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Poetry.

The Ship Canal.

FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC.

Rend America asunder
And unite the Binding Sea
That emboldens Man and tempers—
Make the ocean free.

Break the bolt which bars the passage,
That our River richly pours
Western wealth to western nations;
Let that sea be ours—

Ours by all the hardy whalers,
By the pointing Oregon,
By the west-impelled and working
Unthralled Saxon son.

Long indeed they had been wooing,
The Pacific and his bride;
Now 'tis time for holy wedding—
Join them by the tide.

Have the snowy surfs not struggled
Many centuries in vain
That their lips might seal the union?
Lock them Main to Main.

When the mighty God of nature
Made his favored continent,
He allowed it yet unsevered,
That a race be sent.

Able, mindful of his purpose,
Prone to people, to subdue,
How to bind the lands with iron,
Or to force them through.

Blessed eyes, that shall behold it,
When the pointing boom shall veer,
Leading through the parted Andes,
While the nations cheer!

There at Suez, Europe's mattock
Cuts the briny road with skill,
And must Darien bid defiance
To the pilot still?

Do we breathe this breath of knowledge
Purely to enjoy its zest?
Shall the iron arm of science
Like a sluggard rest?

Up then, at it! earnest people!
Bravely wrought the scorning blade,
But there's fresher fame in store yet,
Glory for the spade.

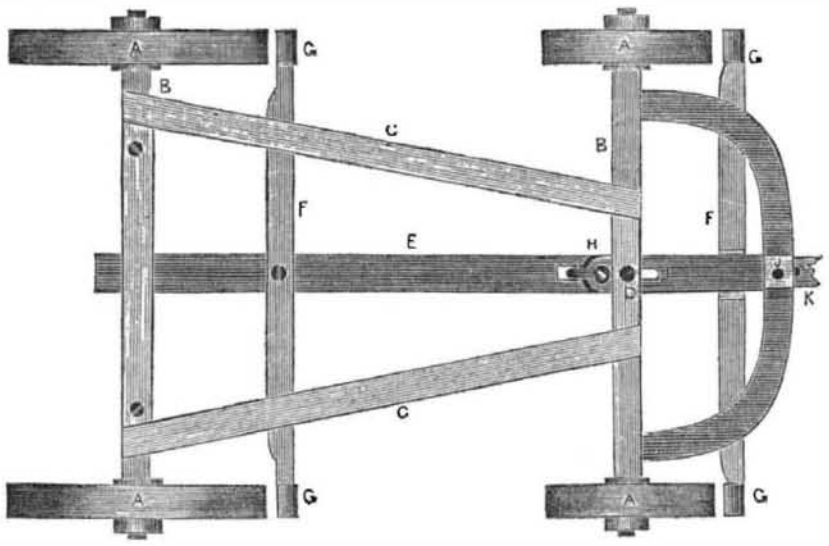
Ye, that vanquish pain and distance,
Ye, emmeshing Time with wire:
Court ye patiently forever
Yon antartic ire?

We that fight with printing armies,
Settle sons on forlorn track
As the Romans flung their eagles,
But to win them back;

Let the vastness not appal us;
Greatness is thy destiny.
Let the doubters not recall us;
Venture suits the free.

Cleave America asunder,
That is worthy work for thee.
Hark! The seas roll up imploring—
"Make the ocean free."

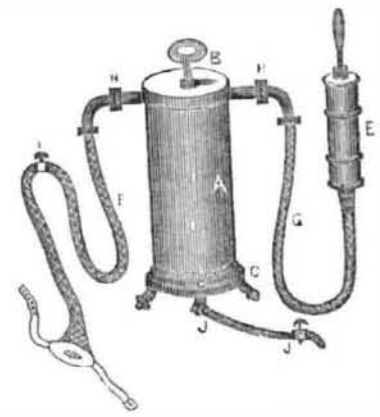
SELF-ACTING BRAKE FOR VEHICLES.



This is a self-acting Brake for vehicles, invented by Mr. John Boynton, of South Coventry, Ct., a well known inventor, and to whom we alluded a few weeks ago.

This is a top view of the wagon and brake—the best view for a proper understanding. A A, are the wheels. B B, the axles. C C, the carriage frame or bottom secured on the axles, or it may be on the bolsters, for carriages, &c. E, is the *reach* which unites the hind wheels with the pole K, which is represented broken off, all essential parts being shown. F F, are the brakes, and G G, the shoes of the brakes. The brakes are firmly secured to the reach and the pole, and the object of the invention, is to operate the brakes by the pole K, or the shafts, as it is as applicable to a one horse vehicle as a two horse one. The reach and the pole are united by a clevice at H, which from the way in which it is placed and the form of the ends of the pole and reach, allows the wagon to turn round with perfect ease. I, is a slot in the pole which allows the said pole to be moved out and in on the fixed bolt D. This cannot take place, however, without the shifting of the bolt J, and this simple thing operates the whole apparatus. In the pole are two bolt holes, one for operating the brake and the other to keep the pole steady when the brakes are thrown out of action. In the present position of the brakes, they are represented as being out of action, but if the pole K, was pushed farther in and the pin J, passed through the same top opening in the semicircular guide frame, but through the second hole seen in the pole, this would bring the shoes G, of the brakes against the face of the wheels, and if the vehicle was descending a declivity, its weight would act upon the brakes creating a great deal of friction, retarding the progress of the vehicle. There may be some other modes of connection and a modification in the operation employed, but it is certainly very simple, and on that account a good invention. We have already mentioned, that measures have been taken to secure a patent.

