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The Hudson River Railroad.

A controversy has taken place between Mr. Poor, the Editor of the "American Railroad Journal," and a person signing himself "Countryman," respecting the payability of the Hudson River Railroad. Mr. Poor speaks against its payability, the Countryman for it. The greatest expenses of this road are set down for horses, &c., in New York city, for drawing the cars from 31st street to the centre of the city. We thought that condensing locomotives (the "Dummies") were to be used for this purpose. Why are they not? Are they more expensive than horses? It is our opinion that we cannot form a very sound opinion about the payability of this road for a year or two to come. It pays better than ever we expected it would; but it will require time to decide fairly on the subject.

The Compound Rail.

J. F. Winslow, Esq., of Troy, N. Y., has gone to Europe to introduce his compound rail on the English and other European railroads. This rail has received very high commendations from those railroads where it has been laid down and received a trial. Erastus Corning, Esq., of Albany, N. Y., President of the Utica and Schenectady Railroad, a gentleman of great probity, says that ten years' experience of ten continuous miles on the railroad, convinces him that "it is one of the greatest improvements yet made in railroad construction." The Superintendent (C. Vibbard, Esq.) of the same road, expresses the same opinions.

Hobbs before the London Society of Arts.

Mr. Hobbs, in a lecture before the Society of Arts, in London, gave the following statement of the manner in which he picked the Bramah lock:—

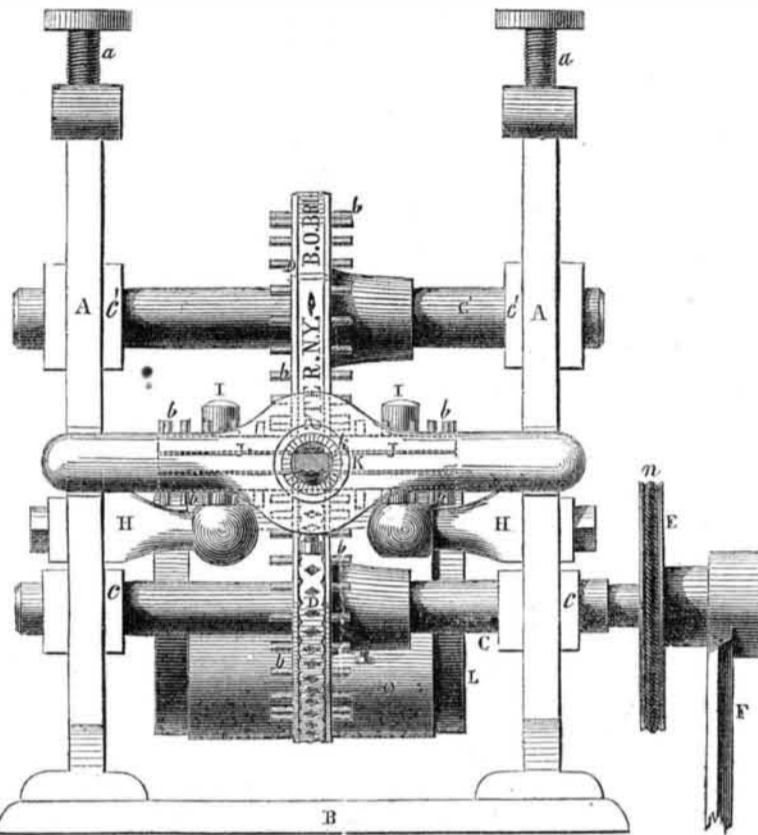
"He said that his first step had been to take an impression of the hole in wax. He had originally supposed that each slide had its spring, but he found himself mistaken in that surmise. Having contrived the necessary implements, he pressed down the disc, which left him at liberty to work on the slides; introduced a lever to the key-hole, and applied pressure to the cylinder; felt the slides successively, pressed them in the false notches, and succeeded in loosening the cylinder, and the lock was picked. He had never seen the inside of a Bramah lock before his experiments—had never tried to pick one; and he entertains no doubt that, with his present experience, he could repeat the process in an hour's time.

In conclusion Mr. Hobbs said he had never made a lock, and never practiced picking a great deal: and he astonished his English auditors by saying that he knew more expert lock-pickers than himself.

Clinton State Prison Iron Ore.

The Northern Gazette, Keesville, N. Y., contains a stinging article in reference to the message of Gov. Hunt, recommending more prisoners to be sent there. The article states that there is no ore on the State property (so does Gov. Hunt's Message) and wonders how iron can be made without ore.

