

Scientific American.

THE ADVOCATE OF INDUSTRY, AND JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC, MECHANICAL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

Vol. 4.

New York, November 25, 1848.

No. 10.

THE
SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN :
CIRCULATION 11,500.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
At 128 Fulton Street, New York (Sun Building,) and
13 Court Street, Boston, Mass.

By Munn & Company.

The Principal Office being at New York.

TERMS—\$3 a year—\$1 in advance, and
the remainder in 6 months.
See advertisement on last page.

Poetry.

GENIUS.

Oft does an unshap'd glorious thought
Rise in the ideal blest,
And like a dream forever fade,
Ere it can be expressed ;
Just as the wave upmounted high,
With curled and foamy crest,
Sinks down again in ocean deep,
To its eternal rest !

'Tis in the soul where genius dwells
Those meteor thoughts arise,
Like phosphorent light upon the waves
That roll 'neath sunny skies ;
This part of God ! this unseen Sun !
Mankind too seldom prize,
Yet does it oft-times gild a thought
That never, never dies.

'Tis like a beacon on a hill,
By it our path we find ;
'Tis like a light upon the sea,
Past shoals by it we wind ;
It sheddeth universal light
Throughout the world of mind !
Imperishable ! it remains
" For all time " with mankind.

The Almighty said " Let there be light,"
And o'er the world it shone !
He, to dispel our mental night,
Sent genius from his throne.
'Tis undefinable as space !
(The infinite unknown,)
Through it a revelation of
Almightiness is shown !

THE CROP OF ACORNS.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

There came a man in days of old,
To hire a piece of land for gold,
And urged his suit, in accents meek,
" One crop alone, is all I seek ;
That harvest o'er, my claim I yield,
And to its lord resign the field."

The owner some misgivings felt,
And coldly with the stranger dealt,
But found his last objection fail,
And honied eloquence prevail,
So took the proffer'd price in hand,
And for one crop leased out the land.

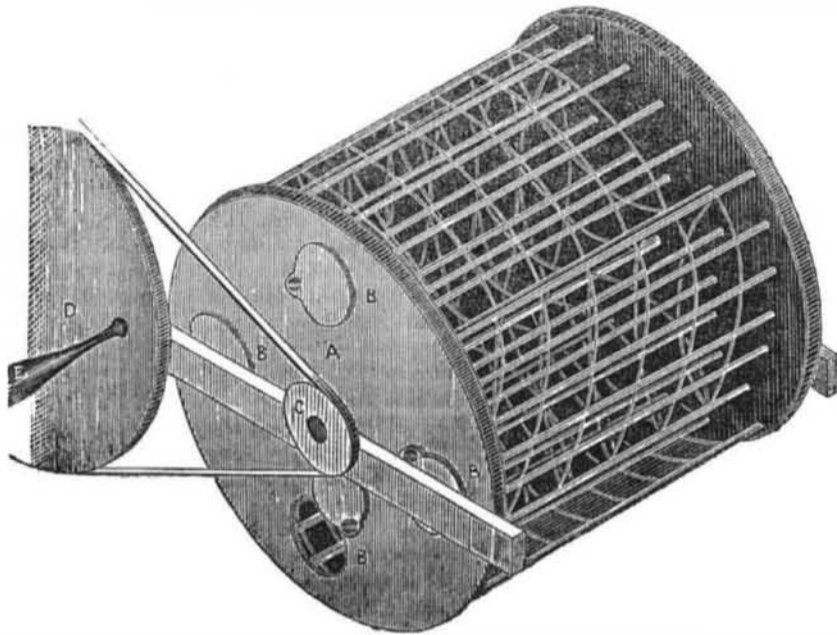
The wily tenant sneer'd with pride,
And sowed the spot with acorns wide ;
At first, like tiny shoots they grew,
Then broad and wide their branches threw,
But long before these oaks sublime
Aspiring reach'd their forest prime,
The cheated landlord mouldering lay
Forsaken with his kindred clay.

Oh ye, whose years unfolding fair,
Are fresh with youth and free from care,
Should Vice or Indolence desire,
The garden of your soul to hire,
No parley hold, eject the suit,
Nor let one seed the soil pollute.

My child, their first approach beware,
With firmness break the insidious snare.
Lest as the acorns grew and thrive,
Into a sun excluding grove,
Thy sins, a dark o'ershadowing tree,
Shut out the light of heaven from thee.

CHAFFEE'S CLOTH AND WOOL DRIER.

Figure 1.



This is an apparatus for drying wet cloth and wool in a shorter period than is now done by hanging cloth over poles in a warm drying room, or wool upon nets submitted to a great degree of heat. It saves the expense of a drying room in many instances for cloth, and for wool always, and besides, it is a great saving in expence of workmanship as far more can be dried by it, and without carrying the wet wool out of the washing or dye house. It should (and no doubt will) be attached to every cloth factory. The apparatus consists of a large wheel like a dash wheel divided into four apartments made of stout rods or wires, and open to the atmosphere around the whole periphery so as to let the cloth or wool in the apartments of the wheel, have free access all around to the same.

Fig. 2.



