railroad in Peru. Mr. Evans states that in making excavations for the railroad at Arica hundreds of graves are demolished, in which are numerous Indian relics. The excavations are seventy feet deep, and the soil is loose sand. Among other interesting relics, an Indian was started out of his resting place rolled up in a shroud of gold. Before Mr. Evans had knowledge of the incident the workmen had cut up this magnificent winding-sheet and divided it among themselves. With some difficulty he obtained a fragment, and dispatched it to Mr. Ewbank. Mr. Evans notices as a remarkable fact that in hundreds of Indian skulls which he has examined not one has a decayed tooth. Mr. Ewbank thinks the weight of the entire shroud must have been eight or nine pounds, and had it been preserved would have been the finest specimen of sheet gold that we have heard of since the times of the Spanish conquest.

Decimal Currency in England.

Decimal currency is to be introduced into Great Britain. The pound will be retained as the unit, and divided into one thousand parts; the half-crown will be abolished—the shilling fifty, the sixpence twenty-five, and a new coin will be introduced representing five farthings, while the present farthing will be depreciated one twenty-fifth in value—that is, there will be a thousand to the pound sterling, instead of nine hundred and sixty.

Early Manufactures in Rhode Island.

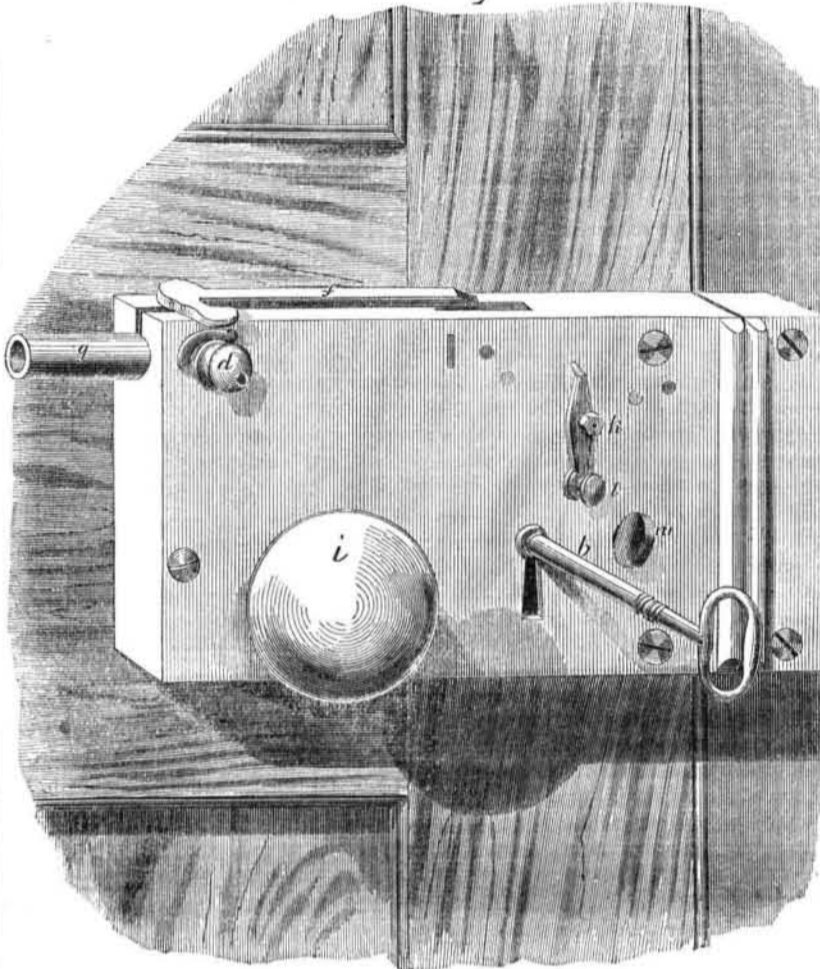
A correspondent of the Providence, R. I., *Journal* gives some curious information relative to the early manufactures of Scituate. One Charles Hopkins used to manufacture cedar pails there about 70 years since, some of which are still in use, and have been ever since they were made. These are pails worthy of the name. The most of those made at present are very cheap, but as poor in quality as their price is low. One Jabez Hopkins used to make iron smoking pipes there, and his son Ezekiel made excellent swords. In 1735 Samuel Waldo, a merchant of Boston, bought an iron mine in Scituate, and erected a foundry, in which iron cannon were afterwards cast that did good service during the Revolution.

New Beacon Light.

A new lighthouse and keeper's dwelling have been erected at Watch Hill Point, near Stonington, R. I. Instead of the present revolving light, a fixed white light will, on and after the first of February, 1856, be shown from the new tower, which is fifty feet N. W. of the old site. The light will be 62 feet above mean low water, and will be visible from the deck of a coaster, about 12 1-2 nautical miles.

PATENT SAFETY AND ALARM LOCK.

