



The Fair of the American Institute.

No. 8.
PREMIUMS AWARDED.
SILVER MEDALS.

Callahan & Wilson, Albany, for a Cooking Stove.
Mrs. C. Van Epps, Ovid, N. Y. for best Silk Cocoons.
S. O. Loomis, Windsor, Conn. for best Sewing Silk.
New York Dying Establishment, 45 John-st. for best Silk Twist.
Court & Dechaux, 579 Greenwich-st. for best Silk Dying.
J. H. Wood, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. for best Sleigh.
Geo. D. Underhill, 162 Mercer-st. for Light Wagon.
Henry J. Kip, Newark, N. J. for Farm Wagon.
E. Davis, Jersey City, for Dirt Cart
Wands & Tremere, 210 Water-st. for 2d best Cooking Stove with Boiling Apparatus attached.
Lecount & Ward, 165 Chrystie-st. for Cart.
James N. Jerolaman, Newark, N. J. for best Coach Axles.
Harrison & Breese, Newark, for best Mail Axles.
Jones, White & Co. N. Y. for best Artificial Teeth.
J. B. Richards, 43 Eldridge-st. for workmanship on House's Magnetic Telegraph.
J. Atwood, 183 Broadway. for Elliptical Compass.
Benjamin. Pike, Jr. 294 Broadway, for Air Pump.
Gregg & Rupp, 120 Water-st. for Nautical and Surveying Instruments.
W. W. Rose, 19 Wall-st. for the best Blank Books.
J. C. Koch, 183 William-st. for best Book-Binding.
Platner & Smith, Lee, Mass. for best Letter Paper.
John Campbell & Co. 110 Nassau-st., for Hardware Paper made from Manilla Grass.
Richard Smith, 327 Stanton-st. for Parchment and Vellum.
Mathaniel Fean, 374 Bleeker-st. for Family and Fancy Bellows.
Waterbury Brass Co. Waterbury, Ct. for Brass Kettles.
John Morrow, Paterson, N. J. for Printers' Blankets & Papermakers' Felts.
E. B. Force, Red Mills, N. J. for Printers' Blankets.
Z. M. Quimby, 302½ Broadway, for best Shell Combs.
C. Coles, 187 Broadway, for best Morocco Cases.
B. J. Williams, Philad'a, for Fancy narrow Flat Venetian Window Blinds.
W. E. Bose, 300 Broadway, for Gold and Silver Mouted Cases.
John Bruce, 24 Platt-st. for Steel and Copper Plates.
W. D. Smith & Son, 1 Ann-st. for prepared Oil-Stone.
Isaac Edge, jr. Jersey City, for best display of Fireworks. Silver Cup, \$15.
John W. Hardfield, Williamsburg, for 2d best display of Fireworks. Do. \$10.
J. Gurney, 189 Broadway, for best Daguerreotype Likenesses.
J. & J. C. Conroy, 54 Fulton-st. for best Fishing Tackle of all kinds.
A. W. Metcalf, 63 and 65 Centre-st, for very superior Brass Cocks.
Bruno & Clinchard, 53 Mechanic-st. Newark, N. J. for superior Files.
Reeford Glass Co, Clinton Co. N. Y. for Crown Window Glass.
H. P. & W. C. Taylor, Pbila. for best Transparent and Fancy Soaps.
Wm. Blake, Akron, Ohio, for best Fire and Water Proof Paint.
Smith & Curlett, Balt Md.—John P. Veeder, Agent, 88 Fourth-st.—for best adamantine Candles.

Tripoli for Polishing.

Of all the substances which have been applied to polish glass and metal none can equal that substance known by the name of Tripoli. It is a natural production, and was first brought from Africa to Italy by the Venetians and used by them in their palmy days of glass making, to give it that peculiar polish so much admired by other nations. Under the name of Italian Tripoli, its reputation has become world wide. But the same substance and a superior article to the imported Italian was discovered about a year ago, we believe, near Saco in Maine. The bed discovered is very narrow, but of rare quality and from what we know of it, we are positive that no other substance can equal it for the purposes we have stated. It should be in every family and in every workshop. We believe that its qualities are not generally known and we take this opportunity to speak of its merits, believing that many of our readers and others will be glad of the information.

The Manufacturing Agent of the Mount Eagle Tripoli Company, is Geo. N. Cheever, No. 21 Dock Square, Boston. The powder is put up in neat packages with full directions how to use it. Its price is from 10 to 15 cents per package and every person who has steel, iron, brass, or a reflector to polish up, should never have a package far from their elbows.

