



#### American Inventor's Institute.

We have been shown a circular issued in this city, presenting the outlines of a scheme for establishing an Inventor's Institute. The shares are projected at 5 dolls. each, and any person engaging to become a stockholder is to pay 25c. to a canvassing agent and receive a printed receipt for the same signed by the projector, who, very courageously takes the whole burden of organization upon his own shoulders, and no doubt will manage the affair very adroitly. There can be no question as to the benefit that would accrue to many by the establishment of an Inventor's Institute, were it possible to get able and disinterested men to engage in it, but all such institutions that have as yet been organized or proposed have been rather injurious than beneficial to inventors, and the fault must have been, we think in their management. We are afraid that this proposed joint stock inventor's institute, promises too much, to fulfil any of its promises, as it holds out the preposterous hope of a hundred per cent of dividends to stockholders. We should like to see the names of a number of our leading and respectable citizens published as being engaged in this project, as some may look upon such a scheme rather suspiciously, for no financial report of those Institutes have been published and people now a days are beginning to look into such schemes before they leap into them.—*New York Sun.*

What scheme is this which now comes forward rank with craft to mulct inventors out of their hard earned cash. We have warned and re- turned inventors about the designing views of all schemers who are great pretended philanthropists. If the National Association of Inventors was a great failure, having so many advantages over such a scheme as this, who is not able to predict that this project is another Mississippi bubble on a small scale? We consider it our sacred duty to be honestly true to our mechanics, inventors and scientific citizens by warning them of all designs that have the appearance of deceiving them. Yet it would certainly give us much pleasure to behold an Association firmly and nobly established that would protect the rights of inventors and be the means of assisting poor inventors to complete inventions, and suitably rewarding them for valuable discoveries, but we know that all such previous schemes have only resulted in duping those who placed confidence in them, and this we venture to say, will not be an exception.

#### New Copper Mine

We have been shown some splendid specimens of copper ore taken from a mine lately discovered near Shannonville, about five miles from Morristown, Pennsylvania. The samples were in the possession of Mr. Osborn, an eminent mineralogist who has been extensively engaged in the business of smelting. He says it is perhaps the richest vein of copper in the United States, taking all things into consideration. It is but a few miles from the Reading Rail Road and the process of mining can be accomplished easily, owing to the dip of the seam of ore.

#### Edinburgh Phrenological Journal.

The enterprising publishers of Phrenological works in this city, Messrs. Fowles & Wells have just commenced the republication of the Edinburgh Phrenological Journal, a truly magnificent work. The January number lies before us and from the beautiful letter press, and in fact from the beauty of the work taking it all in all, we think that the publishers may feel proud of their enterprise.—Published monthly at the office of the American Phrenological Journal, 131 Nassau st., price 50 cents per number.

In Ohio, the quantity of tobacco raised this season is supposed not to be over 6000 or 8000 hhds., against 20,000 last year.

#### Law's Stave Dresser and Jointer.

These machines, which have appeared in separate engravings at separate times in the Scientific American, one in this number and the other in No. 14, are intended to be joined together, the one working very conveniently into the other. As the staves leave the Dresser, they are taken hold of by the dogs of the Jointer and put through in a rapid and complete manner. These machines have been highly spoken of, and the great benefits about them are, that they are self-feeders. We should have noticed them more at length respecting their merits, but we were not willing to lengthen out the articles which described their operations. A full sense of their importance and value, and method of operation will be best attained by reading first the description of the Dresser and afterwards that of the Jointer—as the two machines are intended to work together, and there are a number of minor points of the Jointer which Mr. Law is now engaged on, in making one of the most perfect stave dressing machines.

#### Rock Driller.

Messrs. Pardon T. Wightman and H. Vaughan, of East Greenwich, Mass., have invented a valuable improvement in a Drilling Machine for drilling rock, which has come highly recommended to us by those who have seen its operations. It is an invaluable invention and is justly esteemed as such. We will be able next week to present an engraving of it and a full description.

