



The N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic and the Scientific American.

We seldom journey out of "the even tenor of our way," to repel any untrue or unworthy insinuations, although it is sometimes necessary to do so. We would inform the New York Farmer and Mechanic that it was wrong in the statement made in their last paper, relative to the organic vibrator. We first received information about it from our correspondent in London, and if the editor of that paper desires further proof, we can shew him the original MSS. We have only seen one notice of it in one of our foreign exchanges, which gave us some information relative to the inventor, and that was all. We have sent to London for some of those instruments and by the first of March, we shall be able not only to give the editor of that paper a better account of them, but shew him a *bona fide* article. The majority of notices of inventions that appear in our columns are sent to us by the inventors themselves, although in a number of instances we may publish an account of some things that appear in other papers. Thus the account of Mr. Egan's engine, on the invention page of this number, has been noticed in a western paper, but we did not see it until the proof was read, we having previously received Mr. Egan's letter. Is it not therefore original with us? We have correspondents in every city and almost every village in the United States, one in London and one in Glasgow, and from them we receive accounts of almost every thing new in the scientific world. We are not disposed however to quarrel with the Farmer and Mechanic about its apparent failing, the purloining of original articles from us, as we are perfectly willing to shew that paper light upon any subject. We are only sorry to perceive any contemporary resort to untrue and uncalled for insinuations for any purpose, and we would simply suggest to the editor the propriety of repressing those propensities which have led the Farmer and Mechanic into so much editorial controversy lately, which to say the least about it, does no good to science or mankind, but rather engenders bad feelings and angry recrimination. We hope that we have not displayed such feelings, although first assaulted.

Pork and Beef Packing Establishment.

The packing establishment of D. B. Allen, in Louisville, Ky., has capacity for the slaughtering of from 1,200 to 1,400 hogs, and fifty head of cattle, (rendering the lard and tallow) per day. The whole operation is carried on under one roof. The machinery is capable of producing daily one thousand kegs of prime lard, of a quality so uniform that one keg will serve as a perfect sample of the whole. Such uniformity can be attained only by machinery. Another improvement in this establishment is sheds where all the meat packed is placed under cover from the weather. The erection of this extensive establishment may be taken as evidence, of a rapid increase of the pork business of Louisville.

Mysteries and Miseries of New York.

We have never been in the habit of noticing works of romance at all in the Scientific American, but having our attention called particularly to one of the above title we have read it and find so much truth portrayed in its contents that we are induced to recommend it as not only interesting to read, but as useful to those who desire to know the mysteries and miseries of a city like New York. Published by Berford & Co., 2 Astor House, price 25 cents.

Bibles.

The American Bible Society now prints monthly, about 79,000 copies of Bibles and Testaments, equal to *eight hundred and ninety thousand* annually and yet is unable to supply the constantly increasing demand for the Scriptures.

[COMMUNICATION.]

Messrs. Munn & Co.

GENTLEMEN:—In your paper of Dec. 25, we perceive you have a diagram of an "Improved Stave Jointing Machine," purporting to be invented by Mr. H. Law, of Wilmington, N. C., which we think is an invention of our own. We invented and put in operation in April last, a machine for the same purpose, embracing the essential principles of Mr. Law's, viz. :—The dogs on an endless chain traversing in curved slots to carry the stave forward to a saw revolving on a horizontal shaft and over a raised bed piece susceptible of being raised or depressed on the side opposite to the face of the saw, so as to give the stave a greater or less bevel. We now have them in operation in this place and have sold them in a number of other places, one of which is Wilmington, N. C., and from which machine we are inclined to think that Mr. Law got his ideas. We intend to apply for a patent immediately, being confident that we can prove beyond all doubt a priority of claim.

Yours, JUDSON & PARDEE.

New Haven, Ct., Dec. 28, 1847.

A Lady Astronomer.

Miss Mitchell of Nantucket, has computed the elements of the orbit of the comet discovered by her on the first of last October, and her results, with those of Professor Pierce and of Mr. Bond, together with a notice of the central passage of the comet over a bright fixed star in the constellation of the Dragon, and of other interesting phenomena in connection with the same, will be prepared by Wm. Mitchell, Esq., the father of the lady by whom the wanderer was first seen, and will appear in the next number of the American Journal of Science.

