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Curiosities of Human Food.

Mankind has been wonderfully ingenious from its infancy, in the concoction of edible varieties. Apart from baked human thighs in Fejee, and boiled fingers in Sumatra, there are sundry culinary fashions still extant which must be marvelously unintelligible to a conventionalized appetite. Not that it appears strange to eat duck's tongues in China, kangaroos in Australia, or the loose covering of the great elk's nose in New Brunswick. Not even that it is startling to see an Esquimaux eating his daily ration, twenty pounds in weight of flesh and oil, or the Yakut competing in voracity with a boa constrictor. But who would relish a stew of red ants in Burmah, a half-hatched egg in China, monkey outlets and parrot pies at Rio Janeiro, and bats in Malabar, or polecats and prairie wolves in North America? Yet there can be little doubt that these are unwarrantable prejudices. Dr. Shaw enjoyed lion; Mr. Darwin had a passion for pumpe; Dr. Brooke makes affidavit that melted bears' grease is the most refreshing potion. And how can we disbelieve, after the testimony of Hippocrates, as to the flavor of boiled dog? If squirrels are edible in the East, and rats in the West Indies—if a sloth be good on the Amazon, and elephants' paws in South Africa, why should we compassionate such races as have little beef or mutton? for we may be quite sure that if, as Montesquieu affirms, there are valid reasons for not eating pork, there are reasons quite as unimpeachable for eating giraffe, alpaca, mermaid's tails, bustard and anaconda.

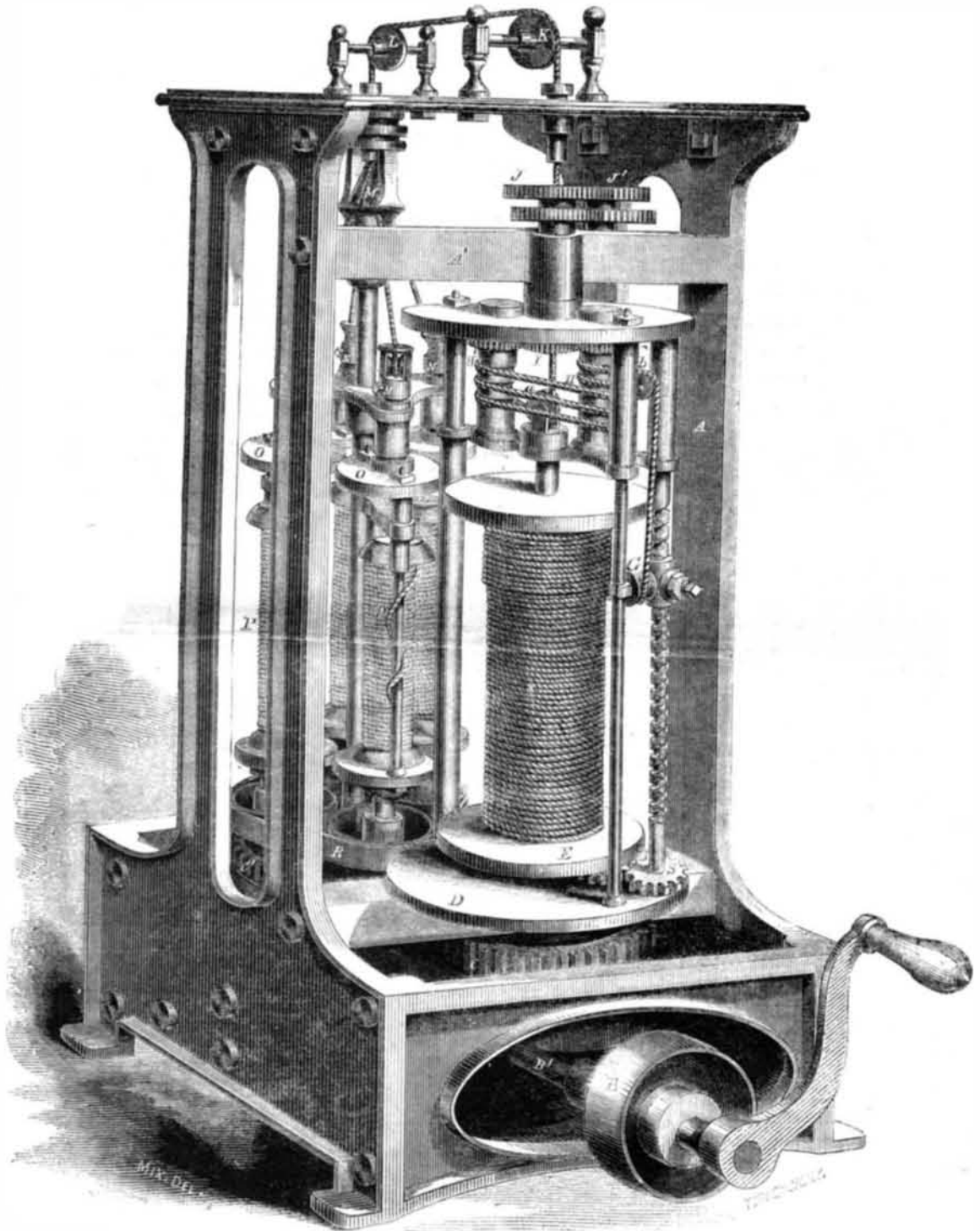
Improved Rope-Making Machine.

