



NEW YORK, AUGUST 11, 1849.

Honorable Plunderers.

Like rouge on the cheek of the vain female, imparting to it the false flush of health and the rose bloom of beauty, so is that kind of honor with which a man appareth himself, by wearing the honest fame which justly belongeth to another. And when cupidity of wealth is linked together with the cupidity of honor, the most atrocious traits of character meet in one focus. The poor of this world—the humble working classes, are generally exempt from these sins actually, although they may not be free from the lust of them. Literary plunderers are generally found among the *honorable*s of this mundane sphere. They are men who can well afford to pay for a speech or a sermon.

The most heaven daring plunderers are the scientific kind—those men who rob inventors of their honors and rights, and appropriate the works of others to their own worldly fame and interest. In the U. S. Circuit Court in Philadelphia, a case once came up where an injunction was moved for to restrain a person from using a patented machine, when it was proven that the patentee stole the invention from the defendant, perjured himself, got a patent, and then had the audacity and criminality of heart, to move for restraint against the real inventor, for using his own property. Who can forget the baseness of Sir Everard Home, who destroyed the whole manuscripts of that great man Sir John Hunter, in order that the wholesale plagiarism in the lectures of Comparative Anatomy, and papers to the Royal Society communicated by Home after Hunter's death, might not be detected. We might instance case upon case, of scientific plundering, to show unto the world, that man, worse in many instances than inferior races of animals, preys upon his own kind not from necessity, but concupiscence of wealth or fame. Look at the case of Mr. Hudson, the Railway King, as he has been called, which is, engaging so much attention in England at the present moment. This man from a comparative humble situation, arose by enterprize and industry to considerable wealth. Not content with an honest abundance, he aspired to be one of the "Honorable," and projected a fraudulent system of railway speculation, more gigantic, we believe, than the Mississippi bubble of Law. Up, up Mr Hudson went, till he took his seat among the Honorable M. P.'s of England, and received those considerations which wealth always brings there, the privilege of mingling in the society of Peer and Prince. Now lo and behold, for "murder will out," it has come to light, that his great wealth has been gained by fraudulent entries, and cunningly devised representations of the value of shares, by paying large dividends out of the capital. Who can forget the misery that was created a few years ago among a large portion of the working classes of Britain, those who by industry had accumulated some little funds against the necessities of sickness and old age. Thousands of this class of people, were induced to lift their money and invest it in Railway stocks, which was to increase twofold in value, as some had increased by the false means employed by Hudson and other *honorable*s of the same stamp. At once the value of Railway shares fell, and with their fall, perished the hopes and happiness of too many of England's most worthy industrious classes. At the present moment, by the latest foreign news, the Railway King is disgorging thousand after thousand of his ill gotten gains.—We have no hope that the most needy of those who have been robbed and ruined, will get even handed justice done to them. This would be a miracle, truly—no such acts of tardy justice need be expected by the poor from that most despicable class, *honorable* plunderers.

Professor Faraday and Lightning Rods.

The following ideas are condensed from a lecture of Professor Faraday delivered before the Royal Institution, London, on the 12th ult. The lecture has just come into our possession and we present the subject as being the opinions of a man of world wide fame, upon a subject, which has led to a little controversy in our columns. In alluding to the appearance of a flash of lightning, he remarked that it was never in a straight line but branched out like the long spark from an electrical machine. For this phenomenon, no cause had yet been assigned that was satisfactory to him, nor in his opinion, had the electrical condition of the upper regions been satisfactorily explained yet, and he thought it was better for him to admit ignorance than mislead by unsatisfactory explanation. The long continued peals of thunder proceeding from instantaneous flashes, were caused by the lightning passing through one or two miles, and as sound travelled slowly, the several disruptions of the air rolled repeatedly on the ear. The identification of lightning with electricity has enabled us to place the force of lightning under control, and to conduct it safely to the ground, but in doing so the conductors must be well connected, or mistakes may occur. To exemplify this, he connected a wire from the prime conductor with several metallic articles in its course to the earth, and though by the connection, sparks were passing freely through the wire, yet a jet of gas was inflamed when it was brought near the metallic bodies with which the wire was connected. It will not do either to have the rod or wire near a body that may receive the electricity by induction. By mounting a large metallic globe on an insulated stand, several feet distant from the electrical machine, and while sparks were being taken from the machine by a ball held near it, yet the electricity induced in the large globe, was sufficient to set fire to a jet of gas. The importance of taking into consideration the influence of induction, where the operation was conducted on the large scale of nature, was very apparent and of the utmost consequence, especially in the construction of powder mills and other places, which contained inflammable materials.

