



The Fair of the American Institute.

No. 7.
PREMIUMS AWARDED.
SILVER MEDALS.

Reed & Co. 104 Avenue C, for best Stained Glass.
James Weir 240 Mott-st. for best Ornamental Painting.
Wm. Jeffries, 446 Pearl-st. for Ornamental Painting.
H. S. Farelly, 23 Canal-st. for superior specimens of Scagliola.
A. F. Kinnerley, 64 John-st. for best Wood Engraving.
Sarony & Major, 117 Fulton, for best Lithography.
Call & Foster, Springfield, Mass. for best Night Lock and Latch.
McEwen & Thompson, 54 Goerck-st. best Iron-bound Barrels and Casks.
Leonard & Wendt, 29 & 31 Gold-st, 2d best Tailors' Shears & Scissors.
J. B. Ostrander, 81 Pearl-st for best Butchers' Knives.
Bradshaw & Perlee, 5 Platt-st. for Table Knives and Forks.
Ephram Arnold, for a case of Carpenter's and Cooper's Edge Tools.
Coombs & Anderton, 83 Mercer-st. for Silver Plating.
Levi Brown, Brooklyn, N. Y. for 2d best Gold Pens.
Chas. Goodyear, N. Haven, Conn. Portable Indian Rubber Life Boat.
Hayward Rubber Co. Colchester, Conn. best Indian Rubber Shoes.
D. Eggert & Son, 239 Pearl-st. for Finish on Marine Chronometers.
Marine Clock Co., New Haven, Conn. for Marine Clock.
Benjamin Shaw, 71 Canal-st. for Ladies Boots and Shoes.
D. Mundel, Brooklyn, for best double-soled boots.
G. Hammond, 422 Broadway, for best Light Boots.
Mrs Kendall, 136 Bowery, for best Pamela Bonnets.
Berger & Walter, 39 Maiden-lane for 2d best Plain Cut Glass.
Bennett & Brother, Pittsburgh, Penn. for best Rockingham Ware.
W. Oppitz, 95 Liberty-st. for Glass and Stone engraved ware.
Allcock & Allen, Broadway, for 2d best Candelabras.
Roberts, Eagles & Co. Newark, for best Coach-lamps.
H. S. Woodruff, 24 Cedar-st. for best Trunk.
S. J. Pymm, 256 Third-avenue, for Cart Harness.
Thomas Fitzharris, Brooklyn, for a Ladies Saddle.
S. B. Amory, Goshen, N. Y. for best double barreled Rifle.
Allen & Thurber, [201 Broadway, for best revolving and self-cocking Pistols.
J. W. Leavitt, 261 Water-st. for best compressed Shot and Bullets.
Blunt & Syms, 44 Chatham-st. for best twisted Gun-barrels.
Walter Hunt, N. Y. for self-priming Fire-lock.
Bourgard & Brothers, 5 Frankfort-st. for best Wigs.
S. Dodd, Bloomfield, N. J. for best Bookbinders' Stamps.
Culver & Co. 52 Beekman-st. for 2d best Hot Air Furnace.
Wm Cory, 52 Cliff-st. for best portable Hot Air Furnace.
John Morrison & Son, Troy, N. Y. for best Hall Stove.
Fisk & Raymond, [209 Water-st., for best Air-tight Stove.
Tuttle & Bailey, 210 Water-st. for best Hot Air Register.
Jordan L. Molt, 264 Water-st. for best Cooking Stove.

Will Saltpetre Explode?

A correspondent of the Hartford Times, relating his experience with saltpetre says: "Our insurance companies, as well as those more directly interested, will be anxious to know whether saltpetre, without being intimately compounded with some inflammable substance, will explode? I have been 25 years in the trade and manufacture of the article into gunpowder, and if my experience is of any use, I have yet to learn that saltpetre will explode without some known agent, and that intimately combined. During the time above mentioned, I have had two buildings burned down in both of which saltpetre was stored; one caught fire by accident, and the other was fired by some evil designed person. In both instances there was no explosion, but the fusion of the saltpetre into a liquid, which ran out at the bottom of the building while burning.