Singular Circumstance.

There resides in Delaware, some few miles from Templesville, Md., in Queen Ann county, a respectable farmer, having a daughter, now about eleven years old, who, until attaining her fifth year, labored under an impediment of speech, which was thought incurable. At that time, for some trifling indiscretion, her mother spoke quickly and sharply to her and boxed her ears; singular to relate from that moment, for four months, the child never uttered a word. At the expiration of that time however, when the afflicted mother had become almost frantic at her supposed instrumentality in depriving her child even of her impaired speech, this faculty was again restored—and what is still more incomprehensible, without the slightest impediment of any kind—a blessing which she uninterruptedly enjoys to the present time.

The Late Transit of Mercury.

On Thursday the 9th ult., agreeably to the predictions of astronomers, the sun rose with the planet just entered on its disc, and with only occasional interruptions of thin clouds, remained visible till the time of the end, a few minutes before 11 o'clock A. M.

The duties of the Cincinnati Observatory were not neglected. At the invitation of the Director, Messrs. Walker, Yarball and Pourtales made such observations of this interesting phenomenon as were suited to the occasion, and recorded in the Journal of the Observatory. It is but three years and a half since the great telescope was erected. The first use made of it was to observe the transit of Mercury on the Palo Alto anniversary on the 8th of May, 1847. The longitude of the observatory by that transit has received no correction till the recent comparison of it with the Atlantic observatories through the aid of the telegraph. We learn that the longitude obtained by Prof. Mitchell on that occasion, has needed only a change of about a quarter of a minute of time to conform to the most recent result.

It seems somewhat strange, that, in the present perfection of the science of Astronomy, an error of some three minutes should be committed by computers, in assigning the time of the end of the transit. Three minutes, however, is better than half an hour—the ordinary error of such work at the commencement of the century.

The Body Rendered Fire Proof.

Tanacre a Neapolitan physician states that the human body can be rendered insensible to fire by the following embrocation being applied. One ounce and a half of glue dissolved in four ounces of hot water; to this add an ounce of fish glue, and half an ounce of gum arabic.

This is a receipt which we have selected and must say that it is of doubtful progeny and more doubtful veracity, and we think this is a caution enough to copyists.

Compressed Air Locomotion on Common Roads.

The London Mining Journal says that a third trial was made a short time ago for testing the capabilities of Baron Von Rathen's compressed air locomotive for working the air expansively and which operated very well although there was one or two leaks which subtracted somewhat from the real power.—As it was, however, the carriage, weighing 3 tons, and carrying from 25 to 30 persons, started in good style, and kept pace with former experiments, as to time and distance: the motion was very regular, and the machinery stood well—the only casualty being the above leakage. The patentee considers he has now completely solved the problem of the practicability of employing compressed air in locomotion, and regulating it as to distance, speed, load, nature of road, &c.—on which, with the greater or less perfection in the construction of the machinery, its success, of course, depends. He is prepared to show to mathematical demonstration, that he can embody sufficient power in this model air-carriage to carry 4½ tons, including carriage, 10 miles in one hour on common roads, or a train of 45 tons in the same time the same distance on a railroad; but if carried out on a large scale on the latter, he contends that the system would effect a saving of 75 per cent over the steam locomotive.

The Ball Axletree.

This is simply a groove turned in the axle, and a corresponding groove in the box, into which groove are dropped one or two steel balls, so contrived that one-half of the ball is always in the groove of the box, and the other half in the groove of the axle—thus preventing the possibility of the wheel coming loose, and in a considerable degree reducing the friction. The box is perfectly air-tight, and contains a considerable quantity of oil, and the process of removing the wheel when necessary is reduced to the very extreme of simplicity.

It is simply anti-friction balls, which have long been employed in shafting, applied to the axle of a carriage. The great difficulty with them lies in their being apt to wear uneven from inequalities in the metal.

Galvanic Sheeting for Ships.

In 1827, by the advice of Sir Humphrey Davy, the English Admiralty caused the copper sheathing of vessels to be covered with a certain number of plates of zinc, in order to oppose, by a galvanic action, the rapid corrosion of the metal in sea-water, particularly on some parts of the coast of Africa. But this expedient had soon to be abandoned, because considerable deposits of shells and agglutinated sand encrusted the vessel so rapidly, that its progress was retarded. The galvanic action in this case accelerated the phenomenon. The copper, rendered negatively electrical by the pile formed by the superimposed zinc and copper, attracted the insoluble bases, the magnesia and lime, held in solution in the sea-water, and the side of the vessel began to be covered with carbonate of lime and magnesia, the shells and sand being then precipitated on these earthy deposits.