Fig. 1



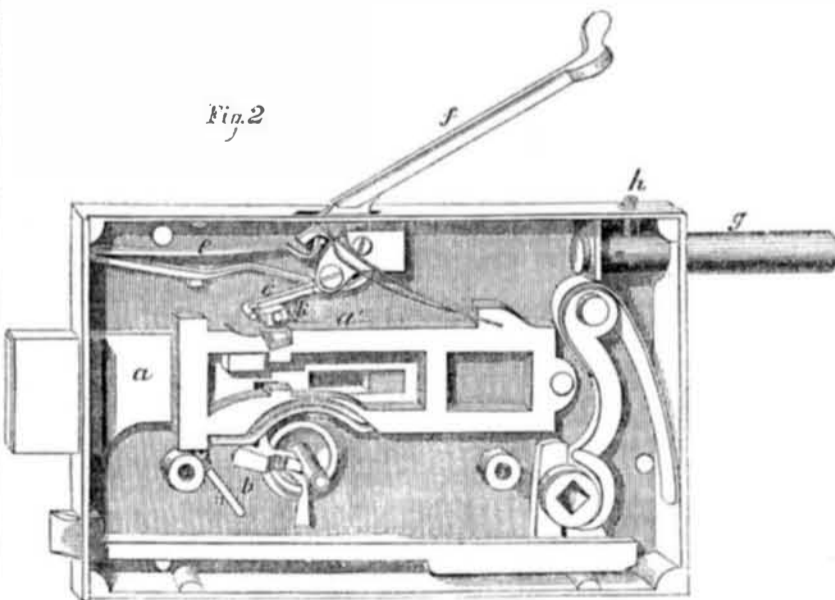
The accompanying engravings are illustrative of the ingenious Safety Alarm-Lock, patented by John Schneider, of Rochester, N. Y., May 1st, 1855.

The chief feature of novelty consists in the combination of a pistol with the interior parts of the lock, in such a manner that if a burglar should be so far successful as to introduce the proper shaped key, he will, by the very act of pushing back the bolt, cause the pistol to fire off, and thus instantly alarm the whole household, and perhaps neighborhood. The attachment and operation of the pistol is done

in a very simple manner, and the expense is quite small. There is, also, no alteration in the size or general form of the lock, as will be observed by a glance at the exterior view, fig. 1. A side view, showing the interior portions of the lock, is seen at fig. 2.

In fig. 1, *b* is the key, and *i* is the usual knob or handle; *g* represents a small pistol barrel having a cap nipple, *h*; *f* is the hammer for striking the cap on the nipple, to discharge the pistol. The inner end of the hammer, *f*, fig. 2, is provided with a curved plate through which a pivot passes into the case, thus form-

Fig. 2



ing a fulcrum pin on which it turns; it also has a projection which acts upon the end of a bent spring, *e*, similar to that of a gun lock. *c* is the trigger, resting upon a small dog, *k*. The tumblers, when the bolt moves back, turn the dog, and cause it to press up and discharge the trigger, *c*. The dog, *k*, is

connected with the button, *l*, seen on the exterior of the lock; the use of this button is to move the trigger by hand, and thus permit the hammer to be gently uncocked whenever desirable, as, for example, in the day time.—When the hammer is uncocked, the bolt is disconnected from the pistol, and operates like an

ordinary lock. The connection is instantly resumed, however, by simply cocking the hammer. *a* is the bolt, and *a'* represent three tumblers which are operated by the prongs or forks of the key, to throw them up, and in line to allow the bolt, to be moved back and forth to lock and unlock the door. The spring, *e*, under the heel of the hammer, holds the same in position, like the main spring of a gun lock; but when the key is inserted in the lock, the tumblers thrown up, and the bolt acted upon to unlock the door, the trigger, *c*, is slightly pressed up by the dog, *f*, as before described, which relieves the spring, *e*, the hammer, *f*, is stripped or set free, and comes down upon the cap, discharging the pistol, and causing an alarm that will put to flight the most ferocious and daring burglar. *d*, fig., is the breech-pin, which secures barrel *g*.

Independent of the alarm, the lock is a good one. For additional security it has a safety hasp, *n*, terminating in a button, *m*, on the exterior of the lock, as will be seen in fig. 1. By turning the button, the hasp, *n*, will be thrown up against and across the tumblers of the lock, in such a manner as to prevent any key whatever from moving the same. The knob is also arranged, if required, to operate the hammer of the pistol barrel, so that the lock can be set to give an alarm by the report of the pistol, either when locked, or simply fastened by the common catch bolt.

The above is a safe lock to the careful owner but a dangerous one to the thief.

More information may be obtained by letter addressed to the patentee, at Rochester, N. Y., by whom it is manufactured in various forms.

Belgian Broadcloth Works.

An English paper gives a very interesting description of the celebrated establishment of Messrs. Bolley, at Verviers, who were the first to give a world-wide reputation to Belgian broadcloths. Their works are driven by four water-wheels and five steam engines, and they employ between 1300 and 1400 laborers, many of them the most skilled in Europe. It is not easy for an artisan to obtain a situation in their establishment, but once employed, he is supported through all illness and infirmities to the end of his days, unless he forfeits his place by gross misconduct.

To Make Lard and Tallow Candles.

The following method of making the above-named candles is described in the *New England Farmer* by a correspondent:—"I kept both tallow and lard candles through the last summer, the lard candles standing the heat best, and burning quite as well, and giving as good light as tallow ones. Directions for making good candles from lard: For 12 lbs. of lard take 1 lb. of saltpeter and 1 lb. of alum; mix and pulverize them; dissolve the saltpeter and alum in a gill of boiling water; pour the compound into the lard before it is quite all melted; stir the whole until it boils, and skim off what rises; let it simmer until the water is all boiled out, or till it ceases to throw off steam; pour off the lard as soon as it is done, and clean the boiler while it is hot. If the candles are to be run, you may commence immediately; if to be dipped, let the lard cool first to a cake, and then treat it as you would tallow."

To Prevent the Alteration of Bank Notes.

Ulysses B. Vidal, of Philadelphia, proposes the following plan to manufacture bank bills, to prevent them from being altered from lower to higher denominations. "Fine floss silk is to be woven into open patterns, delineating the various denominations of the bills. A single pattern for each bill is then pressed into the paper during the process of the manufacture." This method of making bills, he believes, would insure the public against fraudulently altered bank notes. The lines of the floss silk must extend invariably across each bill.