

Scientific American.

THE ADVOCATE OF INDUSTRY, AND JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC, MECHANICAL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

Vol. 4.

New York, July 14, 1849.

No. 43.

THE Scientific American.

THE
BEST MECHANICAL PAPER IN THE WORLD.
CIRCULATION 12,000.
PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
At 128 Fulton Street, New York (Sun Building,) and
13 Court Street, Boston, Mass.
By Munn & Company.
The Principal Office being at New York
Barlow & Payne, Agents, 89 Chancery Lane, London
TERMS—\$2 a year—\$1 in advance, and
the remainder in 6 months.

Poetry.

THE OLD PRINTER.

I see him at his case,
Whith his anxious, cheerless face
Worn and brown:
And the types, unceasing click,
As they drop within his stick.
Seems of life's old clock the tick,
Running down.

Years, years away have flown,
And the printer long I've known,
Boy and man;
Time was when step elate
Distinguished his gait,
And his form was tall and straight,
We now scan.

You could see him every day,
As he passed along the way
To his toil:
He labored might and main,
A living scant to gain,
And some interest small attain
In the soil.

And hope was high at first,
And the golden chest be nursed,
Till he found
That hope was but a glare
In a cold and frosty air,
And the promise, pictured fair,
Barren ground.

He ne'er was reckon'd bad,
But I've seen him smile right glad
At "leaded" woes,
While a corresponding frown
Would spread his features round
Where virtue's praise did sound,
If twere "close."

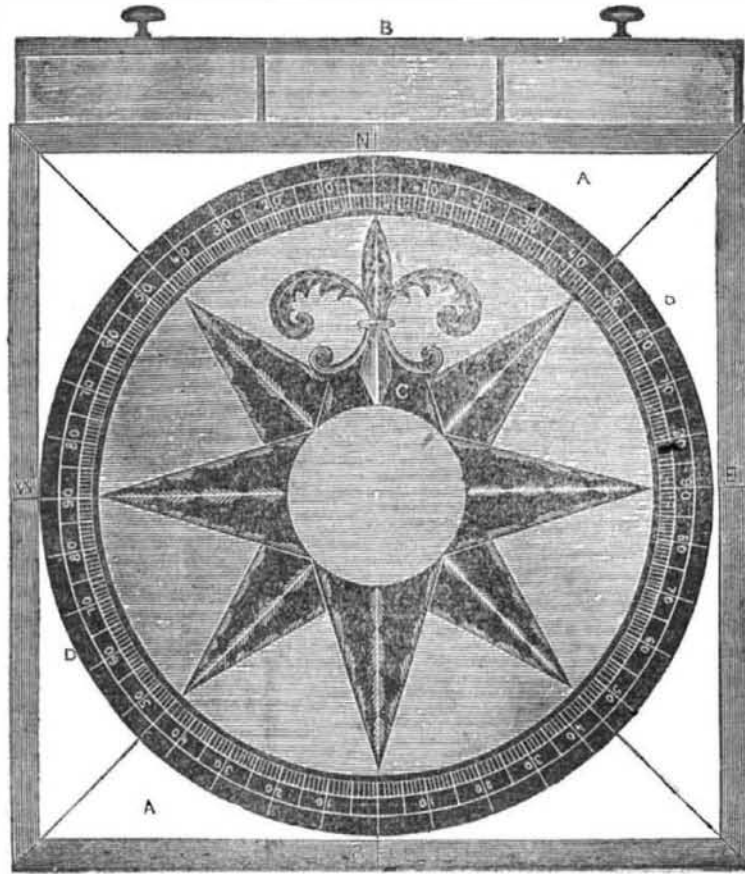
Long years he's labored on,
The morning hues are gone
From his sky;
For others are his hours,
For others are his powers,
And his days like passing showers,
Flitting by.

You can see him, night by night,
By the lamp's dull, dreary light,
Standing there,
With cobweb curtains spread
In festoons o'er his head,
That sooty showers shed
In his hair.

Advice to Wives.

Love is fickle, sages say
Beauty cannot hold him;
Love will steal himself away,
Maidens if you scold him.
Love!—he will not live with strife,
Even turn from beauty,
If the lady plagues his life
With her household duty.
You can have him in your power,
Ladies, if you try it;
Use him as you won him first,
Love—he can't deny it,
Do not fret, and scold, and pout,
Aggravating trouble;
Beauty kicking up a rout,
Makes misfortune double.

COATE'S PROTRACTING TABLE.



This is a Protracting Table, invented by Mr. M. Coate, of Coffeyville, Ala. It is composed of a square frame and central wheel C, attached to a neat table A, on which is received the circular scale D. The table is simply a writing table A, for convenience and made square. Take any centre within the square, cut out a circle of the diameter required, and get a rim or circle D, of brass, and fasten it by screws to the table to be smooth with its surface. Attached to the table must be a frame or bed for the wheel C to revolve on its pivot, so as to move freely. B, are drawers to hold paper, mathematical instruments, &c. The apparatus is thus very simple and can be applied to any table, and easily removed from place to place. It is for laying out plats of ground and for mapping, and is useful for surveyors and civil engineers. A parallel rule is used to work it backwards and forwards, and then by placing the square to the right all the E and W lines can be drawn. Parallel lines can be drawn very fast in this way, and every degree the wheel is turned varies from the parallels accordingly. The wheel C, operates on its pivot in the inside of the circle. The paper to draught on is placed upon the wheel which is made of wood, by draughtsman's buttons, and the surface of the wheel may have a printed piece of drawing paper as exhibited here, pasted on its surface to preserve the points the drawing instruments. The outer lines of the circle may be numbered with all the degrees from 0 to 360.