Sea Weed for Manure.

It is a common thing for farmers on the sea coast of Connecticut and Massachusetts, to manure their fields from the produce of old ocean. During storms both sea weed and fish are frequently thrown upon the shore and sometimes the weed is gathered from the rocks, far below the surface of the water, by those who make it a business during the proper season for the purpose of selling to the farmers. The fish are principally the moss-bunkers, that come upon the whole Eastern coast in countless shoals during the summer months. But with these a great variety of others are brought to shore in the capacious nets that are used. Young sharks in considerable numbers are sometimes taken at a single haul, and are more appropriately employed in feeding corn to feed children, than feeding on them. The practice above noted has raised the price of land from \$15 or \$20 per acre to \$75 and \$100. It shows conclusively, the advantage to be derived by an intelligent husbandry, whose attention is awake to every object that can be enlisted for the promotion of its interests.

Holden's Dollar Magazine.

The December No. of our favorite is before us replete with instruction and amusement as usual. It is certainly a splendid number and though it bears no comparison to the January number (the proof sheets of which we have seen) it is yet the handsomest one yet issued. The frontispiece is certainly one of the finest specimens of Wood engravings ever seen in this country. We cannot too highly extol the meritorious qualities of this publication. In the year it has secured the enviable title of the "Blackwood of America," and seems determined to excel next year its previous reputation. It is essentially an American Magazine and as such should meet the warm encouragement of American mechanics, farmers and laborers, and no doubt will eventually secure the largest circulation of any similar publication in the world. Published by C. W. Holden, 109 Nassau street.

Gold Smelting.

The silver and gold smelting establishment of Mr. John Warwick in this city, now does a business of \$3,000 a week. It is the largest Gold smelting works in the United States. Ores of all kinds and hundreds of barrels of Jewellers' sweepings, old crucibles, &c., are taken there to be ground up and have the gold extracted. After being twice refined the gold is feathered in water and returned in its purest state to the owner.

Factories in the West.

The Quarterly Review of the Methodist Church, contemplates the time when manufacturing will crowd the shores of the Ohio. It says:—

"The abundance of cheap fuel for the production of motive power—the proximity to the cotton growing region—and to a market for coarse cottons, extending from the Mississippi to the Pacific, and from the falls of St. Anthony to the centre of Mexico—the profusion and cheapness of all that is needed for the sustenance of man and beast—the rapid increase of population, eager to achieve a fortune more easily and rapidly than by the small and slow returns of agriculture, are considerations which render it impossible to doubt that other Lowell than that which skill and enterprise have constructed where the disadvantages were incalculable, must spring up naturally and almost spontaneously, where the advantages are so conspicuous."

What is here said by the Review applies with double force to the South. We trust that such truths, which are rung so constantly in the ears of the South, will at last exhibit themselves in action.

British Steamers at Mobile.

We learn from the Mobile Register that arrangements have been made by which the British steamers will soon call regular at Mobile Point, on their way to and back from the West India Islands. This line of steamships annually consumes, it is said, about \$450,000 worth of coal; two thirds of which will be taken from the coal fields of Alabama.

Five hundred tons of copper arrived in this city from Valparaiso three weeks ago. It is the first of a new kind of trade with South America, and the United States, heretofore the copper and ore of South America was all sent to England, now it has begun to take a different route. The smelting business in the United States, (of all kinds of metals) is but in its infancy and we commend the science, for a deep science it is, to the study of our people.

The Queen and Prince Albert have appeared in rather new characters, suitors in the Court of Chancery, seeking to prevent piracy of their etching and drawings by one of the publishers in Paternoster-row. An injunction to restrain the publication has been granted.

Of the 56,000 square miles embraced in the limits of the Prairie State, (Illinois) 50,000 are fertile and arable—an amount equal to the whole territory of New England, excepting Vermont.

Great efforts are now making throughout this and other States, to bring about a universal Ten Hour factory system. The manufacturers are not opposed to it but favorable, only they wish a general system for fair play.

The Electric Telegraph.

No. 6.