I had a man employed to refine saltpetre. He put into a kettle, under which was a strong fire, two or three bags of saltpetre; he forgot to put water to it till it was very hot, and as he added two or three pails of water, an explosion took place, which broke the kettle, or rather cracked it. Neither myself nor the workmen supposed the saltpetre exploded, but the water; for the saltpetre remained in the kettle and the water had escaped. And I am much inclined to think that the explosion would have occurred had there been no saltpetre in the kettle. It is well known that saltpetre in a state of crystallization usually contains a small quantity of water; therefore for gunpowder it is made fine and dried in kettles over a fire. It never occurred to myself or workmen that there was danger of explosion. If you will call at the shops and enquire for sal prunelle, you will be shown small cakes which are made from melted saltpetre and run into moulds.

Some years since, I shipped a quantity of saltpetre at Newport. The sailor-boys took out some to burn (for they thought, like some of the New Yorkers, that it would explode), and set fire to it: it would not burn, but melted and ran on the deck of the vessel. The captain told the boys to pound it fine and add some pulverized coal to it; and it would burn; they did so, and set fire to it: It burned, but rather slowly. Another agent was wanted to make an explosion.

I have for several years manufactured green glass and occasionally white glass, and always used saltpetre (in connexion with other articles) for a flux. There was no explosion; even the escaping of the flux would continue for 14 hours, or until after the glass became clear and fit to blow."

[This is the right kind of information on the subject—plain and practical—Ed.]

Extraordinary Case.

There fell under our observation yesterday, says the Kingston, (Ulster Co.) Journal, the most singular case of disease we ever witnessed. The subject is a man named Snyder, aged 35 years, residing in the town of Wawarsing in this county. Four months ago he had an attack of sickness, but recovered and was to all appearance entirely healed. About a fortnight after his recovery he was seized with drowsiness, and for some time after slept nearly two-thirds of the day. This increased until he would sleep two or three days without waking. When we saw him yesterday he was continuing an uninterrupted sleep of 5 days. His pulse is regular though not very full; his respiration is easy and natural, and his skin moist and cool. If food or drink be placed in his mouth he swallows it, and he walks when led by the hand and slightly supported. Tuesday last he awoke from a sleep of two days, spoke a few words, struck a lady who was in the room violently with a chair, and almost immediately afterward sunk into his present slumber. He has been sent to the New York Hospital.

According to Haller, women bear hunger longer than men; according to Plutarch, they can resist the effects of wine better; according to Unger, they grow older and are never bald; according to Pliny, they are seldom attacked by lions, (on the contrary they will run after lions) and, according to Gunter, they can talk a few!

Anthracite Coal in Onondaga County.

The Syracuse Star mentions the discovery of a bed of Anthracite near the town of Camillus, Onondaga Co.,—in appearance precisely similar to the Pennsylvania production. The land upon which the coal has been discovered is about a mile and a half south of the village in a hilly though fertile section. Col. Bull who is proprietor of the farm, and lives upon it, has long contended that coal existed in the vicinity, and uniformly gave as his reason for such belief that he had frequently found lignite (a mineral substance which always forms the upper strata of coal-beds,) in large quantities on different parts of the farm and other places in the vicinity. The belief he has always maintained notwithstanding the opinions of geologists were against him. A few weeks since, it was resolved to put the Colonel's favorite theory to the test, and the result was, that by digging some six or eight feet, a stratum of lignite was found, and farther to the dept of some fourteen feet, strata of pure Anthracite Coal appeared on all sides. Since that time, coal has been taken from the "mine" in considerable quantities and some pieces, which have been brought to the village of Camillus, will weigh nearly or quite 100 pounds. To all appearance, thus far the coal is as exhaustless as the earth in which it lies embedded, says the Star.

This discovery will prove very valuable to that section of the country—provided every thing is just as stated; all which is yet to be seen.

We have known a valuable coal bed turn out to be black slate. This may yet be the case with the Onondaga coal, but we hope not.

To take Ink out of Linen.

"Take a piece of tallow, melt it, and dip the spotted part of the linen into the melted tallow. It may then be washed and the spots will disappear without injuring the linen."

The above receipt is not correct, and we wish to correct it, because it has had some circulation. The tallow will do no harm but it will do as little good. The best thing to take ink stains out of linen is oxalic acid. A few crystals should be put on the stain, and warm water poured on them—making a little kind of bag in the linen to prevent the crystals being carried off, but to allow them to dissolve on the spot. The acid looks like epsom salts, and is a poison—therefore should be kept out of the reach of children. This acid will also take stains out of furniture, but it will leave a yellow mark in mahogany. From experience, we can state positively that nothing can equal this acid for erasing iron spots from linen with so little injury to the fabric.

How to Cook Salt Cod.

