



Silver Seven Cent Pieces.

Mr. Edward Hinckley, of Baltimore, publishes a communication demonstrating the great convenience that would result from the issuing of silver coins of the value of seven cents each. This project is very ingenious for any one who may make a calculation and find that such coin would entirely supersede the use of coppers, provide the payer and payee had a sufficient quantity of small change. Thus, to pay one cent, give three seven cent pieces and receive two ten cent pieces in exchange; pay two cents, give a seven and a five cent piece and receive one dime in exchange; to pay three cents, give ten and receive seven in exchange, &c. &c.

[Why not rather give us an amalgam one cent piece made of copper and silver, if the objection to the copper one is its weight and size. It would not require exchange for change

Hydraulator.

A novel Preparation for supplying the citizens of Jeffersonville, Va., with water, is in operation. The principle is somewhat like the telegraph, as follows: There are posts placed at a certain distance from each other through which posts are projecting hooks, curved, so as to hold a wire and at such a distance from the posts as to let the bucket pass and re-pass without any obstruction. The bucket has rollers attached, so that with a light impelling force, it passes to the water, fills itself, and with a wheel at the extremity of the line that a child can turn with ease is brought with rapidity to the required place. The price is \$25 for the first one hundred yards, and 8 cents per yard for all over that distance.

The above paragraph from an exchange shows that the citizens of Jeffersonville have read the Scientific American and seen the illustrated description of Messrs. Cox's Hydraulator.

Improvement of the Organ.

Mr. Amos Forrest, an ingenious organ builder of Hallowell, has invented a new improvement to the organ, whereby the organist may sit with his back to the main organ and facing the congregation, with the key board, &c. before him, separate from the organ to appearance, but connected underneath in such a manner as to secure all the benefits of the old style of make. This is a valuable improvement, as it relieves the organist from the awkward position of sitting with his back to the singers and congregation. An organist acting likewise as chorister, will find it much more convenient to be in a position where he may see all the arrangement of the choir, instead of being placed in a position where he is compelled to turn round in order to give directions or see the minister and congregation.

Ice.

The Ice Crop has been chiefly gathered and that which remains uncut is not only abundant in quantity, but equal to the best which has been housed. A larger amount of ice has been cut this season than probably ever has been cut in one year before. Not much less than three thousand tons of ice have been cut in Massachusetts, for home consumption and exportation, the present year. It may be a measure of wisdom with the dealers to provide a quantity of ice to guard against a failure next year. Our winters we trust, are not all to be as severe as the present.

Patent Medicines.

Dr. Edwards, in Congress tried to abolish the law to grant Patents for Medicines, and several physicians in this State petitioned to have a law prohibiting their sale unless their composition were printed on the labels. The physicians themselves should be compelled to tell the composition of their prescriptions upon the same principle, but no such bill can pass.

Extraordinary Locomotive Speed.

The Liverpool Times of the 8th ult. contains the following remarkable account from the Newcastle Courant, of the speed of a new first class engine on an English Railroad:—

It would appear that the progress hitherto made in the improvement of this class of machinery, does but tend to develop their wonderful capabilities. In our last we noticed a first class express engine placed on the York and Newcastle Railway, from the manufactory of Messrs. Stephenson, and we have to add another of the same class, previously sent from the manufactory of R. & W. Hawthorn, of this town, the performance of which, both in regard to speed and power, surpasses all previous experiments. Since placed on the line, it has taken the express train from York to Darlington in 40 minutes, a distance of 45 miles; and it is further computed (from results already known) that when the new rails are laid down on this portion of the railway, this engine will accomplish the distance with perfect ease in the short space of half an hour being at the surprising rate of 90 miles an hour. The velocity, although the greatest ever yet attained, either on the broad or narrow gauge, is accomplished with an ease free from that apparent oscillating and undulating motion which characterises outside cylinder engines. Its arrangements are entirely new, and upon their patent principle, having the boilers as low as the latter class of engines; the top of the boiler, although four feet diameter, is only 7 feet 9 inches above the rails. The cylinders are 16 inches in diameter; the stroke of the piston 20 inches; the driving wheels are 6½ feet, and the carrying wheels 4 feet diameter, the wheels of which are entirely of wrought iron. The eccentrics and gearing also being outside of the wheels, render the whole engine compact, simple, and easy of access. Its symmetry and finish are much admired, and it is considered one of the finest specimens of locomotive power produced at this well known establishment.

