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IN ADVANCE.

Improved Self-setting Trap.

The value of the fur trade on this continent is enormous and annually increasing. If trapping animals was reduced to something like certainty, the yield of "pelts" would be very much enlarged. In the engravings published herewith, we have shown a new self-acting trap for catching animals. That is to say, when one animal is caught he immediately sets the trap again; so that "one more unfortunate" is in a short time brought to share his captivity.

The sagacious fox seen in the back ground peering into the depths of the trap—the marten looking up to it with awe, and the sitch on the tree inspecting the already-caged individual below him, will soon, individually and collectively, be brought to join him, for with animals as with human nature, curiosity is a predominant trait.

In this trap the animal gains an entrance by leaping up on the edge of the trap, at A. The interior looks so inviting that he incontinently jumps in. Therein lies his error, for in alighting the animal strikes the triangle, B, which is merely a treadle hinged so as to trip the catch, C, which holds the cover, D, up; the cover then falls and shuts him out from the world forever. All is darkness inside, save at one point where a little light shows through. To the entrapped animal this light appears a way of safety to some favored spot, and he therefore noses his way into the promised land through the door, E. This door is connected with a series of catches, F, on the side, that liberate the trap door, D, and cause it to rise again, and thus set the trap for another animal. The weight, G, holds the trap door, D, by the aid of the escapement wheel, so that it cannot be raised from the inside. As the animals pass through the door, E, they emerge into a large well-lighted apartment, H, which is covered with wire net, and they can there roam round and bite each other at pleasure.

At the side of the trap there is another door, I, through which the prey can be removed at any time. Animals caught alive in traps are much more valuable for their fur than when maimed or shot outright.

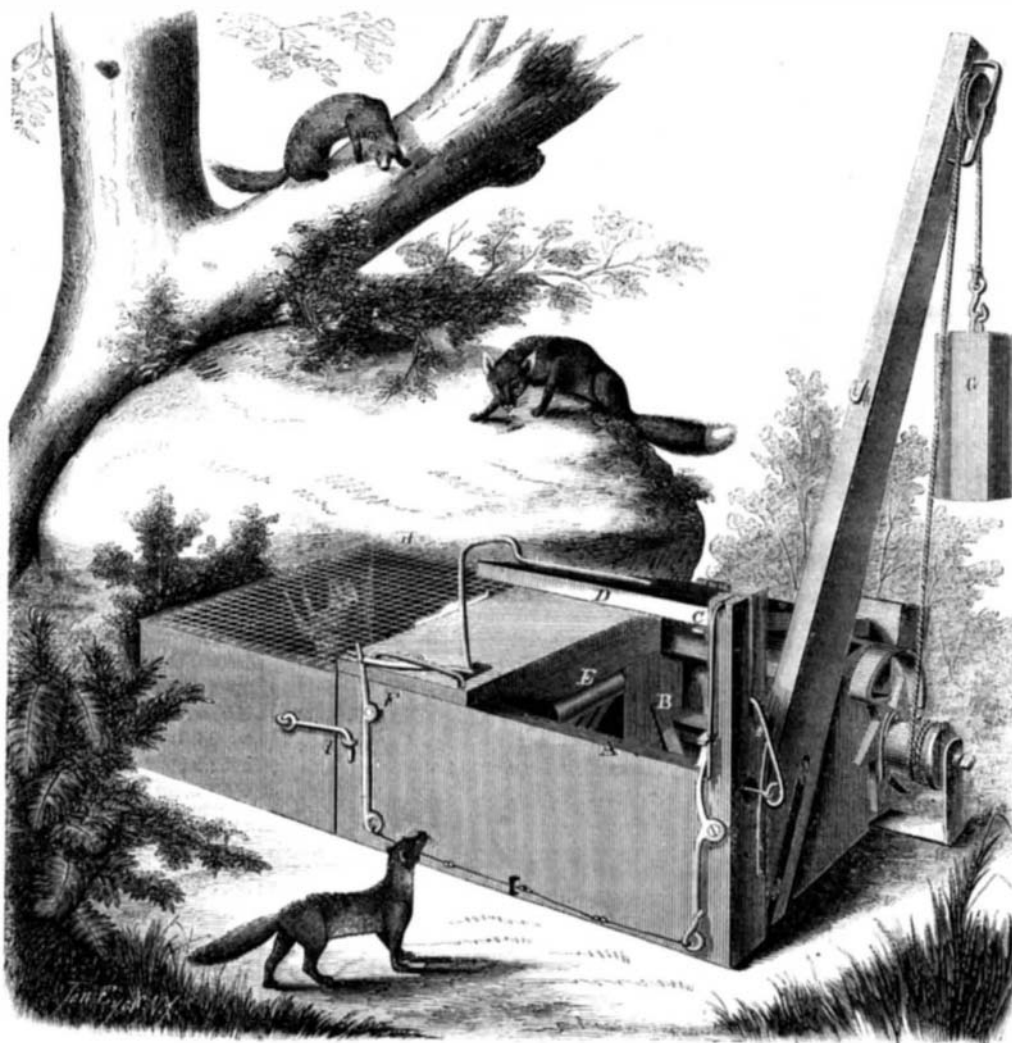
This is an exceedingly useful and efficient trap, for by the aid of it numbers of animals can be caught at once without the formality of setting the trap for each one, and the trapper may leave it for days and be certain, when he visits it, of finding a goodly company assembled.