The following is the plan of Mr. Coate to

Crows—Mode of Catching.

Nine hundred crow scalps were sent to the Levy Court of Queen Ann's county, Md., on Tuesday last, by a gentleman from Dent Island. The bounty of six cents each amounted to upwards of fifty dollars. The sharp farmers of Kent Island manage to catch crows in the following way. They first obtain a live crow and pin him down on his back to the ground. His cries attract other crows to the spot when he seizes them with his bill and claws and they are then taken and killed

make calculations in Trigonometry by the Protracting Table. "I want to know the height of an object on the opposite side of a river. First, I find the base of the object to be on a level with the place whereon I stand, I can neither recede nor turn to right or left. The object on the opposite shore is a tower and the base of a window I find to be six feet from the ground. I from this elevation take the angle of depression, which is 6°. I then take the altitude (height) which is 35°. To know the width of the river and the height of the tower on the table, I turn the wheel 6° (first having drawn lines E. and W., N. and S.) On the East and West line I set off 6 feet East, and from that point draw a line toward the South line and where it is crossed it will be the width of the river. I then turn the wheel back N. and S. and turn it 35° the other way, and where the lines cross (when drawn as before stated) it will be the height of the tower. The square must be moved to the point where the angle is taken from, then with the dividers take the distance on the same scale with which the six feet is set off, and I have both the height and distance. This calculation I can make in five seconds, and the whole rule of Trigonometry can be worked through in less than one day."

For colleges and schools this would be a valuable and beautiful instrument, and Mr. Coate is ready to negotiate with any individual on the subject. By addressing him, post paid, further information relative to the matter will be promptly obtained.

The Centreville Times gives this on the authority of one of the Kent Islanders.

The citizens of Pittsburg have held a meeting to oppose the erection of the great bridge at Wheeling, Va., as being an obstruction to the navigation of the Ohio.

A Mr. Bushman has been astonishing the Londoners by the exhibition of his skill with the sword, and performing with ease the feat of Saladin with a silk handkerchief, as described by Sir Walter Scott.

RAILROAD NEWS.

The Panama Railroad.

The route for this road has been surveyed and a capital stock of one million, it has been reported, is subscribed. This is said to be sufficient to put a railroad in operation from Panama, on the Pacific, to the navigable waters of the river Chagres which flows into the Atlantic, to establish a steam communication from ocean to ocean, through in twelve hours, which is the limit required by the terms of the grant from the Granadian government.—Such a road can be made in about a year, more or less, after which the investment will at once become productive. The remainder of the railroad, from where it crosses the Chagres river, to Mansanilla Bay, (a branch of Navy Bay,) can be made at any time within six years, according to the convenience or interests of the Company.

In a year or two at farthest, the chief communication between the Atlantic and Pacific, for passengers and valuable freight, will be by way of the Panama Railroad. Already a line of British steamers run regularly between Panama and the South American coast, as far down as Valparaiso, touching at various points, and a line of American Steamers between Panama and the coast of North America, as far up as San Francisco. And this is but the beginning of what will be hereafter.

A fact of much importance in reference to this Railroad enterprise, and to steam navigation in the Pacific, is the discovery of Bituminous Coal on the Isthmus. It is of very fair quality, and is represented by engineers to be all that could be desired for driving steam engines. The mine is described to be inexhaustible. It is situated in the province of Veraguas, where the company has a right to select a portion of its lands.

Indiana Railroads.

A company has been organized to build a railroad from Lawrenceburgh to Decatur county, there branching—one branch running north to Rushville, and the other west, crossing the Madison and Indianapolis railroad at Edinburgh, through Morgantown, Martinsville and Spencer, through the rich bottoms of Flatrock, Diftwood, and White river, and the coal and iron beds, to the Wabash at Terre Haute. The counties through which this road will pass are among the most populous and productive in the state, and the direction of the road is such as to carry the trade to Cincinnati. Louisville is proposing, with Madison, a great attempt to secure the prize, by an improvement in her own direction; but as yet nothing tangible has resulted.—Meanwhile, the opposition route has upwards of \$280,000 of its stock taken, and \$70,000 have been subscribed to another company, which must, when the work reaches a certain point, be merged into this. On the 17th of August next, 20 miles will be put under contract, and by next fall 20 more—making 40 in all.

The Mexican Railroad.

We are authorized and requested, to state, says the Washington Intelligencer, that the time fixed upon by the Government of Mexico for receiving proposals for the construction of the railroad between Vera Cruz and Mexico, will be four months, commencing from the 14th day of last month, (June.)

A Villainous Act.

A man by the name of Brady placed some iron "chairs" upon the Worcester Railroad, (Mass.,) on the 4th inst. and came very near throwing a train with 300 passengers in it off the track. The fellow has been taken up for the act and confessed his participation in it. Hanging is too good for him.

Madame Catalini, the once famous singer, died of cholera on the 12th of last month.