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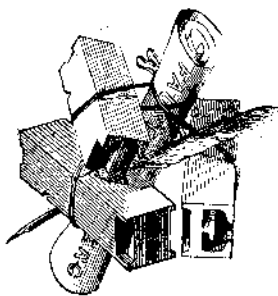
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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1860.

## AMERICAN TYPE-SETTING MACHINES.



Art of type-composing consists in setting-up metallic letters in separate pieces, and arranging them into words, sentences, lines, columns and pages. The type thus composed, after having been printed from on a press, are distributed, letter by letter, with

into the requisite spaces and punctuation marks, into boxes, ready to be set up again. This was the great discovery of Guttemberg, (1436) whereby he was enabled to use the same type over and over again for different literary productions. The tedious labor of composing and distributing type by hand is well known. Each pick of type requires two motions—back and forth—of the hand in setting-up, and yet it is remarkable how much work one expert printer can execute in ten hours. A skillful compositor can set up and distribute eight thousand “ems” in one day, and this averages two and a half picks for each, or about 80,000 movements of the hand and arm.

When it is considered that machinery executes work more rapidly than can be done by hand, the reasonable idea has been entertained that this hand labor might be superseded. Many efforts have been made in this direction, and several type-setting machines have been constructed, both in Europe and America; but with only one exception—to which we shall hereafter refer—all have been unsuccessful, so far as we have knowledge. At the present moment this subject seems to be exciting some attention, both at home and abroad; but as the public and inventors generally do not seem to be aware of what has already been done in this department, we purpose to give them some reliable information.

In recent numbers of the London *Mechanics' Magazine*, the question, “will type-setting machines pay,” has been discussed; and Robert Hattersley (a correspondent of that journal) states that he has such a machine in action, and that it operates economically. We learn, that it is as yet, only an experiment, and that it has not been tried sufficiently to prove whether it may not meet the same fate as its European predecessors, one of which was illustrated on page 105, Vol. II, (old series) of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

We have recently noticed in our Boston cotemporaries, some flattering comments upon a machine for this purpose—the invention of C. W. Felt, of Salem, Mass. This improvement may be a valuable one, but its author does not seem to be fully aware of what others have done in the same field of invention. The inventor states that his machine is operated by keys like a piano, and then says in regard to printing, “The last great step, the introduction of type-setting machinery, has yet to be taken. Much has already been done and the prospect is very fair that it will be accomplished.”

We assure our London and Boston cotemporaries that the thing is accomplished already, and that type-setting and distributing machines have been in operation in this city for several years. It is now about eight years since we first examined two such machines (invented and patented by William Mitchell), in operation in the printing establishment of Mr. John F. Trow, of this city; and as there were some doubts of their success, then, we have

at considerable intervals of time taken the trouble to inspect them personally and watch their operations. These two type-composing instruments have now increased to ten, with six others for distributing the type—all by the same inventor. For plain book-work we have been assured that they effect a saving of about 30 per cent. One of those for composing somewhat resembles a melodeon. The type is placed in rows above small boxes at the ends of keys, with which the compositor “plays up” his copy into metallic composition. Each touch of a key opens a valve, and a type drops down upon a revolving tape, of which there is one for each letter, and the whole of these have their motion so regulated as to deposit the letters in unison with the movement of the keys upon a general traverse tape which carries them to a “composing stick,” where they are arranged in proper lines, ready to be lifted by hand and placed on the galley for adjustment. When adjusted, the type is taken off in lines, by a peculiar clasp-composing-rule and properly arranged in columns. These machines are very simple, considering the number of motions executed; but we do not say they are above improvement—we have not yet seen the mechanism that had arrived at such a climax.