Horrible Death.

A laborer in the Chemical Laboratory, at Roxbury, Mass., met his death under the most painful circumstances, on Monday last week. He was engaged in depositing alum in vats, for the purpose of being melted, and in passing across the vats, walked on a plank laid upon them, but lost his balance and fell into one, filled with about six feet of melted alum. He was speedily drawn out, but lingered in dreary agony for nine hours, when death terminated his sufferings.

We saw a case exactly identical with this, and we never wish to see another. It was that of a young married man, who fell into an alum vat, and was taken out alive to live in the most horrible torments for twenty-four hours. He drank a continual stream of water and the floor beneath him was completely saturated with the strength and fat of one of the finest physical frames that ever encased a mortal's spirit.

Indigo and Cotton.

By an experiment made by a Mr. Gilmore of Natchitoches, Texas, a result quite unexpected has started some ideas as to a preventative for the worm which destroys the cotton plant. Mr. Gilmore planted last spring, within his field of cotton, a piece of ground in indigo. Thinking that it would yield more in indigo than would be necessary to furnish his family, he ploughed a part of it up, and put in cotton. Thus ploughed before it had germinated, he scattered the seed over his cotton land, and many stocks of it grew with the cotton. When the worms began to devour the cotton, he found to his surprise that the stocks near the indigo were untouched by them. They left, or rather kept away from the rows near the indigo patch. The odour from the indigo plant is known to be pungent and disagreeable.

Speculation in Corn.

One of the wisest regulations ever issued by the Emperor of Russia, or by any other sovereign, is the forbidding of land owners and dealers in corn from making *time-bargains* for the sale and delivery of that article. The sale of corn in London, to be delivered on a certain day forward, at a certain price, was carried on during the last season of scarcity to an astonishing extent, and millions of bushels of wheat were bought and sold by parties who never held a grain, but who, when the day of delivery came, paid or received the difference between the price stipulated for and the market price of the day.

A Countess.

The daughter of the celebrated Count Rumford, is now residing in New Hampshire. Gov. Hill, in his account of his farming operations, thus alludes to his titled neighbor:

Our Indian crop (about forty bushels to the acre), grew on an old and accumulated sand bed on the ferry plain lot fronting the beautiful residence of our friend the Countess Rumford. This lady, in the most easy circumstances as to property, has shamed us by doing with her own hands, in the improvement of her grounds, much more labor than we could do with ours, to save any part of the high wages we have to pay for all our farming. Our premises, both in the side and the front come down to those of the Countess; and gallantry, at least, if not respect, to the daughter and sole representative of the philosopher, and perhaps statesman, native of this country, second only to Franklin, would forbid any personal difficulty, even should she in erecting her new fence, come over upon us to the full extent of two feet.

Stand from Under.

The following is an extract from the speech of a Mississippi militia officer: Gentlemen, my mind naturally converts with the pleasurable enigmas to the delightful tapestry of the Oregon Territory. 'Tis there that nature is more than herself, for the soft breezes from the Hego Islands wafts to the listening ear the varied symphonies of the jackdaws, sweet carolling to the melodious epiphany of a thousand crocodiles.

Lumber in Maine.

The Rangor Courier the 18th instant says: "We learn there is no snow in the lumber regions in this state, and that on the upper waters of the Penobscot at least seventy teams with their complements of men are entirely idle and unable even to reach their camping grounds. It is now past the middle of December, about a month later than the teams usually commence their operations. This delay, together with the less number of teams engaged will cause a diminution of the quantity of lumber in the market next season, and must result in an increase of the price of such lumber as does come into the market."

A Hint to Ladies.

The Nottingham (Eng.) Journal states that a singular fraud had been successfully attempted by some lace-workers, who have given to cotton the appearance of silk. Silk thread is dissolved by a strong caustic ley and after the cotton thread has been drawn through the solution thus obtained, it has the gloss and appearance of silk thread, from which the eye cannot distinguish it.

Rainbow.

The New Haven Palladium says that the very rare phenomena of a rainbow in the North at noonday was seen there on Thursday last with unusual distinctness. The prismatic colors were well exhibited, and the circle unbroken.

