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## Rail Road News.

### Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

At the meeting of the Board of Managers of this Company, held in Baltimore on Wednesday last week, the remainder of the road from Tygart's Valley Bridge to Wheeling, was let to contractors, with the exception of about thirty-five miles, which await the decision of arbitrators, to be made on or before the first of November next. The bidding was spirited, and the work will be commenced without delay.

The whole line of the work may be said to be in the hands of contractors, and about 2500 men are employed. The Baltimore Patriot says:

Considerable progress has been already made upon all the heavy sections; several of medium class are very nearly, and some entirely finished. The great tunnel is progressing steadily, and with every prospect of completion within the time limited by the Engineer.

The laying down of the iron will commence early next spring. The road to the mouth of Savage may be expected to be open about June, and the track will thence be pushed forward without interruption, and in an unbroken line until it reaches Wheeling.

The iron is now arriving in large quantities at the Company's wharf at Locust point, upwards of 2000 tons having been received in the last month. This iron is of excellent manufacture, and will compare favorably, as to cost, with any that has been imported. The recent sale of the Company's bonds, which were given in payment for this iron, has been made in London by the Messrs. Barings, at 108 per cent., a gratifying evidence of the confidence which capitalists have in the work and the gentlemen who have charge of it.

### The North Carolina Central Railroad.

The Wilmington papers, state that the stock of the North Carolina Central Railroad has all been subscribed for, and five per cent., the first instalment required by the charter, paid in on the whole amount of one million of dollars. The State now comes in for two millions. The fact of the completion of the subscription was ascertained at the meeting of the General Commissioners at Chapel Hill, a short time since.

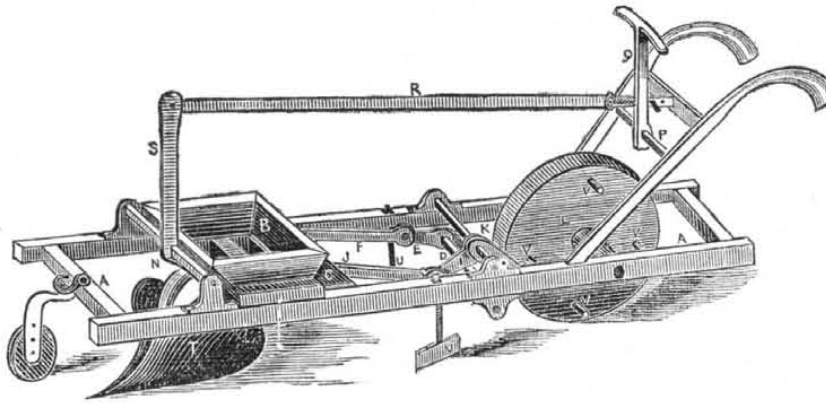
A meeting of stockholders, for organization, &c., has been called for the 11th of July, at Salisbury, (according to the act of incorporation.)

This road will constitute an important link in the great Southern line. It is to connect with the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, pass by Raleigh and terminate at Charlotte, Mecklenburg County—to which point a railroad has already been completed from Columbia, South Carolina.

### Dangerous Pleasures.

Indulging in dangerous pleasures, saith a Burmese proverb, is like licking honey from a knife and cutting the tongue with the edge.—The Arabs of the desert use their scimitars as looking glasses.

## GROSHON'S PATENT CORN PLANTER.

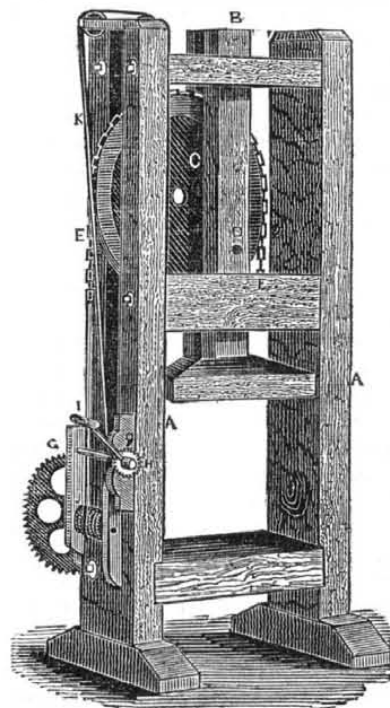


This machine is the invention of Mr. John P. Groshon, of Yonkers, Westchester County, N. Y., and for which letters patent were granted on the 19th of last March. This figure is a perspective view. A is the frame; B is the hopper; C is the slide of it, and it is provided with holes for letting out the grain; D is a shaft mounted on bearings in the frame; E is the lever part of this shaft: it is jointed by a pin to the rod, F, which is connected to the slide, for the purpose of uncovering the openings. K is another shaft, mounted on the frame, and carrying a lever, I, which is jointed by a pin to the connecting rod, J, which connects it with the same slide, C, for the purpose of closing the openings. L is a wheel carrying any convenient number of studs, V V, on it, for striking the butts of the levers, E and I, which project behind, the studs acting upon them like cams on the treddles of a loom, to operate the slides and open and close the seed passages in the bottom of the hopper, to deposit the seed. Thus the number of deposits, or hills, can be increased or diminished by the number of studs set in around the sides of the wheel. T is the furrower to open the drill, and there is a scraper set angularly on each side (one is shown on this side) which follows after and covers up the seed.