#### Cobalt and Nickel Mine.

In the Wallace mine on Lake Huron, C. W. Nickell, and Cobalt have been discovered in combination with the copper ore. We should be glad if Nickel would get so cheap as to be used as an alloy with iron. Then we would have a metal that would not be oxidized and would last forever, for guns, houses, shipbuilding, and in every art in fact this metal would cause a complete revolution, and a desirable one.

#### New Post Offices.

The following Post Offices were established by the Post Office Department, Dec. 16, 1847;—Point Isabel, Clermont county, Ohio; Swellsville, Belmont county, O.; Harrison Desha, county, Ark.; Rockhold, Sullivan county, Tenn.; Green Meadow, Washington county, Tenn.; Buena Vista, Platte county, Mo.; Conn's Creek, Pulaski county, Mo.

#### What the Telegraph can do.

The Albany Evening Journal, one day a short time since telegraphed to a friend about thirty miles from St. Louis, and received a message in the course of two hours. The distance was 2,500 miles, and all this done in such a short time after a pretty wild goose chase to get hold of the chap, who it seems had to be bunted up.

#### Florida

The Legislature has adopted the proposed amendments to the State Constitution providing for biennial sessions of the General Assembly, and one year's residence as the suffrage qualification. They are now a part and parcel of the Constitution.

#### Singular Decision.

The London Observer states that it has been decided recently by Lord Denman and the other Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, that according to the new law of England, a marriage with the sister of a deceased wife is absolutely null and void, and as a matter of course all the children of such a marriage are illegitimate.

#### Lead Mine.

An extensive and rich bed of lead ore has recently been discovered on Turk Creek Camden county Missouri. The prospects are so flattering, that arrangements are on foot to commence working immediately on an extensive scale. Small quantities have already been raised and smelted, which will yield full 80 per cent.

#### Reformed Medical Practice.

Prof. Finney, of Oberlin, has lately gone through a regular course of typhus fever, and recovered without the use of any medicine or stimulants whatever. It is said that for fourteen days he tasted of nothing but cold water.

#### Population Statistics.

The population of the globe is supposed to be under a thousand millions, or according to M. Hassel, 637,852,000. If then, says a French writer, all mankind were collected in one place, every individual occupying a square metre, the whole might be contained in a field ten miles square. Thus, generally speaking, the population of a country might be packed without much squeezing in its capital. But the mean idea this gives us of the number of the human race, is counter-balanced by its capability of extension. America and her Islands are said to contain of productive land 4,000,000 square miles of middling quality, each capable of supporting five hundred persons. According to this calculation, the population of this continent as peace and civilization advance, may attain to the extent of 2,000,000,000. If we suppose the surface of the old world to be double that of America (and notwithstanding the comparative poverty of the land, this calculation may be accepted if we say nothing of Australia and the various archipelagos,) it would support 4,000,000,000; and thus the aggregate population of the entire globe might amount to 6,000,000,000, or six times the present number.

#### Massachusetts Girls.

Over one million of straw bonnets and hats, valued at \$1,057,892, were manufactured during last year by the fair hands of Massachusetts girls.

#### Life Prolonged by Science.

As an evidence to prove that an advanced state of science, and the improvement in the condition of the various classes of society, tend to prolong life, the following statement is made. It has been found that the average length of life of persons born in Geneva was, in the 16th century, less than 9 years, in the 17th the average arose to 13; in 1760 it had increased to 27; in 1800 it was 21; in 1813, 40; in 1832 45.

#### Improvement in Sugar Manufacture.

A valuable improvement has been made by a Mr. Watson in the Island of Jamaica for the manufacture of Sugar. The cane juice goes through an entirely new system of purification, in which the saccharine matter is converted into a liquid as transparent as spring water. Upon evaporation it yields sugar of the purest white. The expense of thus making white sugar from the juice is about the same as manufacturing the common brown, and the improved method saves all the juice now wasted or converted into molasses. The invention has been patented in England and France and likewise in the United States.

#### Holden's Dollar Magazine.

The first number of this magazine has been laid on our table, and we are at once prepossessed in its favor. It contains to use a commonism, "a world of reading matter." Sixty-four closely printed pages of matter, and good matter too for one dollar per annum. It should receive a wide spread circulation, and we have no doubt but it will. Mr. Holden's enterprise deserves much praise, and certainly success cannot but attend his efforts. It is the cheapest magazine in the United States. For particulars see the advertisement on another page.