Pulverized Potatoes.

Sometime ago a patent was taken out in England for preparing and preserving the substance of potatoes. It was done in the following manner: The potatoes were washed very clean, and boiled until the skin began to crack. They were then taken out and peeled, and all the eyes and specks taken off. They were then put into an iron cylinder that was tinned inside, with small holes perforated through the bottom. A piston is then passed down, which forces the potato through the holes. When thus prepared, the potato is dried on the tin pans, at a heat of one hundred to one hundred and sixty degrees, after which it is packed in tight casks for future use.—*Maine Farmer.*

We noticed the above process in our columns sometime ago—it is not an English but Swedish invention, and has been practised for a long time in that country. We are glad to see our worthy contemporary notice it, as it has prompted us to call the attention of our farmers at a distance to trying the experiment with potatoes for exportation in light cases to this market. At present potatoes not worth the scraping, sell here for one dollar the bushel. Could the dried potatoes not be made a profitable article of export from the Southwest to this and the Boston markets?

A Capital Summer Furnace.

A furnace made with strong wire gauze, in which our common gas is burned affords an intense heat, which can be regulated at will. This idea may lead to the construction of furnaces to employ gas for cooking in summer as a substitute for charcoal. How cleanly, and easily managed it would be. We may yet see the day, when this will be the common mode of cooking in warm weather.

Cold all the World Over.

A tremendous gale of wind visited Constantinople during the first days of the new year, accompanied by a fall of snow. The latter was driven into many of the houses through openings and crevices, in great quantity, and great damage was caused by the wind; one of the towers near the tomb of the Sultan Mahmoud was blown down, &c. There was snow in the streets to the depth of two and in some places three feet.

National Convention of Inventors.

This body met at Union Hall on Monday afternoon, and was organized by appointing Woodward Abrahams, Esq'r, chairman. A committee was appointed to report an order for business for the sessions, and also to select a speaker for the next evening.

On motion the convention then adjourned, to meet at 7 o'clock, evening session, when the following order of business was reported: 1st. The reading of the constitution of the Inventor's National Institute, by sections, and suggestions for modifications, &c.

2d. Reading the bills in addition to, and amendment of the several acts to promote the progress of the useful Arts.

The committee returned as officers of the Convention: Theodore F. Engelbrecht, Esq. of New York, as President; Alex. A. Brown, Vice President; R. H. Middleton, Secretary.

The committee on public address reported that George Gifford, Esq., of the New York Bar, would deliver an address, which report was approved.

Jordan L. Mott, Esq., of New York, read the bill now before Congress, asking a reformation in the Patent Laws, so as to effectually secure the inventor from infringement and piracy.—*Baltimore Sun.*

Well, we await farther developments of this association.

Robbery of the Government Jewels.

The National Police Gazette of this week contains some remarkable revelations respecting the robbery of the Patent Office in November, 1848. The Gazette has from the first charged that the robbery was committed by two well known thieves, Hand and Webb, under the direction of others, and that the object of these men was not so much plunder, as to be in position successfully to negotiate for the release from prison of a brother of Webb's who had been convicted of forgery. Letters received by President Polk, offering to restore the jewels, have been traced by the editors of the Police Gazette to Hand, and many facts are given countenancing the foregoing supposition.

Sulphuric Acid.

Liebig has said that the consumption of sulphuric acid may well indicate the state of civilization—the more that is consumed, the higher is the state of advancement, as it indicates the amount of soap that is used, and the general cleanly habits of the people, also the extent of its manufactures. This rule will not hold good in all countries, as the sulphuric acid is employed in Europe to make soda, by which their soap is made, whereas in this country, our soap is made out of potash, in the manufacture of which no sulphuric acid is used. The amount of sulphuric acid consumed in Europe however, may well indicate any nation's prosperity there, and no nation is so conspicuous for the vast quantity of sulphuric acid which it consumes, as Great Britain. Sulphuric acid is made from sulphur imported into England principally from the Island of Sicily. There are some chemical works in England that make ten tons of sulphuric acid weekly, and an idea may be formed of the quantity manufactured when we state that all the soda is made from sulphuric acid, and the average quantity of soda manufactured yearly, amounts to no less than 88,000 tons.