Apparatus for Extracting the Poison from Wounds.—Hydrophobia and other kinds.



It is well known that the Indians frequently extract the poison by sucking, from wounds made by snakes. History furnishes us with a number of instances of the same kind, and one of the most beautiful, is that related of Eleanor, who saved the life of her husband Edward I. by sucking from his arm the poison left by a venomous arrow. It appears rational that the same process may be well applied to remove the poison of hydrophobia; and art can now successfully perform by the air pump, that which the natural machine performed for the celebrated English monarch. When a person is bitten, the first thing to be done, is to tie a tight bandage above the wound to prevent circulation, and then the part may be washed with water in which there is a little chloride of lime. But if possible the accompanying apparatus should at once be applied, or if that is not convenient, the person should be cupped. But this apparatus being very powerful, it should at least be kept in hospitals and such like places, and applied for a great effect after the other means have first been resorted to.

A, is a graduated glass cylinder. B, is a brass cap of it, properly affixed by wax or cement. C, is a cylindrical ring of brass cemented to the bottom of A. This ring has a thread upon it so as to screw into a thread on base or stand D. This joint must be made air tight by a washer of vulcanized india rubber. J, is a small flexible tube inserted in a small orifice in the centre of D. It has a small stop cock for discharging the contents of the upper vessel as often as required. Attached to the brass cap B, there are two small metallic arms H H, which must be air tight. G F, are flexible tubes, having a coiled tube of brass wire running through their interior, to keep them from collapsing. E, is an air pump attached to G. It is very simple and has only one suction valve, but has a small hole at the side of the case, upon which the finger of the operator must be placed every time he makes the upward stroke, but lifted off during the downward stroke, to discharge the air. There is a small stop cock I, on F, and the tube terminates in a trumpet mouth piece made of leather, which must be moistened before it can be used. This mouth piece is the sucker.

The air must be first drawn out of the cylinder A, by the pump E, and then the cock I, is opened, when the matter in the wound by the outside pressure of the atmosphere will flow into the cylinder in a continuous stream, which can thus be kept up for any length of time by working the pump. After this the wound is washed and dressed and the medicines administered—such as in the judgment of the practitioner are most suitable.

RAILROAD NEWS.

New City Railroad Project.

Mr. Randall, C. E., presented to our City Common Council on the 13th inst. a plan of a Railway to belt the city, running along the wharves, and not to interfere with passages for carts, &c. To render the plan available, says Mr. Randall, it is not necessary that the whole work should be constructed at once—as it might progress by degrees, in the first instance by a mere single track along the present streets on the North and East Rivers—the center of the track to be 70 feet from the fronts of the present stone houses along the wharves and connected by a single track through the large cross streets. In the full project six tracks are provided for—two for cars to go and return upon, two for others to load and unload upon, the remaining two for sidings and turn outs. This, in streets of the requisite widths of 200 feet, will leave a street of 60 feet in breadth for ordinary purposes along the tracks. The six tracks would occupy some 80 feet.

In this enlarged view, the plan embraces a spacious River Avenue, the additional width of the streets for which can be taken, when required from the present wharves and piers and from the Rivers. At the same time plans can be laid out for wharves and piers for the accommodation of shipping, packet lines, &c. outside of the new avenues throughout their whole extent, up the North, East and Harlem Rivers to Kings' Bridge.

The whole breadth of 80 feet over the six tracks of ground railway proposed, may when required, be covered with a flat roof, to be supported by substantial columns or pillars; serving as protection from the weather for merchandise, &c. which may have broken bulk and not yet have been removed to the store or the shipping. The roof, beside, being nearly level, and enclosed with balustrades, Mr. Randall says, will afford ample space for elevated promenades, and may also as well as the 60 feet spaces on each side, be used for Elevated Railways. By these merchandise could be delivered in the second story of the store houses.

There is something about this project which strikes us very favorably. It is very evident to those who see the crowded state of our public streets, that some plan of this kind must be resorted to, at no distant day.

Land Sunk.

The Worcester Spy has a long series of particulars of the recent phenomena at Westbrook, (Mass) where on the 14th inst. some forty (instead of eighty) acres of land vanished, giving place to a lake and a tract of blue plastic clay. There is missing says the Spy some twenty acres of woodland, and about the same quantity of pasture land. Over this whole extent the natural soil has entirely disappeared and in its place is clay. The woodland was covered with a heavy growth of timber, the whole of which has sunk below its original level some thirty feet, leaving perpendicular walls on three sides, and gradually sloping on the other side. The trees on a portion of the land have disappeared entirely, and on another portion they are thrown about in great disorder.

A German woman has recovered $200 damages for injuries from the Troy and Schenectady Railroad.