This invention was patented Dec. 27, 1864, through

the Scientific American Patent Agency, by J. M. Flautt. For further information address him at Reedsbury, Wis.

Cuban Machine Agency.

Our readers will see by our advertising columns that Mr. E. K. Dod has opened an agency in Havana. The reputation of Mr. Dod and his family as mechan-



FLAUTT'S SELF-SETTING TRAP.

ics and mathematicians is historic. His father was the originator of the enterprise, and builder of the machinery of the *Savannah*, the first steamer which crossed the Atlantic. The much-lamented Professor Dod, of Princeton, was a brother. Mr. E. K. Dod was one of the earliest locomotive builders in this country, and went to Cuba to organize the Havana railroad. We understand that reverse of fortune has made it necessary for him to return to active business, and we wish him all success.

J. A. Miller's Drying Kiln.

This valuable improvement, patented in 1864, is now coming into extensive use. For drying grain, corn, malt, flour, fruits, herbs, wool, paper, cloth, and all kinds of substances, it has no superior. It is said that with one of these improved kilns, two thousand bushels of grain can be thoroughly dried and cleaned with half a ton of coal, in one hour, without hand labor. Further information can be had at 200 Broadway, New York.

One-horse Mowing Machines.

A farmer of experience, Mr. J. I. Southwick, of Erie Co., N. Y., writes to the *Country Gentleman* as follows, upon the subject of a one-horse mower:—

"Having seen several inquiries for the notices of one-horse mowing machines, and having to look for a long time, I think I had better give a little account of my examination. First was Stoddard's; second, Kirby's; third, Howard's, then Wood's—all of which were nearly equal to their recommendations, and would do more than I wanted.

"Now, in my view, a one-horse mower should be a one-wheeled machine—as decidedly as a two-horse mower should have two driving wheels—for the reason that each driving wheel must be sufficiently heavy to operate the knife separately;—hence one is sufficient for one. The finger should be on a line with the driving wheel, and the thills far enough to the right so that it will rather haul to the left—that is, supposing the cutters to be to the right—and the knife sections not over three inches wide, for the width of section governs the length of crank, and the length of crank governs the draft per inch of swath. The driving wheel should be sufficiently concave to carry the main heft of the machinery. All this I have not seen in one machine. However, I got one of Howard's No. 1, and took it to a blacksmith's shop, and had the cutter bar cut down to two feet and nine inches; and now, with a small pony, can cut half an acre per hour easily."

Unparalleled Success.

The correspondent of the associated daily press notices the fact that, during the third week in June 184 patents were granted by the Patent Office. Of this very large number it appears that 84 cases were prepared and prosecuted through the Scientific American Patent Agency. This fact is doubtless a fair exhibit of the proportion of patent business transacted at this office, and also of the great success of this world-renowned Agency.

REDUCTION IN TERMS.

With a view to encourage the formation of "Clubs" for the ensuing volume of the *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN*, we offer to take subscriptions in *Clubs of ten or more at \$2 50 per annum*. We trust that our friends will set themselves to work to get up Clubs at the rate here proposed.