The distributing machines are quite neat and small. The type are placed in a long channel and carried forward to a vibrating finger which trips each separately, and makes it drop into a proper groove in a revolving ring below, from which each letter is stripped off and conducted into its receiving plate, ready to be fed into the composing machine. Boys attend the distributing machines, and two compositors are at once employed on a setting-up machine. While one is adjusting his composed type, the other is setting-up copy, and thus the productions of two different authors may be going through the same mill nearly at the same time. These machines are not an experiment now; they have been tried for years, and are reduced to practical, every-day operations.

The good people of London will soon have an opportunity of witnessing some of these inventions at work in their venerable and vast city, as Mr. Mitchell left New York for Liverpool on the 28th ult., with one composing and one distributing machine, which he intends to introduce into the British metropolis. It is said that London printers are very conservative, but we really hope they will give these machines a candid examination and a fair trial.

## IS A PATENT LIABLE TO LEVY AND SALE ON EXECUTION?

This is a question which has been so frequently asked of us recently that we have taken pains to examine it carefully, and now give the result of that examination. We think that no such power exists, either in regard to a patent right or a copyright, which both stand upon the same footing in this respect. It is a little remarkable that no adjudicated case can be found wherein this question has been directly decided; but, after a pretty careful search and inquiry, we have been unable to find any such. But questions have arisen incidentally affecting this subject, and which throw light upon the principle by which it should be controlled.

In the case of *Sawin vs. Guild* (1 Gallison's Reports, 485), a suit for infringement was brought against a sheriff for having sold a patented machine without a license from the patentee. It had been levied upon and sold by him by virtue of an execution against the patentee. The court held that this was no infringement—not because a patent might be levied upon and sold in this manner, but because the sale in this case was merely of the materials of which the machine was composed, and did not include the right to use the machine at all. Surely, if an interest in a patent could even be levied upon and sold, that was the very case in which it might be done.

In the case of *Stevens vs. Cady* (14 Howard, 528), and again in *Stevens vs. Gladding et al* (17 Howard, 448), the question was brought before the Supreme Court of the United States, whether a sale on execution of a copper plate engraved for printing maps, for which a copyright had been obtained, gave to the purchaser the right to print and sell the maps. The court held that it conveyed no such right; that the purchaser of the copper plate possessed no other right to use it than he would have enjoyed if he had prepared and engraved it himself; and that a license from the holder of the copyright was neces-

sary to enable him to print and sell the maps after he had the plate.

In delivering the opinions in these cases, the court expressed the opinion that neither a copyright nor patent right is liable to be levied upon and sold on execution; and, although that point did not rise directly in those cases, so that these opinions may be regarded as *obiter dicta*, still, coming from the source they did, they are certainly entitled to be regarded as possessing great weight.

But, to lay aside authority and refer to principle, how would an attachment or levy be made of this intangible property? Will the sheriff seize upon the patentee himself? The courts have decided that a seizure and sale of the patented machine conveys no right in the patent itself. How, then, can the levy be made?

Again, how will the property be transferred after being thus sold? The only way provided by law for transferring any interest in a patent is by a written instrument, which must, within 90 days after its execution, be recorded in the Patent Office. Is there any other mode of making such transfer? Suppose, after a sale on execution, the purchaser should find on the records of the Office an assignment from the patentee, dated either before or after his purchase, could he set aside such a transfer unless, at least, he could show fraud in the assignee? These difficulties seem to us insuperable; and hence we conclude that there is no power to attach or levy upon the incorporeal right secured by a patent or copyright.

But cannot such property be subjected in any mode to the payment of debts? Certainly it can. The act of Congress sufficiently provides for its being used by executors for that purpose. By the law and the practice in England, it goes to assignees in bankruptcy; and the same rule would be observed here under a bankrupt law passed by Congress. In both countries it could doubtless be subjected to the payment of debts in proper cases, through the instrumentality of a bill in chancery.

The power of the chancellor operates upon the person of the patentee. It can direct him to execute an assignment which may be placed upon the records of the Patent Office, and it can commit him to prison until he complies with the order. The assignment thus recorded would be notice of the transfer to all the world, in the same way as in case of an assignment by an executor or assignee in bankruptcy, and would therefore be in accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress authorizing the assignments of patents.

