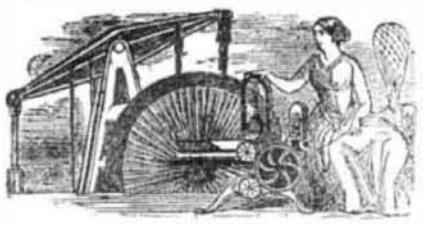


New Inventions.

An Auxilliary Anchor.

Mr. John Holmes, of Holmes' Hole, Martha's Vineyard, has projected an auxilliary anchor to be used in cases of great danger, when the anchors of vessels may be dragging. We have seen a drawing of it, which is now at the office of the Union Mutual Insurance Co. Wall street, this city. It appeared to us that if adopted and used by all vessels, it would be the means of saving hundreds of lives every year. It is to be made of cast iron, with a turtle shaped back on which are two standards with clasp eyes which are to be clasped round the cable and to slide gradually down along it by the pitching of the vessel. The under part of it is flat with a spring fluke, which projects on the point and holds like the fluke of any other anchor. To seafaring men the nature of this invention is apparent, and as the inventor is a person long and intimately acquainted with the danger of a vessel's being on a lee shore and dragging her anchors, it is to be hoped for the sake of humanity, that it will arrest the attention of Underwriters. We believe that measures have been taken to secure a patent.

New Cannon.

At the Empire Works of this City there is at present a new kind of cannon being constructed, which is a novelty in its way.

"It is lighter and stronger than any ordnance yet in use, can be made of any size and power, for harbor and fortress defence, and has, withal, the virtue most needeed in Mexico—it can be carried anywhere that man can get, up and over the highest mountains and most rugged passes. It is made of plates and bolts, in such a manner that a twelve or a hundred pounder can be taken apart, packed on mules or men's backs to the desired spot, and in fifteen minutes be put together for certain and deadly purposes."

Machine for Cutting Soles.

Mr. C. D. Bigelow, of Marlboro, Mass., has invented a machine for cutting out soles for boots and shoes of every size and shape. The soles are cut out with the holes for pegs all punched, so that the peg awl will be entirely dispensed with, if some arrangement can be made to punch the inner sole. This will be a machine of great benefit to boot and shoe manufacturers and we believe it can be got up at but little expense, as it is very simple. The inventor we are informed has taken measures to secure a patent.

Lath Machine.

A machine for splitting laths, the invention of Mr. Winslow of Cincinnati, has been put into operation in Southwark, Pa. It is the first of the kind put up east of the Alleghanies and has surprised the good mechanics of Philadelphia.

A huge log, is placed in the machine, and by the means of two knives, one working perpendicularly, and the other horizontally, the laths are cut from the side of the log which is pushed around by the machinery, so that the laths are of a uniform thickness and width. It is driven by steam power and will cut the laths at the rate of two hundred a minute.

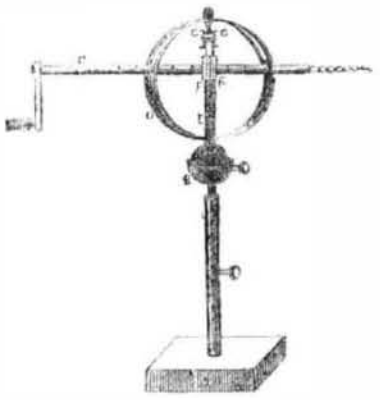
Machine for Turning Irregular Surfaces.

We learn by the Gardiner, Me., Fountain, that Mr. W. M. Davis of that town has invented a new and important machine, for turning Lasts, Gunstocks, or any other irregular form. This machine is a great improvement on Mr. Blanchard's old machine, and it will be a great public advantage, coming as it will, in competition with the old machine used for the same purpose. This machine is simple in its construction, entirely superseding the necessity of using one last to form another by.

New Hemp Brake.

The Louisville Journal and the Maysville Herald, Ky., are diligently calling attention to the importance of Western manufactures, and the developement of the resources of the valley of the Mississippi. By the latter paper we learn that Dr. Levitt has lately invented and put in operation in that place, a new Hemp Brake, which breaks unrotted hemp, and which the Herald thinks is destined to bring about at once a great and most important revolution in the hemp business of the West. The editor has seen it at work for hours, and pronounces it a wonderful machine, breaking and cleaning at the rate of 2800 pounds of hemp in 24 hours. Dr Levitt is a gentleman of a very inventive mind, and has devoted all his thoughts and labor for the last three years to the subject of breaking and spinning of hemp. In the prosecution of his investigations he visited England, Scotland and Ireland and for a thorough knowledge of the whole subject he is said not to be surpassed by any man living.