The manufacture of rope by machinery is a great improvement on the old system, not only in the superiority of the article produced but also in the quantity and economy of labor. The subject of our illustration is a machine for making rope, recently invented by Newton Adams, of Lansingburgh, N. Y., and patented by him August 24, 1858, and it possesses the peculiarity of giving the rope half its twist while in motion toward the receiving reel, thus saving time in the manufacture.

A is the framing, and near its back it contains bearings for an upright shaft that corresponds with the main laying spindle of an ordinary sun-and-planet machine, and has secured to it the usual bearings holding the bearings of the strand flyers, O, and bobbins, P. The strands pass from the flyers over small pulleys, N, and over the grooves in the

conical cap, M, so that each strand is smoothed and twisted, before being partially twisted together as rope, when passing over the pulley, L. Motion is given to the central shaft of the flyer frame from the prime mover, by a shaft, B', provided with bevel gearing and driven either by a crank or belt-wheel, B. The cog-wheel, C', is the means by which motion is conveyed to the flyer frame. The flyers, themselves, are rotated inside the rotating frame by a very simple and ingenious device, each flyer being provided with a small belt wheel, and around them all passes the belt, R, which is secured so as to be incapable of revolving with the frame, and yet at the same time hugs the pulleys enough to give them motion, so that when the flyer frame carries them round within it, they are also rotated and give the necessary twist to the strand. D is another revolving flyer moved by the cog-

ADAMS' ROPE-MAKING MACHINE.



wheel, C, from B, and this finishes the twist of the rope as it comes from the other flyer frame over the pulleys, L K.

The rope passes through a tube in the top of the frame and through the center of gearing, J, J', in the cross-piece, A', and over the tension-rollers, H, H', to the reel. One of the cog-wheels, J, is connected by a tubular shaft with the cog-wheel, I, and this rotates the two tension-rollers or grooved capstans, H, H', at such a speed, according to the rate at which the machine is working, as to always keep the cord or rope sufficiently "taut." The rope coming under the small pulley, a, is taken on to H', thence to H, and hence over the pulley, b, and under the transverser, G, that is mounted on a double screw-shaft, E, and this gives it the proper lay upon the reel. This screw-shaft is moved by gearing, S, from the reel, E, which is also

rotated. The twist may be varied by changing the relation of the motions of the flyer-frame and reel, which can be done by shifting the belt on cone-pulleys (not seen in our engraving), or by varying the motion of the strand-flyers, making them move faster or slower. The great advantage of this machine is the saving of time, as the rope is being twisted all the while during its motion from the strands to the receiving-reel, and it can be worked at any speed, and constructed of any size for any kind of rope. The reel, E, can of course be arranged horizontally, if desired. The inventor has assigned the patent to himself and Hamilton Arnot, of the same place, and any further information of this truly ingenious and efficient machine may be obtained by addressing the inventor as above, or H. W. Fowler, General Agent, Hoosick Falls, N. Y.