Whether it is competent for State laws to authorize the transfer of an interest in a patent by levy and sale, has never, as we believe, been settled by judicial decisions. It certainly cannot be done as the laws now stand; some mode of making the levy is evidently necessary for that purpose. Nor do we believe any State law can cause a transfer of such interest in any other way than by an instrument executed by the party himself or some one legally authorized to act for him. A law which should authorize a guardian to make such conveyance for a minor or insane person would doubtless be valid; but we doubt whether a sheriff's deed would be sufficient to convey a title of this kind. Such, at all events, would not be the case without the enactment of provisions different from any which we believe to exist in any State in the Union.

## THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SCIENCE.

Never, in the history of the world, has science been more actively and efficiently engaged in pushing its researches, than now; and mainly because this is an age of peace. Hitherto, war has been the rule—peace the exception. Now, it is the reverse. Time is allowed to men to apply their mental energies to more elevated and useful purposes than slaying one another, pillaging cities, and subverting empires. The steam engine saves labor; the telegraph economizes time; hence less work, greater comfort and more leisure are secured to the busy brain-worker—leisure for devising appliances which shall be the instrumentalities of a higher civilization, at once ennobling and happyfying. Horrid wars, in the past, destroyed the populations; gentle peace, in the present, increases them. But to preserve the increasing millions physically, science must be appealed to; morally, religion. Thus it is that, in every year of the world's future history, science will become more perfectly the hand-maid of religion, and they will be co-workers in making this earth an Arcadia more enrapturing than any of which

philosopher ever dreamt, or poet sang, but which the prophets of Divinity pre-shadowed in the declaration: "The desert shall bud and blossom as the rose." A double verification; for while science will cover the Saharas of the world with waving grass and bending corn, our holy religion will fructify the moral wastes and make of earth a paradise fit for the home of angels.

In proportion as the population of the world increases, the aids of science are becoming more and more indispensable towards making two blades of grass grow where before there grew but one; and the acre of to-morrow must yield the double of to-day's. Hence, a better and a brighter day is dawning for men-of-mind—for those who possess inventive genius and combine with it the industry and the love of its exercise and application. Hard is the heart which does not sorrow over the ill requital of the men of a generation or two ago, whose whole lives were expended in wearing anxiety of mind and wasting toil of body, in poverty, if not even in destitution, in eliminating machineries which were destined to enrich those whom they never knew; in whose veins no kindred blood flowed, while they themselves were to end their labors and their lives in sight of fruitions which the hands of them and theirs were never to gather!

It was a sad record of two weeks ago (SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, page 276) that, in a single branch of an industrial department, the men who, during the last century, initiated machineries which now fill the mouths of millions of the two greatest nations on earth with bread, died miserably poor; and some of their immediate descendants were only saved from death by want, through public pity! The prospect, however, is cheering, that a better fate and a higher reward await the Kays, and Pauls, and Higbeys, and Hargreaves, and Whitneys, of the present and coming generations, and that they will become the Arkwrights, the Cramptons, and the Peels of our own time, for because of them "Cotton is King!"

Whatever may have been the demands of past ages, inventive genius is the necessity of the present. If the sword has hitherto reigned supreme, science must be its successor. The sword may initiate or construct an empire, but science, in its application to industrial pursuits, in the direction of machineries for manufactories, and implements for farms, must be invoked to sustain it. Nations can live by the sword no longer, for the dominion of barbarism has passed away, and empire must be humanitarian and christian, founded on true knowledge and its wise application.