There is another provision in this "seed planter," viz., to shut off the supply of grain at pleasure, while the wheel may be travelling, such as crossing a "head ridge." This is done by another slide below, C, fixed on a shaft, N, in front, and operated by the lever, S K, which is actuated by the handle, Q, on the axis, P, which presses on a pin on the end of the lever, R, ready at the hand of the operator. The butts of the levers which actuate the slides, are so made, that when the wheel is reversed, they are thrown up like loose joints and do not actuate the slides at all. This is the leading feature, and a good one it is, of this invention. This seed planter is very simple; it answers every purpose required of a seed planter, consequently it is a good one.

Any communication addressed, post-paid, to Mr. Groshon, will meet with attention.

## Brown's Eccentric Progressive Power Press.



We here present a prospective view of the Patented Eccentric Progressive Pully Power Press, invented by the Patentee, Mr. A. D. Brown of Clinton, Georgia. We have presented engravings of this press before as applied to the pressing of cotton. This view represents the principle applied to standing presses for Bookbinders, Printers, Cloth Pressing, Paper Mills, &c., or for any other business where a snug powerful press is required. This one, with a single crank, multiplies the power 400 times, and two cranks of course would double

the power, and by enlarging the wheel any amount of power, required may be obtained. By referring to the other engraving published in the Scientific American, on the 9th of last March, a very complete idea of the principle will be obtained. We make this statement for others to refer, as we like to economise our space and present as few repetitions as possible. Suffice it, first of all, to say, this press has one peculiar beauty: it has little power and the greatest speed at the beginning of the act of compression, when great speed and little power are needed, and as the resistance to the compressing power increases, the power to compress increases in the same ratio.

A is the frame; B is the pressing follower; C is the eccentric pulley or lever power secured on its eccentric axle, D; the pulley is retained between the two sides of the follower; E is the chain passing over the pulley and down around the axle, J, being attached to a rope to go round the axle. I is the crank of the pinion, H, which, by a pinion on the other side, gears into G, to increase the power by driving the axle, J; K is the take-up cord, F, is a brace of the frame. The hole in the centre of the pulley is of no account, only if it was for a very large one, it will assist it to be moved. With a little modification, this can be made a first rate press for pressing tobacco. Its simplicity is one of its highest recommendations. Its merits are of no common character. It will soon be universally used for a great number of purposes, for which more complex presses are now employed. Any communication, post paid, addressed to Mr. Brown, will be promptly answered.

The steamer Melodeon lately made a trip on the Mississippi a distance of 278 miles in 10 hours. This was at the average rate of 27 miles per hour.

## Useful Receipts.

### Poison Balls for Rats and Roaches, and other Vermin.

MR. EDITOR: I send you the following receipt, which I have used with some success:

"Put a drachm of phosphorus in a bottle along with two ounces of water; cork it, and plunge it in a vessel of boiling water till the phosphorus is dissolved; then pour it into a mortar along with three ounces of lard, and rub it briskly, adding some water, about half a pound of flour and two ounces of sugar. The whole is made into a paste and divided into balls about the size of marbles. This is laid down on the floor or shelves for rats, cockroaches and other vermin, who eat and are destroyed. For rats, I have found cheese to be better than sugar, and tallow better than lard. The cockroaches are fond of any thing sweet, hence sugar is a bait for them. Potatoes will answer as well as the flour. These balls should be laid down at night, and carefully lifted in the morning, taking care not to let any be touched by a child. They should be locked up through the day."

R. C.

### To Purify Covered Wells from Foul Air.

It is well known that many accidents take place by persons going down into wells for cleaning them, by the noxious gas in such places. To remove the gas before descent is made into any well or damp pit, a quantity of burned but unslacked lime should be thrown down. This, when it comes in contact with whatever water is below, sets free a great amount of heat in the water and lime, which rushes upward, carrying all the deleterious gases with it; after which, descent may be made with perfect safety.

### Preserving Tobacco.

If tobacco leaves are salted and hung up to dry, it is said they will keep in perfectly good order for years. It is better to dry tobacco leaves in the shade than any where else. To preserve the flavor of fine tobacco, it should be carried into a shade as soon as cut and suspended thinly like paper, on cords stretched across from side to side. The slower it is dried, so much the better for flavor, and mildness of taste.

### The Passions of the Mind.

The passions are to our intellectual faculties what the salt is to the bread; they season it and give it flavor. The mind is the yeast which vivifies and elevates the mass, while the world is the oven which receives the whole and fit it for use.

### To Make Good Current Wine.

One quart of current juice; two quarts of water (cold); three lbs. of brown sugar; put in a cask with the bung out, or in very loose, so as to allow it to ferment; when the sound from fermentation ceases then make the cask tight; leave it for a year, and then bottle it.

### Narcotics.

Different narcotics affect the system differently. Opium acts directly on the brain.—Nightshade produces congestion similar to what takes place by a ligature about the neck, preventing the return of the venous blood to the head. The Italian ladies made use of it as an antidote to a florid complexion—the effect being to produce paleness. The medical name, "Bella Donna," is taken from this circumstance. Tobacco affects the nervous system generally, setting people a shaking and a quaking, puffing and snuffing.

Edwin Forrest, the tragedian, knocked down and cowhided N. P. Willis, the poet, last Monday evening, at the Washington Parade Ground. This was scandalous.