In our last number we published an account of the first Alphabet Telegraph, published in 1841 and invented in 1839. The American Printing Telegraph is the invention of Mr. Royal House, patented in 1846, but invented some years before. The invention of Mr. House although complicated, is a very perfect machine, and here we would remark that "it is not always the simplicity of a machine that constitutes its chief merit." If simplicity alone was the basis of merit, then would the engine of Hero entitle him to rank superior as an inventor, to James Watt, a thing which no mechanic will allow. Mr. House's Telegraph prints messages in Roman characters, thus giving it the advantage of sending messages either in English, French or Italian, without the necessity of employing a person to translate, and beside it is not conventional in regard to the language of the message, which is not the case with an alphabet known only to the operators. When this invention was first brought before the public it met with much opposition, and the well known Mr. Smith made a very foolish public bet, that it would not operate. It has, however, been long in successful operation between this city and Philadelphia, and it transmits messages with wonderful rapidity—a rapidity which surprises every person who is not acquainted with its mode of operation. The type which prints the messages is placed upon a small wheel which moves horizontally like the type wheel described in our last number, but this wheel is moved—kept continually in motion by mechanical power—not electro magnetic, and the letters on it are detained to print by a key board like that of a piano, hence the type wheel may speed round with the greatest velocity and the letters can be printed just as quick as the key board can be operated to break and close the circuit—but mark this—it prints a letter respectively when the circuit is closed and when it is broken, presenting a new feature in combination with the electro magnet in telegraphing, viz. that the electro magnet is not "employed as a motive power to record marks." This is done by a combination of a peculiar escapement in combination with the type wheel and magnets. Prof. Henry we understand has pronounced it to be essentially different from the Electro Magnetic Telegraph of Morse and to be very ingenious. At some future period we hope to be able to publish a full description with illustrative engravings of this invention. We have said enough at present to distinguish its principle from the electro defective and electro magnet telegraph, neither of which could be applied in any shape or manner to accomplish the same results, and this is a very good way to distinguish the difference between inventions, as it shows that there is no new modification in the difference, but an essential principle. A somewhat animated war of published letters took place last year in London, respecting Mr. House's Telegraph, between Mr. Jacob Brett and a correspondent under an assumed name in the London Mechanics Magazine, and the Patent Journal. At present the company to whom this telegraph belongs between this city and Philadelphia are doing a good business and it is fast increasing, so much so that a double line of wires is now being erected and in the course of next summer, there will be a new line to Boston and one to Buffalo.

The Telegraph Controversy.

There has been a bitter controversy going on lately in our newspapers about Telegraphs. The Tribune in this city, and the Louisville, (Ky.) Journal, have been perhaps the most distinguished for publishing various communications from different persons. We paid particular attention to all the articles as they appeared, and we are convinced that the parties who wrote the articles were self-interested, and in that case they unconscious to themselves exhibited a biased judgment. The controversy between O'Reilly and the Western Agents of Mr. Morse, we believe is settled definitely by law in favor of Mr. Morse—the case we believe was a fair infringement of Morse's Patent, but there is another telegraph controversy and a very different one at present and one

which we believe the public does not understand from such articles as have lately appeared in too many papers throughout our country. The controversy relates to the Electro Chemical Telegraph.

Our readers will remember that when Mr. Bain the inventor of the Electric Clock, which has attracted so much attention in this and other countries, arrived here in the month of May last with his electro chemical telegraph, we with others were invited to examine and see its operations. As nothing of the kind had ever been exhibited here before, we desiring always to present something new to our readers, got up an engraving of it, which will be found on Pages 273 and 276 Vol. 3, Scientific American.

