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Supply of OIL.

The necessity for inventors applying their genius and skill to improved means of obtaining light and heat is constantly becoming more and more urgent. The whale oils, which have hitherto been much relied on in this country to furnish light, are yearly becoming more scarce, and may, in time, almost entirely fail, while the rapid increase of machinery demands a large portion of the purest of these oils for lubricating. Hence, good inventions, in any way connected with these two great subjects, can hardly fail to reward the inventor. Any means of cheapening the materials, or of economizing their use, the introduction of new materials, or of new sources of light and heat, improved modes of using, by which better effects may be gained, would all be desirable. In the case of consuming fuel, the volatile parts, (which, of most combustibles, are large and valuable portions,) by the stoves, furnaces, and fire places now in use, mostly pass off unconsumed. A simple and effective invention, which would preserve and utilize all the constituents of fuel, would be of immense value. Inventors cannot do better than to direct their investigations into these channels.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

[Pennsylvania will no doubt yet supply our markets with large quantities of coal oil from the rich cannel coal beds of her Western counties. We have seen some specimens of this coal, and can speak understandingly of its excellent oil-producing qualities. Within the past year, the price of sperm oil has fallen about 25 per cent. from the increased supplies of oil obtained from rosin and coal, and which have taken the place of sperm for many purposes, not because they are better, but cheaper.

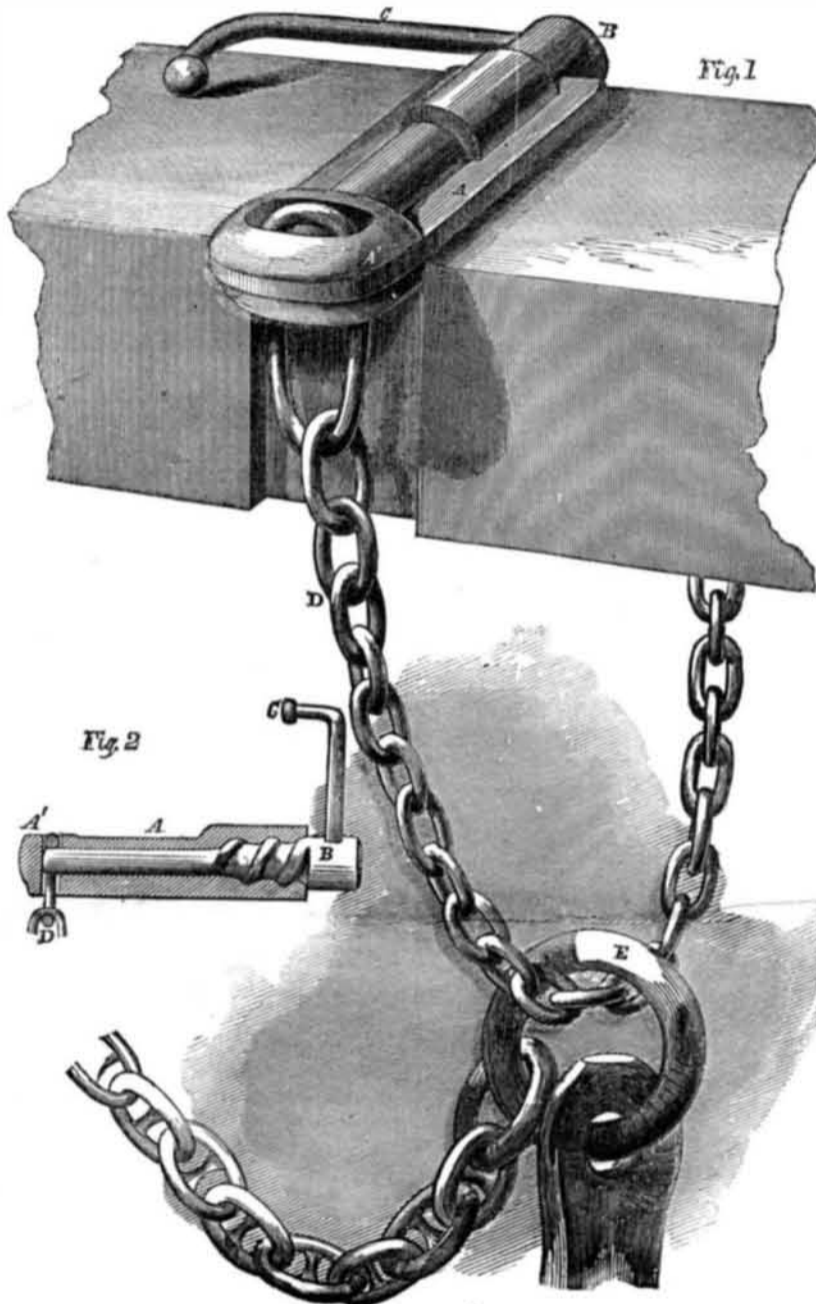
The Morris Canal.

The business of this canal, in New Jersey, appears to be in a prosperous condition, according to the annual report of its officers, just published. The receipts for last year were \$313,026-15, being an increase of \$34,388 upon the income of the previous year. The company is providing an additional depot at Jersey City by reclaiming a portion of the submerged lands, where a pier 400 feet long will soon be completed, and will furnish additional facilities for the deposit and reshipment of coal. From this report, we learn, that nearly all the anthracite coal mined in Pennsylvania is sent eastward to tide water. In 1856 the total anthracite coal trade amounted to 6,751,542 tons, of which only 906,293 were sent westward. The increase was 199,241 tons over the product of 1855.