There is no secret about the construction of lightning rods. Isolate the rod from the building by some non-conducting material; make it continuous into some moist part of the earth; the greater the amount of conducting surface the better, but a wire is better than none; and the plating of the point, will not cost a sixpence.

Mosaic Art.

During the last ten or eleven years cements covered with metallic oxides have been employed for Mosaics, and they answer very well for indoor work. Bitumen colored with metallic oxides has been tried, the ground work being first cast in moulds and the interstices then filled up with bitumen of various shades. This composition is any thing but good, for however beautiful and pliable the substance may be for variety of pattern, the surface soon becomes uneven, and then the pattern is spoiled. Within a few years a kind of beautiful mosaic has been made in England. It consists in a mosaic of pottery tile, ornamented with figures of different colors. The tile is made first of a clay for that purpose about six inches square, into the surface of which, while it is soft, are impressed metal dies, which stamp the pattern in the clay, and then it is filled up (where it was depressed,) with clay of different colors. The tile is then baked and covered with a firm glaze, which completely protects it—this tile now forming a beautiful substance for mosaics was known in England in the 14th century, but was lost until 1830, when it was re-invented and a patent granted for it. The ancient Roman mosaic is the most beautiful of all, and in St. Peters at Rome, there are some splendid works of it. The chapel of St. Lawrence in Florence, which contains the tombs of the Medici, has been greatly admired, on account of the great multitude of precious marbles, and beautiful stones on its walls, and hitherto the beauty of all mosaic works has depended on the value of the materials which composed them, but within a few years, a beautiful porcelain mo-

saic has been invented, which has carried the art to a higher perfection than was ever attained by the ancients. In 1840 a Mr. Prosser of Birmingham, England, found that if a mixture of fire porcelain (clay and flint) was reduced to a dry powder, and in that state subjected to strong pressure between steel dies, the powder was compressed into about one fourth of its bulk, and converted into a substance, very compact, of great hardness and density, less porous, and harder than porcelain unpressed and baked in a furnace.—This discovery was first employed by Mr. Prosser in the manufacture of buttons, but it was afterwards applied to the making of mosaic by Mr. Blashfield, and squares, cubes, triangles, hexagons, polygons and rhomboids are all formed by this process, and the surfaces of the blocks can be beautifully enamelled with the most brilliant tints of gold, &c. and the most perfect substitutes for the old glass mosaic produced. The blocks of this substance are arranged according to design and laid in the usual way.

It was not long since a patent was granted at Washington, for the reduction of coal dust to solid lumps, by this same plan. Within three years considerable noise has been made about the manufacture of glass blocks of various colors, as being well adapted for flooring. The Rev. Mr. Pepper, of Albany, N. Y., Dr. Chilton, of this city, and a gentleman of Hartford, Ct., have severally been considered discoverers. There are various substances which may be combined in various proportions to produce in a pottery kiln, exceedingly beautiful agate, well adapted were it easily polished afterwards, for a great number of purposes, for which stone is now used. But the expense of the manufacture, as it is at present prosecuted and performed, is too great to allow it to be brought into general use.

Natural and Artificial Springs.

