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See advertisement on last page.

Poetry.

THE FISHERMAN.

BY JOHN SAXE.

There lived an honest fisherman,
I knew him passing well,
Who dwelt hard by a little pond,
Within a little dell.
A grave and quiet man was he,
Who loved his hook and rod ;
So even ran his line of life,
His neighbors thought it odd.

For science and for books, he said
He never had a wish ;
No school with him was worth a fig,
Except a " school of fish"
The single minded fisherman
A double calling had—
To tend his flock in winter time
In summer fish for shad.

In short this honest fisherman
All other toils forsook,
And though no vagrant man was he,
He lived by "hook and crook."
All day that fisherman would sit
Upon an ancient log,
And gaze into the water, like
Some sedentary frog.

A cunning fisherman was he,
His angles were all right,
And when he scratched his aged poll
You'd know he'd got a bite,
To charm the fish he never spoke,
Although his voice was fine,
He found the most convenient way,
Was just to "drop a line."

And many a "gudgeon" of the pond,
If made to speak to-day,
Would own, with grief, this angler had
A mighty "taking way."
One day, while fishing on a log,
He mourned his want of luck,
When suddenly he felt a bite,
And jerking—caught a duck.

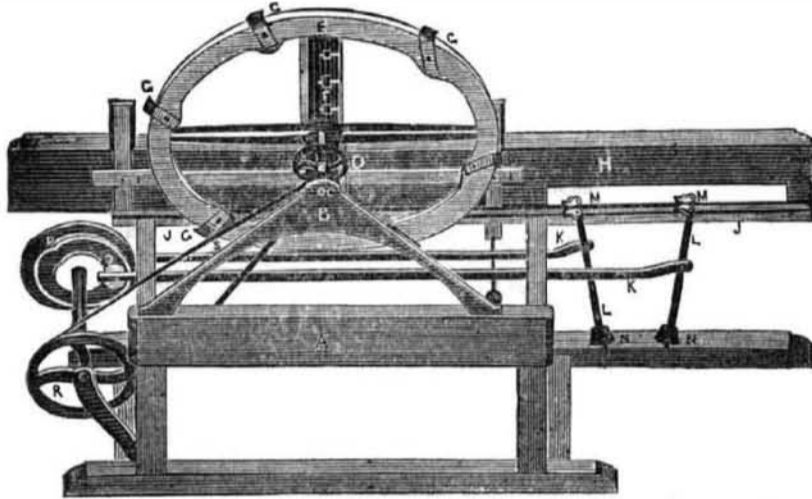
Alas, that day the fisherman
Had taken too much grog,
And being but a landsman, too,
He couldn't "keep the log."
In vain he strove with all his might,
And tried to gain the shore ;
Down, down, he went, to feed the fish
He'd baited oft before !

The moral of this mournful tale
To all is plain and clear ;
A single "drop too much," of rum
May make a watery bier,
And he who will not "sign the pledge,"
And keep the promise fast,
May be, in spite of fate, a stiff
Cold water man at last !

How to Catch Rats.

A Yankee has just invented a method to catch rats. He says : locate your bed in a room much infested by these animals, and on retiring put out the light. Then strew over your pillow some strong smelling cheese, three or four red herring, some barley meal or new malt, and a sprinkling of dried codfish. Keep awake till you find the rats at work, and then make a grab.

IMPROVEMENT IN PLANING MACHINES.



This is an improvement on the Bramah machine, presented by Mr. D. Barnum of this city, who has taken measures to secure a patent.

DESCRIPTION.—Letter A, shows the main frame ; B, the standard for the support of the shaft C, upon which is seen the driving pulley D, and the face disk E, with two long or broad smoothing knives or finishers F F, the edges of which are in a line at right angles to the axis C. The finishers are placed within the radius of the gauge cutters G ; of them there are six more or less, for the purpose of taking off the surplus thickness preparatory to the action of the finishers. H, is a curved fence the lines of which diverge from a parallel line with the face disk, from the middle of the disk to the end of the machine each way. I and J, are gauges fitted with a tongue and groove to correspond with the edges of the board and adapted to the curve of the fence so as to hold and spring the board to be planed around the curve as it passes through the machine, an effect which cannot be produced by pressure rollers, as the end of the board, after leaving the first roller would run into the back part of the wheel and be destroyed. K K, are connecting levers between the uprights L L, and the double cams P, (one only of which is seen.) M M, are eccentric clamps on the top of rocker feeders L L, attached to the frame by a pivot vertical axis at the rocker or curved bottom N N. These rockers are so graduated in curvature as to give a parallel motion to M M, as they operate on the board alternately, thereby giving it a uniform progressive motion. R and S, is a pulley and band to operate the feed motion.