Ship Carpenter's Augur.



This is a very ingenious instrument, invented by Richard Coffin, of Haverhill, Mass., and the following explanation will convey an idea of its uses.

A, is the foot. D, is the frame. C, is a rod and crank attached to the augur H. B, is the cup and head. E, is the spring. G G, are two rods for the purpose of disconnecting the catches F F, from the rod C.

If you wish to bore, pull the spring E by the handle to the left; shove down the left hand rod G, to disconnect the left hand from the rod C. The right hand catch holds the spring and throws its power towards the augur H, and so on; the cup B allows its balls to roll in the frame and augur in any position and the thumb screw will hold it in that position; the other thumb screw is to hold the slide which elevates or depresses the augur.

Measures are in progress to secure a patent.

Electric Light.

We learn from the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, that Mr. B. Adams, of that city, has discovered a method of producing permanent light from electricity. It is made from metals, and within a glass vase. The battery is of such a nature as to keep up a constant flow of electricity. If all the proportions are right and the material used is as large as can be obtained within a glass vase one foot in diameter, the light, placed in a suitable position, will be seen for miles around. The intensity of the light is said to be such that one will light the city as perfectly as daylight. The whole apparatus for making a light of this magnitude will not occupy three feet square. It can also be made on a small scale for churches, and dwelling-houses. The expense is stated to be very trifling, compared with that of any other light. Mr. Adams has already applied for a patent.

Self-adjusting Car-Shackle.

Mr. Dr. R. Pratt, of Worcester, Mass., has invented a new self-adjusting car coupling which, the Telegraph says, is so constructed that two cars run together for the purpose of being shackled must of necessity become so, without the aid of any person, as the iron link for connecting the cars inserts itself surely and firmly within the grapple. The invention also includes an attachment by which any part of the train may be instantly unshackled from any car while in motion.

We have seen a number of inventions lately for this purpose, but we are not aware of any of them being in actual use superseding the old links, although some of them we consider to be superior, and others that we have seen instead of being new and useful improvements, were the reverse.

An Electric Gun.

The following account from the pen of J. R. Nichols, Esq. of Haverhill, Mass., describing a machine which he has invented, and which we have seen noticed in some of our exchanges, will be read with much interest by all our subscribers, as they are all interested in scientific matter and as one wrote unto us last week from Ohio, "Ever since I became a subscriber to the Scientific American I have gone on steadily increasing in desire for scientific knowledge, and I look into the Post Office every Saturday night hungry for my weekly scientific repast." Mr Nichole says:—

"I have placed together two plates of metal of a circular form six inches in diameter and separated about one inch from each other. This space is partially occupied by six metallic cylinders or barrels about three inches in length and one in diameter. These all rest very nearly against the centre of the plates, their mouths terminating at equal distances from each other. The plates and cylinders thus arranged are firmly rivetted together and the whole made to revolve in a vertical position. Through one of the plates and of each barrel at the breech, is a screw, through which passes two short pieces of wire insulated from each other and joined at the ends by a fine piece of platinum wire. These wires protrude from the plate and are so arranged that while the machine is revolving they come in contact with the poles of a small magnetic battery. The machine is moved by the power of a revolving armature engine. The power thus derived is hardly adequate to produce the desired effect with certainty, and I have substituted machinery somewhat similar to clock-work.

A tube is fixed over the machine in which is placed a charge of gun cotton pressed upon by a leaden ball; over that ball is another charge of cotton with a ball; in this way the tube is filled. By means of a slide at the bottom, a charge of cotton with a ball is let into each barrel when in a vertical position, and the barrel is discharged immediately at any elevation, by the bright metallic surfaces of the wires coming in contact with the poles of the battery. The gun cotton explodes at a temperature of 360 F. The explosion is certain, as the passage of a current the platina wire from a very feeble battery instantly produces a much higher temperature than that.