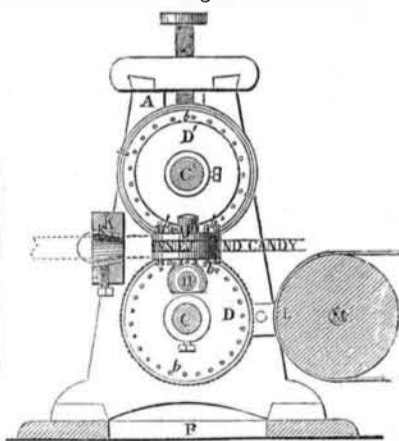
PATENT MACHINERY FOR ROLLING CANDY.—Fig. 1.



The accompanying engravings represent the improvements in machinery for rolling candy, invented by Mr. Bartholomew O'Brien, of the city of Rochester, N. Y., the patent for which was granted on the 13th of last month (Jan.) Figure 1 is a front elevation; figure 2 is a vertical section, taken at right angles to the axis of the rollers. The same letters refer to like parts.

A A are two standards, and B is a bed-plate, forming the frame of the machine. C is a shaft or axle hung horizontally in boxes, c c, on the standards; this shaft carries a roller, D; a pulley, E, and a winch handle, F, by which it is turned. C' is a shaft hung parallel to C in the boxes, c' c', which are adjustable at various heights on the standards by the screws, a a; it carries a roller, D', of similar

Fig. 2.



size, and in other respects like D. H H are a pair of arms or brackets secured within the standards each carrying a stud, I; upon each of these studs is hung a roller, J, whose diameter is such as will allow of its periphery nearly touching the sides of the rollers, D D'. The two rollers, J J, and the ones, D D', have all a series of teeth, b b, on each side at a distance within their peripheries, by which they are geared together, so that when one receives motion it gives motion to all the others, in such a direction that the sides of their peripheries which are nearest together, move towards the same direction horizontally. The roller, D, is ornamented on its periphery, while

time, it cuts them off at required lengths. Its utility, beauty, and good qualities, for those engaged in this kind of manufacture—one of no small importance in our country—is obvious.

More information may be obtained by letter addressed to Mr. O'Brien.

The Montgomery Mechanics' Association.

The mechanics of Montgomery, Ala., have formed an association and have become a corporate body by an Act of the Alabama Legislature. The objects of the association is the promotion of the mechanic arts, the sciences, and the diffusion of useful information among the members. They are to have a library, reading room, courses of lectures on various subjects pertaining to the objects in view; also a system of debate among the members, for the excelling in which, cards of merit, diplomas, &c., will be awarded. The terms of admission are \$10, and 50 cents as monthly dues. We understand the citizens of Montgomery are highly pleased with this effort of the mechanics, and that the impression is general that it will prove a benefit to the community. We have received a list of the names of the officers, they are gentlemen of respectability and worth, and we are confident that the association must do good. We hope that all the intelligent men in Montgomery will give it their support, and we hope that all the mechanics in the place will join it. We have just one word of advice to give to them, it is this, "endeavor to cultivate a real good, sociable, and kindly feeling towards one another and endeavor to make the evening meetings pleasant to one another." We do not like debating clubs; this opinion is formed after much experience; they bring into play the feeling to exceed rather than excel. The reading of short papers, we have noticed, does more good; these papers should be on various subjects, and each should not be longer than to take up about 15 minutes to read.

Hurl Gate.

The whirlpool at Hurlgate, on the Long Island Sound, has ceased to be a whirlpool. The rock which caused the whirl of boiling waters has been blasted, and the debris of it has filled up the yawning gulfs around it. Monsieur Maillefert has done this by inserting a shaft in some crevice, attaching a canister of powder to it to rest on the rock, and then discharging the powder by the electric spark. The water answers for a lever to make the powder act upon the rock. The discovery of this principle of blasting is a valuable one. We do not know who claims to have discovered it, the invention, we know, is five years old at least, and was used to tear up the concrete shoal in the Thames in 1847 or '48.

Remarkable Discovery in Virginia.

A letter in the Richmond Times states that a few days ago, while several men were engaged in blasting limestone near Buchanan, Bottetourt County, they discovered a cave, with an entrance some six or eight feet in height, and one hundred long, with two apartments. In the first they found some earthenware and a large stone cross; on the cross there was some carving, but it was so much defaced by the hand of time that it was scarcely discernible. A number of citizens with lanterns, consequently, entered the second apartment, where they found a skeleton seated on a huge iron chest, with its back resting against the wall. On opening this chest they found it to contain gold coin, perfectly smooth on one side and a cross with some characters on it on the other. The gold in the chest by weight, is worth seven hundred and eighty-three dollars.

[This really looks to be something more than a fact, we do not give it any credence.