The above cut and description exhibit im-

provements in the Bramah Planing Machine, which from practical operation has produced work, we are told, both in quality and quantity surpassed by no other machine. It is well known that there is great legal contention respecting planing machines. In respect to this one, we express no opinion, and only refer our readers to the opinion of Judge Kane, to be found on page 110 No. 14, this vol. Scientific American, and judge for themselves.—The opinion of the Judge is an able one, and he decided that there is a substantial difference between the face disk and the cylinder of the Woodworth patent. The knives on the disk he classifies as "chisel planes"—those on the Woodworth planing wheel as "adzes"—the one operates by shaving the surface—the other by chipping. The cutters on the Woodworth planing machine are essentially a series of adzes. "They cut," he says, "with a dubbing motion, cutting in vertical curves like the adze not in plane surfaces—like the chisel plane and its combinations by Bentham, Bramah and Muir." The meaning of the Judge respecting "cutting in vertical curves," must be the curves described by the knives passing through the vertex of the cylinder. This is a subject of great importance to the public, we therefore request attention to Judge Kane's opinions on the page referred to. In this invention, we behold the conversion of the face plate machine, (hitherto said "to be of little worth,") into a useful and most effective planing machine, exhibiting both skill and genius in constructive mechanism. More information may be obtained by letters addressed to the inventor, post paid, 9th Avenue, corner 24th street.

Improved Dental Chair.

FIG. 1.



This is a very excellent improvement in a Dentist's Chair, invented by C. H. Eccleston, Genesee st., Utica, N. Y. The nature of it consists in adapting the seat to persons of different sizes, also in setting back the head to any angle, and the back likewise.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, and fig. 2 a side section of the joint spring that operates the back of the chair A, we will call the body of the chair ; B, the seat ; I, the back attached to the body of the chair by a spindle C. passing through it to allow it to be thrown back by a spring which passes through an eye regulated by a set screw, see

FIG. 2.



K, is the head cushion attached to the sides of the back by an axis E. On the axis is a ratchet wheel and on the cushion frame a ratchet which holds the cushion, and also allows it to be turned round to any angle, so that the head may be inclined or held upright, as desired. The bottom is raised or lowered as

follows. F, is a vertical rod in the bottom of the chair passing down between two cheeks ; in the side of one of them is a set screw E, which will hold F at any point to which the bottom of the chair may be pushed down. G, is a steel spring, (there is one on each side) attached to the bottom of the chair, and turned at the lower end over a rod passing through the upper part of the cheeks which are attached to the body of the chair. The springs therefore, have their tension upwards and the set screw E, is to hold the bottom down. For simplicity, and perfect adaption to the wants of Dentists and the ease of patients, this chair cannot fail to please.

RAILROAD NEWS.

Atlantic and Pacific Railroad.

Gen. Houston has moved in the Senate for an inquiry into the expediency of a railroad over the continent from the Mississippi, via the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains to San Francisco, for the transportation of military stores, troops, etc.

Cheshire Railroad.

The New Hampshire Sentinel says that Mr. Upton an engineer on the Cheshire Railroad has invented a new and useful improvement on the snow plough and cow catchers to clear the ribs behind the plough.

The Railroad between Saratoga and Whitehall, N. Y. is now in full and successful operation. We hope that the line to Troy is laid with new rail, there was assuredly great need of such a reform.

The route for a Railroad from Auburn, N. Y. to Binghamton, to intersect the New York and Erie line has been surveyed, and a very favorable report made—the distance is seventy miles.

A Railroad is now constructing from Pittsfield, Mass. to unite with the Housatonic line, whereby passengers from that place will be enabled to reach this city in 7 hours.

It is said that considerable embarrassments are thrown in the way of the New York and New Haven Railroad by the Hartford Railroad. We hope that this will not last long. It is not wisdom to oppose the direct travel between this city and Boston, for assuredly it will ultimately bear down all obstacles.

The Reading Railroad, Pa. is said to be in a bad condition in its financial affairs.

Plank Roads are in progress in many parts of Western New York and measures are being taken for their construction from the village of Ballston Spa to Jamesville and Mount Pleasant ; also from Saratoga Springs to Jessup's Landing ; and through Clifton Park. A company is already formed for constructing one from Schenectady to Saratoga Springs, passing through Ballston.

Morse's Telegraph line to Philadelphia is now in operation, from the office in Hanover street this city direct to Philadelphia. The wires cross the Hudson just above Fort Washington, at an elevation of about 200 feet.

Sleighting with a Tiger.

A novel exhibition was presented in Boston last week. Herr Driesbach made his appearance in an elegant sleigh with his pet tiger by his side ; not the tiger of English comedies, but a bona fide four-legged tiger. He seemed to enjoy the sleighting highly and leaped upon his master, licking his face and showing other signs of excitement. Driesbach had to slap him several times to keep him off. After astonishing the city, Driesbach alighted with his tiger at the Tremont House, and taking him into one of the apartments invited gentlemen to walk in and be introduced ; but there were few who seemed anxious to avail themselves of the opportunity.