A short time after Mr. Bain arrived here—how long we cannot tell,—he made application for a Patent to the Commissioner at Washington. Mr. Bain's 2d English Patent for improvements on the electro chemical telegraph is dated Dec. the 12th, 1846, and an abstract of his specification is to be found in the London Patent Journal. It seems that Prof. Morse lodged a caveat for an improvement on the electro chemical telegraph in January 1847, and he had applied for a Patent a few days before Mr. Bain. Owing to this being the case, Mr. Bain has been prevented from securing a patent before this time, and a controversy has grown out of the matter at issue, which matter at issue has been kept from the public and wrong views presented. We have actually been surprised at the great number of *ex parte* paragraphs that have appeared in various papers lately, calculated to mislead the public mind. The question at issue is this. When Mr. Bain's application for a patent was examined, he was told, after it has passed through the hands of Mr. Page the Examiner, that it conflicted with the application for a patent for an electro chemical telegraph, by Prof. Morse, who had filed a caveat for it on the 20th January 1847, and applied for a patent not until 1848, what month we are not positive, January we believe. Mr. Bain got an English Patent thirty-nine days before Mr. Morse had his caveat filed. Mr. Bain's specification was not enrolled until June 1847, and Mr. Morse's not until January 1848. The conflicting point in the two applications, was for operating the electro chemical telegraph by the single circuit alone. The commissioner decided against Mr. Bain, grounding his decision upon the consideration that the time of Mr. Bain's enrolment was the true date of his invention and the time of Mr. Morse filing his caveat, the true date of his invention. This decision is a question of privilege, and we do not wish to say a single word against it, but we regret it, and could give good and just reasons for our regret.

The adverse decision was heralded very extensively throughout the country, and a correspondent in the Hamilton Gazette in Canada West, who neither understood the merits of the case, nor the principle of the invention in a long article denounced both it and Mr. House's telegraph as *too complicated to be useful*.

On Wednesday the 22d, Mr. Bain published a card in the National Intelligencer which was copied in the N. Y. Tribune on the 24th ult. stating that Mr. Bain had made application for a patent for his electro chemical telegraph of 1843, and that the commissioner had ordered it to be issued. But lo and behold right below Mr. Bain's card, was published the adverse decision of the commissioner regarding his application, but no date to it. This appeared to us somewhat singular and we could not understand it. But on Monday last Mr. Bain published a card in the Tribune of this City stating that the decision referred to was made more than a month ago. How it came to be placed below the inventor's card, does not look well for the paper that first published it. But the whole disputed point seems to be covered by the first patent of Mr. Bain, as in his last card he says it *transmits intelligence with great rapidity by a single circuit*. As the principle of the electro telegraph is exciting much attention at present we will end this article by stating that Mr. Bain is not the first inventor of the electro chemical telegraph nor does he claim to be. Neither is Prof. Morse. More about this in our next.

Indian Arrow-Poison.

Snake-like in form, the Urari, or Indian arrow-poison, winds itself around and among the huge trees, fantastically shaped, that spring from the deep fissures in the mountain rock, and often reaches to a height of forty feet before it divides into branches, which are densely covered with a rust-colored hair. The poisonous principle resides chiefly in the bark of the plant, which is stripped off, steeped in water for a certain time, simmered, and evaporated to the thickness of a syrup. It is then fit for use. "As much as I had heard of the fatal poison," says Professor Schomburch, "I nevertheless cannot abstain from noting the astonishment by which I was seized on seeing it used for the first time. While travelling, a deer was discovered browsing in the grass before us. One of the Indians took a poisoned spike, and fixed it to his arrow. Cautiously he stole upon the unsuspecting deer, and shot the arrow into its neck; it made a jump in the air, fled with the speed of the wind before us, but had scarcely run forty yards, when it fell to the ground and expired." It will kill the strongest bull in four or five minutes; and lizards and rats wounded with it died immediately. It may appear strange that this poison may be taken into the stomach with impunity. The writer relates that, when suffering from ague, and happening to be without quinine he took frequently the urari in doses of "about as much as I could get on the point of a knife." The stomach, in fact, digests the poison, and thereby alters its properties before it reaches the blood. It is also well known that the flesh of animals killed with the urari is quite innocent for the same reason.

The Pulque of Mexico.

The maguay, American aloe—Agave Americana—is cultivated over an extent of country embracing 50,000 square miles. In the city of Mexico alone, the consumption of pulque amounts to the enormous quantity of eleven millions of gallons per annum, and a considerable revenue from its sale is derived by government. The plant attains maturity in a period varying from eight to fourteen years, when it flowers; and it is during the stage of inflorescence only that the saccharine juice is extracted. The central stem which encloses the incipient flower is then cut off near the bottom, and a cavity or basin is discovered, over which the surrounding leaves are drawn close and tied. Into this reservoir the juice distils, which otherwise would have risen to nourish and support the flower. It is removed three or four times during the twenty-four hours, yielding a quantity of liquor varying from a quart to a gallon and a half. The juice is extracted by means of a syphon, made of a species of gourd called acojote, one end of which is placed in the liquor, the other in the mouth of the person, who by suction draws up the fluid into the pipe, and deposits it in the bowls he has with him for the purpose. It is then placed in earthen jars, and a little old pulque—madre de pulque—is added, when it soon ferments, and is immediately ready for use. The fermentation occupies two or three days, and when it ceases, the pulque is in fine order. Old pulque has a slightly unpleasant odor; but when fresh, is brisk and sparkling, and the most cooling, refreshing, and delicious drink that ever was invented for thirsty mortals.