This is a very imperfect description of a very simple contrivance. It has seemed to me of late that a machine of a similar character might be constructed which would prove terribly destructive as an engine of war.

There are quite a number of objections to the machine I have described, but I intend to pursue the subject and make such alterations and improvements as may occur to me.

J. R. Nichols.

[It was at our request that Mr. Nichols furnished us with the foregoing description of his invention, regarding the merits of which he expresses himself in a very modest and unassuming manner.

New Rope Machine

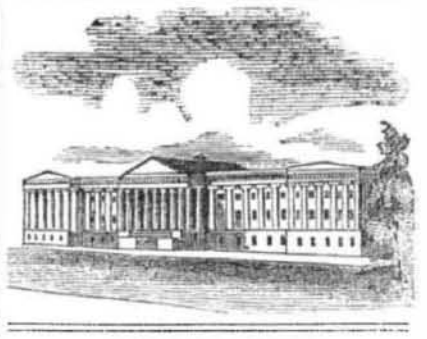
Mr. J. Morrison, of Harrisburg, Pa., has invented a new machine for making rope.—We have been informed that the space occupied with it for making tow lines and bale ropes will not exceed 8 feet square, and for 2½ inch rope he estimates that a room 18 or 20 feet square will be quite large enough.

Pianos.

Mr. Pethick of this city, has made some very important improvements in the construction of Pianos, for which he is going to secure a patent in England.

Nice Balancing.

In describing the Philadelphia Mint, the North American says:—"We saw a pair of large scales, built of Gothic gold, which are in hourly use in weighing lots of five dollar pieces, turned palpably by a piece of fine letter paper, not so big as a dime."



LIST OF PATENTS

ISSUED FROM THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

For the week ending Feb 8, 1848.

To Lewis Tupper, of Genoa, N. Y., for improvement in machines for compressing fleeces of wool. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To Daniel R. Pratt, of Worcester, Mass., for improvement in drawing rolls for spinning machinery. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To Solyman Merrick, of Springfield, Mass. for improvement in Revolving Spring Punch. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To John Barker, of Baltimore, Md., for for improvement in air heating Furnaces.—Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To William Baker, of Utica, N. Y., for improvement in Sash Fasteners. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To Rufus Nutting, 2d., of Romeo, Michigan, for improvement in Piano Organs. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To George S. Bosworth, of Boston, Mass., for improvement in Cooking Stoves. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To William De Haven and William Umholtz, of Minersville, Pa., for improvement in Coal Breakers. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To William E. Maginnis, of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in Ladies Corded Skirts. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

To William Rogers, of Philadelphia, Pa, for improvement in moulding Hollow Ware. Patented Feb. 8, 1848.

INVENTOR'S CLAIMS.

Spinning Machine.

By Matthew W. Obenchain, of Springfield, Ohio. Improvement in machinery for spinning Patented 11th September, 1847. Claim—What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by letters patent is, First, giving to the first set of draw rollers an intermittent motion in combination with the second and third sets of draw-rollers made with segments to draw alternately, and substantially as described. Second, I claim giving to the series of guide-rollers an intermittent reciprocating motion to take up the slack of the roving, and then to give it out, substantially as described, in combination with the intermittent motion of the first set of draw-rollers as described. And I also claim in combination with this, giving to the guide rollers an intermittent rotary motion to prevent the breakings of the rovings by friction as described. And finally I claim hanging the third set of draw rollers in a sliding frame, substantially as described, provided with the most reqisite mechanical agent for moving it during the operation of spinning, whether this be rack or pinion, or other mechanical equivalent whereby the amount of twist to be given to the threads that are being drawn and spun between the rollers, can be regulated at pleasure by the attendant as described.

Carriage Bodies.

By Charles I. Woolson of Cleveland, Ohio. Improvement in hanging carriage bodies. Patented 11th September, and dated 11th March 1847. Claim.—What I claim as my invention and wish to secure by letters patent, is connecting the "cradle spring" (so called) or the single steel spring, similar in form to the half of an elliptic, to the forward axle of carriages or wagons, as points near the hub, so as to have the spring form the rocker and turn with the axle, and transfer the weight from the middle to the ends of the axles, as described, when this is combined with the body of the carriage by means of the fifth wheel attached to the spring as described.

The Santa Fe Republican of November 13, says that the potatoe grows wild in the mountains near that place.