#### THE ENGLISH POLICE.

The English papers are never weary of vaunting the wonderful efficiency of their police, and it is almost impossible to converse five minutes with an Englishman in this country without hearing him mention something that would not be "allowed" in England—actually boasting of the shackles on his own harmless actions. Such is the *talk*; but a recent event has given the world a real glimpse into the real truth of the matter. Tickets for the late brutal prize fight were advertised in one of the leading London papers, and openly sold at five places in the city, on the day before the combat; notwithstanding all this publicity, the men met in the very heart of England, within 40 miles of the metropolis, and pounded each other's heads and faces for more than two hours, in the presence of lords, earls, marquises, and a crowd of people of all classes, considerable numbers of whom had their pockets picked, at the time, of their watches and purses.

#### FOREIGN NEWS AND MARKETS.

The London *Engineer* states that, in Leeds, the machine trade is very active, and there are several orders on hand for flax machinery, chiefly for Belgium and Germany. The manufacture of tools for government orders is very brisk, and at Sheffield there is continued activity in steel manufacture. All the forges are busy, and considerable difficulty is experienced in getting work done punctually. The manufacture of English files for continental orders is brisk: the best qualities being in most demand. Electro-plated goods are in good request; but it is regretted by the English papers that the orders from America have been very limited this Spring for all kinds of Sheffield wares. A machine for rolling the tires of iron railway wheels, without a weld, has been put in operation, and is working satisfactorily. A large

number of orders for such tires have been received. Some steel tires are also being rolled in the same manner.

The Great Northern Railway, in England, has hitherto held the "A No. 1" position for the speed of its trains; but recently the Scottish trains have rather surpassed them. This has led the company to decide upon introducing a larger and more powerful class of engines, and 12 of these have been designed by Mr. Sturrock, the locomotive engineer of the road. They are to be furnished with 7-foot driving wheels and 17-inch cylinders. The tenders will also be larger to carry more fuel, and thus save stoppages; otherwise there is to be no especial novelty about them, but their average speed will be about 50 miles per hour.

In Manchester, there is an association for suppressing the practice of falsely labelling or marking goods for sale; and the most respectable mercantile firms in all the English manufacturing towns have joined it. The practice of selling goods marked for a certain length, while they are short of this length, has become so common that most persons were so used to it as to hold it no fraud at all; but a bill is about to be introduced into Parliament to meet such cases.

In Great Britain, there are now 32,500,000 cotton spindles in operation in the factories, and these have been increasing at the rate of 45,000 per week, or 2,300,000 per annum. In Russia, there are only 70 cotton mills, comprising 100,000 spindles, in operation.

In France, there are 2,624 locomotives employed on all the railroads, of which 2,521 were made in that empire. When railroads were first introduced upon the continent of Europe, the locomotives were obtained from England; but Italy, France, Austria, Germany and Russia are now independent of England for their engines—they construct their own. On the German railroads, there are 2,850 engines, 2,277 of which are of domestic manufacture, 301 English, 190 Belgian, 60 American, and 22 French. In Berlin (Prussia), there is one of the largest locomotive shops in the world. It has turned-out 1,200 engines since it was established, a few years ago.

The Metropolitan Board of Works have advertised for tenders to supply per-chloride of iron for deodorizing the Thames and other sweet-smelling institutions in London during the present summer. No less than 5,000 gallons will be required per day, and double this amount on some occasions. We recommend this substance to the Health Commissioners of New York; they may require some of it during the approaching warm season.