The Burning Well.

A correspondent of the Presbyterian, Louisville (Ky.) gives the following brief account of a subterranean fire in Eastern Texas.

"There is a very singular circumstance in Shelby county, Texas, of a well that has been burning about twelve months, at the former residence of Judge Lusk. When he moved from the place he laid some logs over the well, from which he had used water for several years. Some time after the woods caught fire and the timber burning fell in, and ignited some substance, supposed to be stone coal. The rainy season has not extinguished it, but it has burnt incessantly. It does not give out a very agreeable feeling to the visitor; for it is neither sublime nor beautiful; but from the deep grumbling noise that is heard—the sulphurous smell, and the dark cloud of smoke, that is continually rising, a

beholder is forcibly convinced that there is actually fire and brimstone in the subterranean regions. Various results are conjectured; perhaps some geologist can give comfort to the anxious minds of the surrounding inhabitants by showing what will be the final termination of the Burning Well."

Ornament in Dress Sometimes Good.

The following is a passage in a letter from Mr. Franklin to Mr. Benjamin Vaughan, dated at Passy, July 26th, 1784. The Doctor is writing upon the benefits and evils of luxury—and says:

"The skipper of a shallop, employed between Cape May and Philadelphia, had done us some service, for which he refused to be paid. My wife, understanding that he had a daughter, sent her a present of a new fashionable cap. Three years after, this skipper being at my house with an old farmer of Cape May, his passenger, he mentioned the cap and how much his daughter had been pleased with it. 'But,' said he, 'it proved a dear cap to our congregation.' 'How so?' 'When my daughter appeared with it at meeting, it was so much admired, that all the girls resolved to get such caps from Philadelphia; and my wife and I computed that the whole would not have cost less than one hundred pounds.' 'True,' said the farmer, 'but you do not tell all the story.' I think the cap was nevertheless an advantage to us, for it was the first thing that put our girls upon knitting worsted mittens for sale at Philadelphia, that they might have wherewithal to buy caps and ribbons there; and you know that industry has continued, and is likely to continue and increase to a much greater value, and answer better purposes.' Upon the whole, I was more reconciled to this little piece of luxury, since not only the girls were made happier by having fine caps, but Philadelphia by the supply of warm mittens."

Geological Changes.—Past and Present.

All the researches of modern geology seem to prove that nothing is changed in the order of nature and that the same causes which operated in the first ages of the world, are still influencing the occurrences which take place under our own eyes. Certain facts, however, have hitherto appeared not to be referable to this common origin; and the petrification of organic remains, in the midst of geological formations, is daily adduced as one of the most weighty arguments against the general law.

Few persons, indeed, will be ready to admit, what however, is an indisputable fact, that there are now forming, in the bosom of seas, petrifications which in the double respect of chemical composition and mode of petrifications, are altogether analogous to those which are formed in the ancient sea bed. To demonstrate this general fact, and to study the phenomena by means of which it is brought about, M. Marcel Sederres and M. L. Figuera have contributed valuable memoirs to the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*.

An Ancient Dahlia.

In the travels of Lord Lindsay, the noble author states, that, in the course of his wandering amid the pyramids of that patriarchal and interesting land, (Egypt,) he stumbled on a mummy proved by its hieroglyphics to be at least two thousand years of age. In examining the mummy after it was unwrapped, he found in one of the closed hands a tuberous or bulbous root. He was interested in the question how long vegetable life could last and he therefore took the tuberous root from the mummy's hand, planted it in a sunny soil, allowed the rains and dews of heaven to descend upon it, and in the course of a few weeks, to his astonishment and joy, the root burst forth and bloomed in a beautiful dahlia.

Curious Icelandic Plants.

Many of the plants of Iceland grow to an unnatural size, close to the hot springs.—Thyme grows in the cracks of the basin of the Great Geyser, where every other plant is petrified; and a species of chara flourishes and bears seed in a spring hot enough to boil an egg!

The number of staves made in Cincinnati during the last year amounts to 86,000—of which 53,000 were exported.