Fig. 1 is a perspective view and Fig. 2 is a side or end section. The wheel A, has two circular

sides, in one of which are four openings indicated by B. Each opening is an entrance to one of the chambers in the wheel to put in and take out thereby the cloth or wool. Each opening is provided with a lid and by the lower opening the goods are easiest put in and taken out, hence the cover has been left open for this purpose. C, is a small pulley on the shaft of the wheel, and D is a large pulley to drive C at a great speed, by the band passing over the same. E, is the axle. F, is merely a handle to show that D is the main driver. The rods that divide the wheel into apartments extend across securing the two sides of the wheel together, and forming elliptical apartments in the wheel, as exhibited in fig. 2. The cross rods are stout, and are interlaced with finer wires like cage work. There are narrow passages between each apartment at the outside to let the air pass from the outside into the interior of the wheel around the chambers and by the blower to expel the moisture from the goods.

OPERATION.—The wet cloth or wool is put into the chambers, the one filled after the other, and the wheel is then set in motion, when, although the chambers are closely filled with goods, they are dried in a very short period, in fact its results have astonished not only the inventor, but every person who has seen it in operation.

The inventor is Mr. Nelson E. Chaffee, of Ellington, Connecticut, who has applied for a patent, and to whom communications, post paid, may be addressed for further information.

Dancing on a Chimney.

The Fife Herald, Scotland, narrates the antics of a steeple and chimney climber on the top of a chimney stalk at Newton of Abbotshall, 136 feet high. He fixed a plank ten inches broad, and projecting about twelve feet on each side, on the top of the chimney. In the centre of this plank he placed a pole sixteen feet high having a small piece of wood on the top, which he climbed up and stood upright on, holding a flag in his hand. After doing so, he descended to the top of the stalk when he walked out to each end of the plank and struck an axe into them. He then turned about towards the centre, and, to the great alarm of the assembled multitude, stood on his head for some time, and, returning to his feet, he stamped firmly upon the plank on each side of the chimney. He then safely descended head-foremost.

Beware of the Saw.

A hoosier, on a visit to Cincinnati, a few days ago, called on business at a planing machine establishment in the Third Ward. The planing department had not yet been started but a small circular saw, which was set nearly at the edge of the bench, and projected a scant inch above its surface, was in full blast. Mr. Green, as the hoosier may be called, looked around, but finding nobody visible, concluded to seat himself on the bench while awaiting somebody's appearance. Neither noticing nor mistrusting anything, he squatted plumb upon the saw—one spring nearly to the ceiling, and a pitch forward to the floor, indicated his astonishment at finding an incision of six inches in the length of his seat. His cries brought assistance. Dr. Eaton closed the flesh wound, and a skillful tailor that in the pantaloons.

RAIL ROAD NEWS.

South Carolina Railroad.

The business of the South Carolina Railroad shows a large increase in favor of 1848. The gain, as will be seen by the annexed statement is nearly all on freight, which has increased 75 per cent. The following receipts are for July, August, September and October :

	1847.	1848.
Passengers,	65,347	68,725
Freight,	117,084	198,062
Mails, &c.,	15,084	14,489
Total,	197,515	281,276

Increase in 1848, (equal to 43 per cent.,)—\$83,761.

Nashville Tennessee Railroad.

The lettings on the Nashville and Chattanooga Road are being made at a large saving on the estimates, and the road will cost about \$2,000,000, instead of \$3,120,000, as estimated. It is believed that the road will be finished without a dollar of debt, excepting the half million of bonds endorsed by the State of Tennessee. The iron of this road is to weigh 88 to 104 tons to the mile, which is 25 per cent heavier than the original estimate.

Mineral Railway Sleepers.

Two Parisians, Messrs. Chevearuse and Bourent have discovered a new mineral compound, of vulcanized india rubber, graphite and some other substances, which is said to be far superior to wood, or even timber laid on felt.

In America, timber sleepers are best yet, and will be for many years to come. In Europe, where timber is dear, we would decide upon the economy of some other cheaper (if as suitable) a material.

Safety of Railroad Travelling.

The Queen, in her late journey from Scotland, travelled over 400 miles by railway, and when it is known that over this distance her Majesty was conveyed, without any previous notice at the rate of 35 miles an hour including stoppages, at a rate amounting to, but not exceeding, at any time, 30 miles an hour, over a country rising twice to an elevation of 1,000 feet above the level of the sea, and descending at intermediate stations nearly to a level of the sea, so conveyed without the slightest cause of alarm—we may be permitted to say that railway travelling has reached an amount of perfection, regularity, and security, unsurpassable and almost unhoped for.

River Sport.

The most popular boats now running on the Ohio are those drawing the least water. It is a favorite amusement with the steamboats now to jump sand bars. This is accomplished by those crafts which are able to run where the sand is a little damp, holding in their steam till they almost reach the bar, when it is let out and a flying leap is taken that would eclipse anything short of the swoop of an eagle in the air. The men passengers cheer and the ladies wave their handkerchiefs, while the travellers on the several boats lying in the neighborhood aground, pull their hats desperately over their eyes, sigh deeply, and liquor.

Natural Gas.

Mr. Samuel Stedman, of Franklin County, (Ky.) after boring for water at his residence, on Elkhorn, to the depth of ninety-seven feet, nearly all the way through solid rock, struck with the augur a vein of natural gas, which forced its way in a large volume to the surface. Fire being applied to it, it burnt as brilliantly as the best manufactured gas. The Frankfort Yeoman says the quantity which escaped from the augur hole is sufficient to light up a city, and that Mr. Stedman has conveyed it to his house where he has the good fortune to possess a cheap and beautiful light, from nature's great laboratory.