#### File Machine.

The File Cutting Machine which was credited by the N. Y. Tribune of last Monday as being taken from an English journal and appearing as an English Invention reads as it appeared in our columns a long time ago, and was copied therefrom by said English journal. It was invented at Portsmouth, N. H., and we believe it has been sold to a Mr. McIntyre of that place. The English do not import their files and what are now manufactured in this country are the work of Englishmen. We suppose that no less than \$100,000 worth are made yearly at Sing Sing under the superintendence of Mr. Russell an Englishman. The hand manufactured files are made mostly in England, but the machine referred to above is an American invention.

#### Property of Married Women.

The Senate of Vermont has passed the bill by 18 to 8 securing to married women the sole right in their property.

#### From Europe.

By the arrival of the Caledonia from Boston on the 4th inst., we have information that the French Steamer Union put into Cherbourg, on the 1st of December, leaky, and pumps choked, and that the New York, French steamer put into Havre on the 12th Dec., with 6 feet water in her hold, thus justifying what we said when they first came here, regarding their nautical architecture.

The war in Switzerland is at an end, and money was perfectly flooding into the London Exchange. The Cotton market was dull; Sea Island from 7 1-2 to 8d. Ireland was more quiet; Parliament was occupied with its affairs entirely.

#### Independence of British Dependencies.

There are some inequalities in favor of the smallest of the British Isles, which compensate for many inconveniences. The inhabitants of the isles of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey, are exempted from some of the heavy taxes imposed upon the people of England. Every pound of tea consumed in England, whatever be its quality, is taxed 2s. 2 1-4d, or about 54 cents, while tea comes into Jersey and Guernsey free of duty. This gives the tea drinkers of those small islands an immense advantage over the large islanders. Their annual consumption is 5 lbs. 4 oz. per head; while in England it is 1 lb. 10 oz. per head. The English tea-drinkers are beginning to grumble at this disparity.

#### Spare Minutes.

Spare minutes are the gold dust of time; and Young was writing a true as well as a striking line, when he taught that "sands make the mountain, and moments make the year." Of all the portions of our life, the spare minutes are the most fruitful in good or evil. They are the gaps through which temptation finds the easiest access to the garden of the soul.

#### Cold Water for Burns.

Mr. Seth Hunt of Northampton, Mass. gives the following statement of the treating with cold water a severe burn and scald in his family.

"Cold water was applied, by immersion till pain ceased; the water being changed as often as it became warm. The part was then swathed with wet bandages, a dry woollen one enveloping them, until the injury was healed. The healing was rapid, and effected without leaving a scar."

#### A Curious Fact.

It is stated by some statistical hunter, that the sum annually expended for bread by the population of Great Britain and Ireland amounts to twenty-five millions sterling, while the money expended in distilled and fermented drinks amounts to upwards of fifty millions annually.

#### A New Invention for Making Bricks.

The Boston Post says that Jonathan Ward, of Cambridge, a practical brickmaker, has invented a machine for making bricks which will work wonders in cheapening the price of that essential item in building. It will turn out twenty-five thousand bricks a day.

Robert A. Small of Louisville Ky. has also invented a Rotary Brick Machine which will we think be of great benefit to the country.

#### Chamber's Miscellany.

No. 10, of this interesting publication has just been issued and may be had at Berford's No. 2 Astor House.

#### Gold Pens.

We have a few more left for the extremely low price of \$1.25 mounted with heavy silver cases.—See advertisement.

#### Coal.

The coal beds of Pennsylvania have yielded a vast supply this season—no less than two millions nine hundred and sixty-five thousand and 62 tons.

It is said that Senator Cameron has adopted for his family ensign, and has it engraved upon his letter stamps, a Printing press, over which stretches the word "Persevere."

A model farm is established near Paristo raise pheasants and American prairie hens.

Louis Philippe is said to be engaged, like Cæsar, in writing his own commentaries.