Another Mammoth Cave.

We were heretofore content with possessing the largest lakes, the highest water fall, and the largest cave in the world. Hereafter, however, we can boast of two mammoth caves, as a new one, it is stated, has recently been discovered in Marion county, Missouri, rivaling the old Mammoth in Kentucky. One gallery of it has been traversed for two miles, and contains deposits of saltpeter.

HOLMES'S ANCHOR TRIPPER.



The accompanying engraving represents a simple device patented by Mr. John B. Holmes, of this city, on the 28th of April last, for the easy, rapid and safe release of an anchor when it is desired to let it fall. It is shown in perspective by Fig. 1, and in longitudinal section on a smaller scale by Fig. 2.

The anchor is suspended by a suitable short chain, D, passed through the ring, E. The last link of this chain is larger than the others, and fits over a bolt B, which supports it. This bolt has a large and stout thread, fitted, (as represented in Fig. 2,) within a corresponding female screw in the housing A. C is a handle or lever by which B may be turned a half revolution, which is sufficient to disengage its rounded end from the chain and thus to let go the anchor. The gravity of C is sufficient to prevent the possible turning of B without assistance, and the great pitch of the screw, or the coarseness of its threads enables a half revolution to accomplish all that is necessary in withdrawing it. The cavity in the overhanging portion, A', is sufficient to allow the chain to be inserted freely, but without much play; and as the bolt B is withdrawn by its half revolution, the link is released altogether, without possible difficulty or danger. The end thrust of the link on B, as it slips off from its rounded end, is very well provided for by the stout threads of its screwed portion, and any possible violent action on the hand of the opera-

tor is prevented by the friction of the screw, which, although made with a quite coarse pitch, does not allow the force to act with sufficient advantage to turn B spontaneously, and consequently the hand controls it with perfect ease in its most violent effort. This is an admirable principle, and is applied in many other varieties of mechanism.

There are many instances in which the dropping of anchors from vessels in great danger has been considerably delayed from the want of some adequate means of releasing the heavy mass immediately, and with due safety to the operators. This device seems to overcome the difficulty quite perfectly. If necessary to prevent annoyance from careless, meddling, or malicious individuals, the lever C may be secured down by a lock, or other suitable means; but it is not assumed to be necessary, and the freedom with which it can be operated immediately, if not thus encumbered, adds much to its value.

Further information may be obtained by addressing J. R. Pratt, assignee of the inventor, No. 67 South street.

The Albany Journal advocates the employment of fire engines in quelling riots, in preference to the use of balls and bayonets. This plan, if followed, would certainly "throw cold water" upon the rage of a mob, and might dampen their ardor, if not wet their powder.

To Restore Writing.—To Dye Straws.

Many documents that have been written with bad ink after a certain time fade, especially if they have been kept in a damp place, or if the paper has been over-bleached in its manufacture. Sometimes ship letters get wetted with sea water, and many other causes obliterate writing that is of much value. In nearly all instances such writing may be restored, or at least rendered legible, by brushing over the half distinct lines with a solution of prussiate of potassa with a camel's hair pencil. The solution may be made by dissolving about half a teaspoonful of prussiate potassa in a tablespoonful of boiling water. For certain chemical reasons this does not answer in all cases, and when it fails we may use the following with good hopes of success: First a strong infusion of tea, made with a teaspoonful of black tea in half a cup of boiling water; or, secondly, a solution of carbonate of soda made in the same manner; or thirdly, a quarter of an ounce of protosulphate of iron (green vitriol) in a like quantity of water. A last resource is a solution of sulphuret of potassium (liver of potash) of about the same strength as the preceding solutions. In trying to restore writing, we ought to begin with only one or two words, because if the first solution does not answer, we then have an opportunity of trying the others successively, until we discover which answers best; but, as a general rule, it may be relied on that the first named is the most likely. These trials are equally adapted for writing upon parchment as upon any other material.

All the varieties of straw are coated on their surface with a material resembling glass, a hard impenetrable substance, and which is very visible on common cane; on this account it is with difficulty that the dyer can impart any great variety of color; this is seen in the straw hat trade. Were it not for this difficulty it is more than probable that straw bonnets would be seen in all the colors of the rainbow. Although the colors are by no means bright, yet it is possible to stain straw sufficiently for many ornamental purposes. Many of the grasses are so exceedingly beautiful in form that they are frequently gathered, and, when dry, are made up into pretty ornaments for the sitting-room. If, however, some of the specimens are not artificially colored when grouped together, they have rather a sombre appearance, owing to their sameness of tint. A little variety of color may be imparted thus:—

Blue is given by dipping the straw into a boiling hot solution of indigo in sulphuric acid. A light blue can be given by diluting with water the above solution to the desired shade. Yellow is imparted by steeping the straw in a boiling decoction of tumeric and alum. Green is imparted by dyeing the straw first blue and then yellow. Black and slate colors are produced by first dipping the straw in a decoction of log wood, and afterwards in a solution of sulphate of iron. Other tints are procured by varying the bath with prussiate of potash, chromate of potash, Brazil wood, archil, and many other chemicals.

SEPTIMUS PIRESSE.

Increase of Tourists.

It is said that previous to the year 1850, the number of Americans who indulged in a tour to Europe never exceeded 7500 in any one year. Now the number of those who cross the water for an airing, annually, has swelled to 35,000.

A huge steam engine of 1,700 horse power has been put up at the iron works in Scranton, Pa. It is stated to be the most powerful and beautiful stationary steam engine in the United States.