Thursday, Dec. 16, was the 74th anniversary of the destruction of tea in Boston, harbor. Over 340 chests were thrown overboard and destroyed. The late Judge Thatcher had in his possession a small quantity of this tea, which one of the actors inadvertently carried away in his shoes.

A man has been convicted at Cleveland of stealing his own property. He had made a bargain to have his hogs fattened on shares, and when he thought "they would do" he stole them away, and killed them on his own hook.

Wild rice, said to be infinitely superior in taste, and far more nutritious than the rice of the Southern States, has been found by the Geological surveying corps, in Iowa, where it grows abundantly.

The Franklin Typographical Society of Boston will celebrate Franklin's Birth Day by a grand supper on the evening of the 15th January.

Very extensive coal mines have been opened in Chili; which will supply coal depots for our steamers in the Pacific.

The flour trade of Canada West has increased eight fold during the last two years.

New Rolling Mill.

We learn from the Wilmington Journal that Messrs. McDaniel & Harvey, Iron merchants of that city, in connection with Mr. J. J. McCollough, have recently erected a substantial Rolling Mill, at North East, Md. The works are to be chiefly engaged in manufacturing sheet and bar iron, and are now in active operation. Some samples of sheet iron have recently been sent to New York, and for strength, durability, and neatness of finish, cannot be exceeded by any in the market.

Prices in Mexico.

An officer, writing from Mexico, says every thing is high in that city; he paid \$40 for a new coat, a pair of shoes cost \$4, a pound of tea \$5 and every thing in proportion.

Mr. Emerson has commenced a course of lectures at Manchester, England, conceived apparently, somewhat after the manner of Carlyle's Hero Worship. The course is on "Representative men." The subject of his introductory discourse was the "Uses of Great Men;" and it was to be followed by lectures on Swedenborg, the mystic; Montaigne, the skeptic; Shakspeare, the poet; Napoleon the man of action; and Goethe, the man of letters.

The National Intelligencer says, we regret to learn that during the heavy gale on Tuesday night, some of the iron braces of the tall mast which surmounts the dome of the capitol and supports the large gas lantern, gave way, and in falling broke the glass of the skylight. Fortunately, the gale lulled soon after, or it is feared the mast and lantern would have gone by the board. More than one has predicted its downfall.

The Pittsburgh Gazette says that Captain Schenley, and Mrs. Schenley of London, have instructed their agent to offer ten acres of land to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Society, being included in the village of Croghansville, now in the 9th ward of the city of Pittsburgh.

We see it stated in some of our papers that Mr. Joseph Cunard "the celebrated Mail Contractor," has stopped payment, under great liabilities. The Hon. Samuel Cunard, of Halifax, N. S., is the Royal Mail Contractor. Mr. Joseph Cunard of Miramichi, N.B. has no connection with the steamers.

Never be afraid to do right because somebody will laugh at you. Never do wrong because somebody will applaud you. Never be ashamed of an old hat, if it is well brushed, and the best you have.

A large brick house in Clarmon County, Ohio, situated on the river, has fallen down, crushing seventeen persons to death. Several others were seriously wounded. The building was owned and occupied by Fourierites.

The heart never accuses a charitable act, although it often pines over an ungenerous one. Should we not then practice those virtues which bring happiness and refrain from those acts that cause grief.

The Fire Engine of Company No. 40 of this city, has thrown a stream 144 feet perpendicular height out of a nozzle of seven-eighths of an inch.

Ten or fifteen years ago, six young men, one by one, left their native county, (Fayette, Kentucky,) in search of a livelihood abroad. They have all met at Washington, as members of the present Congress.

In Baltimore, the past year 1,959 new houses have been erected, the value of which is upwards of \$2,600,000.

A residence building at Quebec for the Roman Catholic Bishop, will cost, it is said 200,000 dollars.

The reception of Gen. Taylor cost the municipal authorities of New Orleans more than \$5,000.

The New England Non-resistance Society commenced its annual session in Boston on Thursday last.

The Licking Valley Railroad Company are cutting a tunnel through the mountain and have reached several valuable veins of coal.