Indestructibility of Cork.

In taking down, a few years ago, in France, some portion of the ancient Chateau of the Roque d'Ondes it was found that the extremities of the oak girders, lodged in the walls, were perfectly preserved, although these timbers were supposed to have been in their places for upward of 600 years. The whole of these extremities buried in the walls were completely wrapped around with plates of cork. When demolishing an ancient Benedictine church at Bayonne, it was found that the whole of the fir girders were entirely worm-eaten and rotten, with the exception however, of the bearings, which as in the case above mentioned, were also completely wrapped round with plates of cork. The fixings were completed by a layer of greasy-feeling clay, interposed between the cork and the masonry, and the parts of the walls opposite the ends of the timber were of brick.

Panama Cotton.

The Mobile Tribune has received from Panama, a sample of wild cotton procured from a tree on the top of a mountain some four leagues from Panama. The tree was about twenty-five feet high and thirty feet across near the top. The body four feet from the ground, measured four inches in diameter. The sample of cotton, although carried for some time in the pocket, and of course materially injured in appearance, is nevertheless, of a fine silky texture.

New Epidemic.

A new Plague or Epidemic has appeared in the Philadelphia Alms House and the City Hospital. It produces mortification of the mouth, gums and cheeks, ending speedily in death. Large numbers have died of it in both institutions. It has probably arisen from scarlet fever and small pox, or is a combination of these two diseases, which, with purulent ophthalmia, have been very prevalent in the Alms House, where patients are kept in very ill ventilated rooms. It has thus far been confined principally to children.

The Potatoe.

Professor Mulder, so well known by his discovery of proteine, (the much controverted substance), has fulminated a solemn condemnation of the potato. "As an article of food," says a learned chemist "this tuber is not nourishing, and is the cause of the moral and physical degradation of the nation who make use of it," &c. The question, however does not exclusively lie in the consideration of the nutritive principles, but, whether the same are or are not of easy assimilation: for we might as well feed on gutta percha, caoutchouc, or urea, if these principles alone were kept in view.

The Oldest Pastor in the United States.

The venerable Dr. Nott, of Franklin, Connecticut, received the visits of his flock, on the 23d ult., to congratulate him on his having reached his ninety-sixth birth day. Dr. Nott was born in 1754. He was ordained and installed over his present charge, "the Congregational Church in what is now Franklin, then Norwich, West Farms," on the 13th of March, 1782; and has consequently exercised the pastoral office during a period of nearly sixty-seven years.

Iron Rails in Use and out of Use.

Rails in use do not corrode like those out of use. The cause of this is attributed to magnetism, which by the experiments of Mallett and Ritter seems to be produced in rails after they are sometime in use—both induced and permanent magnetism, each rail being magnetic with polarity.

British Census.

The British Government are going to take a census of the whole empire and a systematic plan has been laid down, like the last adopted in numbering the people of the United Kingdom, to be pursued throughout the empire. This is the first regular census to be taken of the British Empire, but it has been customary to take a census of England every few years, from time immemorial.

Curious Discovery.

In the great Pyramid of Egypt is a small opening at the top, the depth of which has never been sounded. Another aperture of the same size exists at the foot of the Pyramid. It was long conjectured that these two openings communicated with each other, but no means could be devised to establish the fact till the problem was solved recently by the ingenuity of an Arab. He took a cat and her kittens, placed the old cat in one aperture and the kittens in the other, and stopped up both with stones. The next day he opened them and found cat and kittens all together at the foot of the long passage.

Ship Blocks.

The business done in this article of manufacture is larger than is usually supposed. A vessel of a thousand tons burthen requires about five hundred blocks of various sizes in fitting her out, and a single firm in this city are now supplying thirty-three sail of vessels and ships.

A "bloody oyster" fight recently took place on the east shore of Virginia. The number of oysters slain is not known, but there were a few.