If very dry, it should be soaked for six hours in soft water, then placed upon a brick or stone floor for eight hours, soaked again for six hours longer, and then brushed with a hard brush. Under this treatment the most stubborn fish will swell considerably if boiled gently in soft water; two separate soakings are better than one however continuous, since the alternate expansion and contraction loosen the fibres of the fish and occasion it to come off in finer flakes. It is generally served up with parsnips and egg-sauce and may be warmed the next day, separated into flakes and put into a good sauce with chopped eggs at the top, and a wall of mashed potatoes or parsnips all around.

Coat of Arms.

Theodore Parker, in a late sermon, said that the grandfathers of many men, who now-a-days are studying heraldry to get at their patent of nobility, had not even a coat to their arms. Barnum, who has adopted a "coat of arms," with the motto, "love God and be merry," obtained it by a short Yankee cut, which cost him no search into pedigree. While in Paris some time ago, the effects of a deceased Russian Ambassador, Prince T—, were sold at auction. Several English and other noblemen were at the sale, but as the gold, silver and porcelain ware bore the arms and initials of the Prince, no one but Barnum would bid for it. The consequence was he got a superb bargain. To the initials P. T., signify Prince T—, he added the letter B., adopted the coat of arms, and thus became a nobleman at once.

Wire and Hemp Ropes—Their Comparative Strength.

An experiment was recently tried in England, at the Woolwich Dockyard, to ascertain the comparative strength of wire and hemp ropes. A wire rope, three inches round, and a hemp rope of three strands, hawser laid, common make, seven inches round were spliced together, and placed in the testing machine and on the hydraulic power being applied the hemp rope broke in the middle on the strain reaching 11½ tons—the wire rope remaining apparently as strong as when the experiment commenced. A wire rope, 3½ inches round, was then applied with an eight-inch hemp shroud rope, and on the power being applied, again the hemp rope broke in the middle, with a strain of 10½ tons, the wire rope continuing apparently uninjured.—This is considered a very satisfactory experiment.

Artful Robbers.

The robbers who stole the government jewels at Washington hit upon a successful expedient to avoid being heard. The articles stolen were kept in a double case, the glass of which had been broken to reach them.—For fear of making a noise, the robbers first spread a piece of pink blotting paper with gum arabic, and pasted it to the outer glass; with a knife or piercer the glass was broken by prying it around the edges. The fragments adhered to the paper, and were thus silently removed.

Human Life Estimated by Pulsation.

An ingenious author asserts that the length of a man's life may be estimated by the number of pulsations he has strength to perform. Thus, allowing seventy years for the common age of man, and sixty pulses in a minute for a temperate person, the number of pulsations in his whole life would amount to 2,207,520,000; but if by intemperance he forces his blood in a more rapid motion, so as to give seventy-five pulses in a minute, the number of pulses would be completed in fifty years, consequently his life would be reduced fourteen years.

Gas in Buffalo.

The new Gas Works at Buffalo, N. Y. are now in full and successful operation, and the gas was to have been let into the pipes, ready for lighting on the evening of Wednesday, the 8th inst. The apparatus ready for operation is capable of manufacturing gas sufficient to supply a city of 150,000 inhabitants. To make what will be necessary for daily consumption the present year, will require about 4½ tons of coal in every twenty-four hours. A creditable specimen of Buffalo enterprise and liberality.

Important Decision for Odd Fellows in Britain.

Sheriff Bell, of Glasgow, has given judgment in the long pending case of Aitken against an Odd-fellows' Lodge, which seriously affects the position of all such associations in the eye of the law. The learned sheriff finds that such societies not conformed to statute have not only no legal standing but where they exist, do so in defiance of the law. Sheriffs Alison and Skene concur in the decision. These gentlemen are all eminent for legal abilities.

A New Trade.

A firm in Milwaukee shipped for the New York market one hundred barrels of pulverized bones. This is a new trade, and the preparation of bones for manure in this country will doubtless become a matter of attention before many years.

A Gold Mine is said to have been discovered on the lands of G. S. Allison, in North Haverstraw, Rockland county, N. Y. The ore yields three-fifths gold and two-fifths silver, each ton of ore producing one hundred dollars worth of the pure metals. The mine is about to be worked.

"As well might the farmer have the Venus de Medicis placed in his kitchen for a wife as some of our fashionable women." Indeed, it would be much better to have Lot's wife standing there, for she might answer one useful purpose; she might salt his bacon!