Natural mineral springs have an advantage over artificial waters, in most instances, in being favored by auxiliary circumstances calculated to promote the restoration to health. Thus the journey to the springs, the change of air and scene, the beauty of the scenery and interesting environs of most of them, the temporary freedom from cares and annoying avocations, the early rising and exercise in the open air, are circumstances of great importance in assisting the action of the waters, and in several of the slightest ailments would probably alone suffice to rectify the deranged condition of the system; but it must be borne in mind, on the other hand, that in several of the worst cases, in those who resort to mineral springs for relief, these circumstances can have no influence, and the beneficial effects are solely to be attributed to the action of the waters. Many persons who care little about the beauties of scenery, and take no interest in public amusements, soon become tired, and experience discomfort at being separated from their homes and friends, and are only induced to subject themselves to the inconveniences of a long journey to a mineral spring, by the expectation of the benefit which they know from experience they are likely to derive from it.—Many persons, again, engaged in business, soon experience at a bath the influence of ennui—are disinclined to form new acquaintances, and are anxious respecting the course of their affairs, and yet are induced to prolong their stay from the evident improvement in their health during the course; though perhaps little or no alteration is made in their ordinary habits. Such persons, where a course of bathing is not required, will often derive as much benefit from drinking an artificial water; which may also be recommended as an efficient substitute, when a person cannot undertake a long journey, or if he be an inhabitant of a town where there is an establishment of mineral waters, and is disinclined to absent himself from his family and usual avocations.

When drinking is the more essential part of the treatment, artificial waters have in some respects the advantage over natural ones; as they are available during the greater part of the year, instead of being restricted to a few months in the summer, they may also in some cases be used as a preparatory measure, or subsequent to the use of the natural springs.

Many chalybeate waters contain an exceed-

ingly minute quantity of proto-carbonate of iron, and yet exercise an astonishing power in recruiting the exhausted frame. Their virtue has been supposed to consist in the metal being oxidized to a minimum and diffused by the agency of a mild acid through a great body of water, in which state it is taken up by the lacteals of the invalid, and soon imparts a ruddy hue to the pale countenance. The qualities of such a water may be exactly imitated by dissolving 3 grains of the sulphate of iron and 60 of the bi-carbonate of potash in a quart of cool water, then shake it well in a close bottle.

Dr. Comstock on Atmospheric Electricity.

Dr. J. L. Comstock, of Hartford, has recently put forth several statements to substantiate his theory that there will be little thunder and lightning in and about those places which are traversed by Railway tracks and Telegraphic wires—for the reason that the metallic surfaces constantly attract the electricity of the clouds and dissipate the power that would otherwise result in explosions. It is stated that in Hartford, since the building of railroads and the erection of telegraphic wires, there has been a remarkable scarcity of thunder storms. During the time extending from the Winter of '47 to October last, not one severe storm of this description occurred, and lightning was seen but three times from June to October.

[The Doctor will no doubt fully prove the absence of thunder in the winter season, by the above hypothesis. But the absence of it during the same season of the year prior to 1847, may give him some trouble to account for.

The Arts in England.—Painting and Water Color.

The English artists are paying great attention to painting in water colors, a species of painting that until recently has not been held in as much esteem as it deserves. A gallery of drawings in water colors has been opened at London, and a correspondent of the New York Post says the English artists have shown that as much, though in a somewhat different way, may be done on drawing paper as on canvass; that as high a degree of expression may be reached, as much strength given to the color, and as much boldness to the lights and shadows. The life pieces by Hunt are represented as remarkable, but it is to landscape that the artists in water colors have principally devoted their attention.

South Carolina Cotton Crop.

The Charleston Mercury of Monday publishes an extract of a letter from a highly intelligent gentleman from the central portion of the State, which says that the deficiency in the cotton crop will be beyond the calculation of the least sanguine of the planters. The April frost and snow, the defective stands and the grassiness and backwardness of the crops, added to the long spells of cold rainy weather recently experienced, have blighted the prospects of the cotton planter, and the fact stands revealed that the crop must be exceedingly short.

Mummy Cloths.

(Cairo newspapers) enter into a long calculation of the number of mummies which must have been embalmed and deposited in crypts, pits, sepulchral chambers, &c, during the existence of Ancient Egypt as a great and populous country; and proposes that Mahomet Pasha should allow their clothing to become an article of extended commerce in the linen trade, valued at least, at ten millions and a half of dollars!! The digging up this treasure, it is farther calculated, would bring to light jewels and other materials of archaeological price!

Printers in Philadelphia.

It appears from a statement made in the Philadelphia Typographical Society, that in that city the whole number of printing offices is 99, employing 446 compositors, 113 pressmen 69 apprentices, and 109 minors, who set type, making, a total of 728 persons. As the present however is a dull season, and the offices have not the usual amount of work, the number of journeymen compositors is much less than the average. It is estimated that about 150 of this class are unemployed.