

**Improved Ohio Corn Husker.**

The accompanying engraving represents one of the simplest, most durable and efficient devices for husking corn we have seen. This husker can be worn over a mitten or glove as easily as upon the naked hand, and, therefore, enables a man to husk corn as comfortably in cold weather as to perform any other work.

This husker also saves the hands from becoming sore, and greatly facilitates the operation. It is applied around the center of the ear of corn, not at the point, and with its hooking tooth, A, a single pass will remove the husk in the most perfect manner much better than can be done with a peg. It is made wholly of brass, and will last for years.

This invention has now been in use for two years

**BRINKERHOFF'S OHIO CORN HUSKER.**

and has given perfect satisfaction. The inventors say they have not been able thus far to supply the great demand for them.

This invention was patented by A. W. Brinkerhoff, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Sept. 2, 1862, and is manufactured by Messrs. Wood, Fowler & Beery, of the same place. They are sold for fifty cents each, with discount to dealers.

For further particulars apply to either of the above parties, at Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

No territory for sale.

**Preparation and Properties of Rubidium.**

In the *Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie*, Prof. Runsen gives an account of his last experiments on rubidium. The latter may be reduced from carbonated acidiferous tartrate of oxide of rubidium (in a manner similar to the reduction of kalium). 75 grains of that salt will yield 5 grains of pure metal melted to a compact mass. It is very light, like silver; its color is white, with a yellowish nuance hardly perceptible. In contact with air it covers itself immediately with a bluish gray coating of suboxide, and is inflamed (even when in large lumps) after a few seconds, much quicker than kalium. At a temperature of 14° Fah., it is still as soft as wax; it becomes liquid at 101.3° Fah., and in red heat it is transformed into a greenish-blue vapor. The specific gravity of rubidium is about 1.52. It is much more electropositive than kalium, if combined with the latter to a galvanic chair by acidiferous water. The rubidium, thrown on water, will burn and show a flame of the same appearance as that exhibited by kalium.

**Preserving Flowers.**

Mr. C. R. Tichborne states that, being desirous of preserving a vegetable *lusus naturee* for some time, he submerged it in some weak glycerine, considering that that fluid would be less likely to destroy the tender organism, and also remembering that it had been found most efficient in the preservation of animal tissues. The glycerine answered its purpose most ad-

mirably, preserving the delicate parts of the plant and preventing decomposition. He immediately saw that this property of glycerine might be made available for certain pharmaceutical purposes, where it was desired to preserve or extract the aromata of vegetable products, such as elder, orange, or rose flowers, and also might be substituted for the oils and fats used in the purest process termed enfleurage. The glycerine need not be especially pure, but should be devoid of odor. The elder-flowers should be gathered when the corolla is fully expanded, but not too far gone; they should then be plucked from the stem, and packed firmly in wide-mouthed bottles or jars, without crushing them; and the whole should then be covered with glycerine. Mr. Tichborne says that he has thus preserved flowers for two years, and, on

through. This shovel is also useful for carrying fire from one place to another, for by the introduction of the grate a draft is maintained which keeps the coals alive much longer than ordinary shovels. A patent was issued to J. H. Porter on the 3d of December, 1864, through the Scientific American Patent Agency. For further information address him at 15 Hudson street, New York.

**SILK WORMS FOR FRANCE.**—The San Francisco *Bulletin* says: "Macondray & Co. will ship by the *Constitution*, 64 cases of silk worms, which were recently received from Japan, on an order for parties in France. They will be conveyed to New York and thence to Havre. The French silk worms have become diseased, and it is proposed to try the experiment of restoring them to health by admixture with a new stock, or by substituting the latter for them entirely. The Japanese worms produce a very good quality of silk. It may not be generally known in this connection that Provost, the California silk culturist, has for a considerable time been forwarding his healthy larvæ to France."

TO  
INVENTORS, MECHANICS, AGRICULTURALISTS,  
THE ANNUAL  
**PROSPECTUS**  
OF THE  
**Scientific American,**  
THE CHEAPEST AND BEST  
MECHANICAL JOURNAL IN THE WORLD.  
A NEW VOLUME OF WHICH COMMENCES  
**JANUARY 1, 1865.**

This valuable journal has been published nineteen years, and during all that time it has been the firm and steady advocate of the interests of the Inventor, Mechanic, Manufacturer and Farmer, and the faithful chronicler of the

**PROGRESS OF ART, SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.**

The **SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN** is the largest, the only reliable, and most widely-circulated journal of the kind now published in the United States. It has witnessed the beginning and growth of nearly all the great inventions and discoveries of the day, most of which have been illustrated and described in its columns. It also contains a **WEEKLY OFFICIAL LIST OF ALL THE PATENT CLAIMS**, a feature of great value to all Inventors and Patentees. In the

**MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT**

a full account of all improvements in machinery will be given. Also, practical articles upon the various Tools used in Workshops and Manufactories.

**STEAM AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

will continue to receive careful attention, and all experiments and practical results will be fully recorded.

**WOOLEN, COTTON AND OTHER MANUFACTURING INTERESTS** will have special attention. Also, Fire-arms, War Implements, Ordnance, War Vessels, Railway Machinery, Mechanics' Tools, Electric, Chemical and Mathematical Apparatus, Wood and Lumber Machines, Hydraulics, Pumps, Water Wheels, etc.

**HOUSEHOLD AND FARM IMPLEMENTS,**

this latter department being very full and of great value to Farmers and Gardeners; articles embracing every department of Popular Science, which everybody can understand.

**PATENT LAW DECISIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

will, as heretofore, form a prominent feature. Owing to the very large experience of the publishers, Messrs. **MUNN & CO.**, as **SOLICITORS OF PATENTS**, this department of the paper will possess great interest to **PATENTEES AND INVENTORS**.

The Publishers feel warranted in saying that no other journal now published contains an equal amount of useful information, while it is their aim to present all subjects in the most popular and attractive manner.

The **SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN** is published once a week, in convenient form for binding, and each number contains sixteen pages of useful reading matter, illustrated with

**NUMEROUS SPLENDID ENGRAVINGS**

of all the latest and best inventions of the day. This feature of the journal is worthy of special notice. Every number contains from five to ten original engravings of mechanical inventions, relating to every department of the arts. These engravings are executed by artists specially employed on the paper, and are universally acknowledged to be superior to anything of the kind produced in this country.

This year's number contains several hundred superb engravings; also, reliable practical recipes, useful in every shop and household. Two volumes each year, 416 pages—total, 832 pages. **SPECIMEN COPIES SENT FREE.** Address,

**MUNN & CO., Publishers,**

No. 37 Park Row, New York City

FROM THE STEAM PRESS OF JOHN A. GRAY & GREEN

**PORTER'S SIFTER SHOVEL.**

Every economical housekeeper sifts the ashes and refuse coal left after the fire has been turned out at



night. By so doing a very marked saving occurs, fully equal to one-third of the whole ash heap.

A shovel which combines a sifter with its other qualities is a very convenient article for the purpose referred to; the one here illustrated is well designed for the object in view. It is made of cast-iron and has a grating at the back part for the ashes to fall