#### NEW YORK MARKETS.

BEESWAX—American yellow, 33c. a 35c. per lb.  
 BREAD.—Ship, 3½c. a 4½c. per lb.  
 CANDLES.—Sperin, city, 38c. a 40c. per lb.; sperm, patent, 48c. a 50c. wax, paraffine, 50c.; adamantin, city, 17c. a 19c.; stearic, 27c. a 28c.  
 COAL.—Anthracite, \$4.75 a \$5; Liverpool orrel, perchaldron, \$8.25; canal, \$10 a \$10.50.  
 COPPER.—Refined ingots, 23c. per lb.; sheathing, 27c.; yellow metal, 20c.  
 CORDAGE.—Manilla, American made, 8c. a 8½c. per lb.; Rope, Russia hemp, 12c.  
 COTTON.—Ordinary, 7½c. a 8c.; good ordinary, 9c. a 9½c.; middling, 11½c. a 11¾c.; good middling, 11¾c. a 12¾c.; middling fair, 12¾c. a 13¾c.  
 DOMESTIC GOODS.—Shirtings, brown, 30-inch, per yard, 6c. a 7½c.; shirtings, bleached, 26 a 32-inch, per yard, 6c. a 8c.; shirtings, bleached, 30 a 34-inch, per yard, 7c. a 8½c.; sheetings, brown, 36 a 37-inch, per yard, 5½c. a 8½c.; sheetings, bleached, 36-inch, per yard, 7½c. a 15c.; calicoes, 6c. a 11c.; drillings, bleached, 30-inch, per yard, 8½c. a 10c.; cloths, all wool, \$1.50 a \$2.50; cloths, cotton warp, 62c. a \$1.37; cassimeres, 75c. a \$1.50; satinet, 30c. a 60c.; flannels, 15c. a 30c.; Canton flannels, brown, 8½c. a 15c.; Kentucky jeans, 8c. a 18c.  
 DYE-STUFFS.—Barwood, per tun, \$18 a \$30; Camwood, \$10 a \$12.5; Fustic, Cuba, \$38 a \$39; Fustic, Tampico, \$35; Fustic, Savanilla, \$20 a \$22; Fustic, Maracibo, \$19 a \$20; Logwood, Laguana, \$22 a \$23; Logwood, Tabasco, \$21; Logwood, St. Domingo, \$14.50 a \$15; Logwood, Honduras, \$16 a \$17; Logwood, Jamaica, \$13.50 a \$14; Lima wood, \$50 a \$65; Sapan wood \$45; Cochineal, per lb., \$1.08; Bichromate of potash, 20c. a 21c. per lb.; Cream of tartar, 38c. per lb.; Madder, 13c. per lb.; Lac dye, 10 c. a 50c. per lb.; Blue vitriol, 9½c. per lb.; Catechu, 6½c. a 7½c. per lb.; Copperas, 1½c. per lb.  
 FLOUR.—State, superfine brands, \$5.40 a \$5.45; State, extra brands \$5.50 a \$5.60; Michigan fancy brands, \$5.50 a \$5.70; Ohio, common brands, \$5.60 a \$5.70; Ohio, fancy brands, \$5.85 a \$5.95; Ohio, fair extra, \$6.15 a \$6.25; Ohio, good and choice extra brands, \$6.30 a \$7.25; Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, &c., \$5.60 a \$6; Genesee, fancy brands, \$5.70 a \$5.81; Genesee, extra brands, \$5.85 a \$7.50; Missouri, \$5.75 a \$7.85; Canada, \$5.70 a \$7.40; Virginia, \$7 a \$8; Rye flour, superfine, \$3.80 a \$4.25; corn meal, \$3.80  
 GUMS.—Per lb. Gamboge, 25c.; Arabic, picked, 14c. a 28c., sorts, 10c. a 10½c.; Benzoin, 50½c.; Copal, Cowrie, 4½c. a 5½c.; Damar, 9½c. a 14c.; Myrrh, East India, 10c. a 25c.; Myrrh, Turkey, 25c. a 32c.; Senegal, 6c. a 10c.; Tragacanth, sorts, 17c. a 37½c.; Tragacanth, white flaky, 75c. a 80c.; Shellac, 50c. a 55c.  
 HEMP.—American undressed, \$120 a \$150; dressed, from \$160 a \$200. Jute, \$100. Italian, \$275. Russian clean, \$190 a \$200 per tun. Manilla, 6½c. per lb. Steal, 5½c.  
 INDIA-RUBBER.—Paris, fine, a 65c. per lb.; East India, 52c. a 55c.

INDIGO.—Bengal, \$1 a \$1.55 per lb.; Madras, 70c. a 95c.; Manilla 60 c. a \$1.10; Guatemala, \$1 a \$1.25.  
 IRON.—Pig, Scotch, per tun, \$34; bar, Swedes, ordinary sizes, \$35 a \$36; bar, English, common, \$41 a \$42.50; refined, \$50 a \$52; sheet, Russia, 1st quality, per lb., 12c. a 13c.; sheet, English, single, double and treble, 3½c. a 3¾c.; anthracite, pig, \$24 per tun.  
 IVORY.—Per lb., \$1.25 a \$1.30.  
 LATHS.—Eastern, per M., \$1.50 a \$1.75  
 LEAD.—Galena, \$5.90 per 100 lbs.; German and English refined, \$5.65 a \$5.70; bar, sheet and pipe, 6½c. a 7c. per lb.  
 LEATHER.—Oak slaughter, light, 28c. a 31c. per lb.; Oak, medium 28c. a 31c.; Oak, heavy, 28c. a 30c.; Oak, Ohio, 28c. a 30c.; Hemlock, heavy, California, 19½c. a 20½c.; Hemlock, buff, 15c. a 18c.; Cordovan, 50c. a 60c.; Morocco, per dozen, \$21 a \$23; Patent enameled, 15c. a 25c. per foot; light Sheep, morocco finish, \$7.50 a \$8.50 per dozen; Calf-skins, oak, 50c. a 55c. per lb.; Hemlock, 37c. a 55c.; Belting, oak, 32c. a 34c.; Hemlock, 28c. a 31c.  
 LIME.—Rockland, 75c. per bbl.  
 LUMBER.—Timber, white pine, per M. feet, \$17.75; yellow pine, \$35 a \$40; oak, \$25 a \$30; Eastern pine and spruce, \$13.50 a \$15; White Pine, clear, \$35 a \$37.50; White Pine, select, \$25 a \$30; White Pine, box, \$16 a \$18; White Pine, flooring, 1½ inch dressed, tongued and grooved, \$24.50 a \$28; Yellow Pine, flooring, 1½ inch, dressed, tongued and grooved, \$29 a \$35; Black Walnut, good, \$45; Black Walnut, 2d quality, \$30; Cherry, good, \$45; White Wood, chair plank, \$42; White Wood, 1 inch, \$23 a \$25; Spruce Flooring, 1½ inch, dressed, tongued and grooved, each, 21c. a 22c.; Spruce Boards, 14c. a 16c.; Hemlock Boards, 12½c. a 13c.; Hemlock wall strips, 10c. a 11c.; Shingles, cedar, per M. \$28 a \$35; Shingles, cypress, \$12 a \$25; Staves, White Oak, pipe, light, \$65 a \$68; Staves, do., pipe, heavy, \$80 a \$85; Staves, white oak, pipe, culls, \$30 a \$35; Staves, do. hhd., heavy, \$70; Staves, do. bbl. light \$30 a \$35; Staves, do. bbl. culls, \$20; Mahogany—St. Domingo, fine crotches, per foot, 35c. a 45c.; St. Domingo, ordinary do., 20c. a 25c. Honduras, fine, 12½c. a 15c.; Mexican, 13c. a 15c.  
 NAILS.—Cut, 3½c. a 3¾c. per lb.; American clinch, 4½c. a 5½c. American horse-shoe, 14c. a 18c.  
 OILS.—Olive, Marsailles, baskets and boxes, \$3.50 a \$3.55; Olive, in casks, per gallon, \$1.10 a \$1.30; Palm, per pound, 9½c.; Linseed, city made, 60c. a 61c. per gallon; linseed, English, 61c.; whale, fair to prime, 35c. a 37c.; whale, bleached, 57c.; sperm, crude, \$1.41 a \$1.44; sperm, unbleached winter, \$1.45; lard oil, No. 1, winter, 90c. a 93; red oil, city distilled, 55c.; Wadsworth's refined rosin, 25c. a 35c.; boiled oil for painting, 25c. a 35c.; tanner's improved and extra, 25c. a 35c.; camphene, 47c.; fluid, 45c.  
 PAINTS.—Litharge, American, 7c. per lb.; lead, red, American, 7c.; lead, white, American, pure, in oil, 8c.; lead, white, American, pure, dry, 7½c.; zinc, white, American, dry, No. 1, 5c.; zinc, white, French, dry, 7½c.; zinc, white, French, in oil, 9½c.; ochre, ground in oil, 4c. a 6c.; Spanish brown, ground in oil, 4c.; Paris white, American, 7c.; a 90c. per 100 lbs.; vermilion, Chinese, \$1 a \$1.10; Venetian red, N. C., \$1.75 a \$2 per cwt.; chalk, \$3.75 per tun.  
 PLASTER-OF-PARIS.—Blue Nova Scotia, \$2.75 per tun; white, \$3.50; calcined, \$1.25 per bbl.  
 RESIN.—Turpentine, soft, per 280 lbs., \$3.40 a \$3.50; common, 310 lbs., \$1.63; strained and No. 2, \$1.65 a \$1.75; No. 1, per 280 lbs., \$3 a \$3; white, \$3 a \$4; pale, \$4.50 a \$5.50.  
 SALT-PETER.—Refined, 12c. a 13½c. per lb.  
 SOAP.—Brown, per pound, 5c. a 5c.; Castile, 9c. a 9½c.; Olive, 7c. a 7½c.  
 SPECTER plates, 6c. a 6½c. per lb.  
 STEEL.—English cast, 14c. a 16c. per lb.; German, 7c. a 10c.; American spring, 8c. a 5½c.; American blister, 4½c. a 5½c.  
 SUGAR.—New Orleans, 6c. a 8c. per lb.; Porto Rico, 6c. a 8c.; Havana, brown and yellow, 7c. a 8½c.; Havana, white, 8½c. a 9c.; Brazil, white, 8c. a 8½c.; Brazil, brown, 6c. a 7c.; Stuart's granulated, 9½c.  
 SUMAC.—Sicily, \$60 a \$80 per tun.  
 TALLOW.—American prime, 10½c. a 10¾c. per lb.  
 TIN.—Banca, 31½c.; Straits, 30c.; plates, \$6.50 a \$9.25 per box.  
 WOOL.—American, Saxony fleece, per lb., 54c. a 58c.; American full blood merino, 48c. a 52c.; extra, pulled, 42c. a 47c.; superfine, pulled, 36c. a 38c.; California, fine, unwashed, 20c. a 28c.; California, common, unwashed, 10c. a 18c.; Mexican, unwashed, 11c. a 14c.  
 ZINC.—Sheets, 7c. a 7½c. per lb.  
 The foregoing rates indicate the state of the New York markets up to May 2d.

There is a slight change in the price of ordinary cotton from last month, but all the other qualities remain unaltered. No change has taken place in domestic dry goods, and none in dye-stuffs; but the latter business is quite dull at present. This is rather an unfavorable sign in reference to calico-printing, woolen cloth and carpet manufacturing. The changes in flour have been considerable, and with an advance on most brands amounting to 25c. per barrel. There has been a fall of about \$1 per tun on pig iron, and a slight rise in lead.

We notice a reduction in the prices of some sorts of leather; also, in most of our domestic oils and naval stores. There are quite a number of changes in the above table from the one of last month; mostly in reduced prices. Oil from cotton seed is becoming a marketable commodity. From conversations with those who have visited the Pennsylvania oil regions, we have been informed that it extends for a distance of 200 miles in length, and is 40 miles in breadth. Some suppose that the subterranean supply is inexhaustible; while some suppose that the oil wells will soon give out. There is quite an excitement among the people in the whole valley of "Oil creek," and it is very difficult to get at facts as to the quantity obtained from a single boring. Some of the coal oil manufacturers entertain fears that these natural oil fountains will affect their business and lower their prices.