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RAIL-ROAD NEWS.

Great Speed.

Some extraordinary engine running was performed on the railroads in Massachusetts in collecting the election returns. The locomotive on the Connecticut River Railroad, under the personal direction of John B. Wyman, the superintendent of the road, ran from the Vermont line to Springfield—fifty miles—making six stops on the way, in fifty-three minutes! This is an average speed of more than a mile a minute, running time. The locomotive on the Western road ran from Pittsfield to Springfield—fifty-four miles—in an hour and ten minutes, including one stop for wood and water. This is very fast running considering the numerous curves of the route.

Shocking Railroad Accident.

Michael Brennan was shockingly injured this morning on the railroad, near the Merrimack House. It seems he was trying to jump on the bunter of one of a train of sand cars, and in doing so, fell, and the cars passed over him. His body was so much mangled that the bowels protruded, and both his legs were fractured. It was thought he could not survive.—[Lowell Courier, 4th.

Railroad Movements.

The chairman of the Camden and Cape May Railroad Company announces that the several routes have been surveyed, and that the engineer's report will be given in a few days. The Camden and Absecon Company are progressing quite spiritedly with the work on their road, and are contracting for materials, &c.

Stoneham Branch Railroad.

We understand that the directors of this road have decided to extend it to the Lowell Railroad. The charter of this company authorizes them to unite their road either with the Lowell Railroad, or the Medford Branch of the Boston and Maine. Stoneham is one of the most beautiful and growing towns in the vicinity of Boston, and when connected therewith by a railroad will be a most desirable place of residence. We learn that the work is under contract, and is to be completed this winter, the distance being less than two miles.

A New Railroad.

A project is on foot, and is meeting with encouragement, for the extension of the North Danvers Railroad into Haverhill—\$10,000 worth of stock now remains to be taken up.

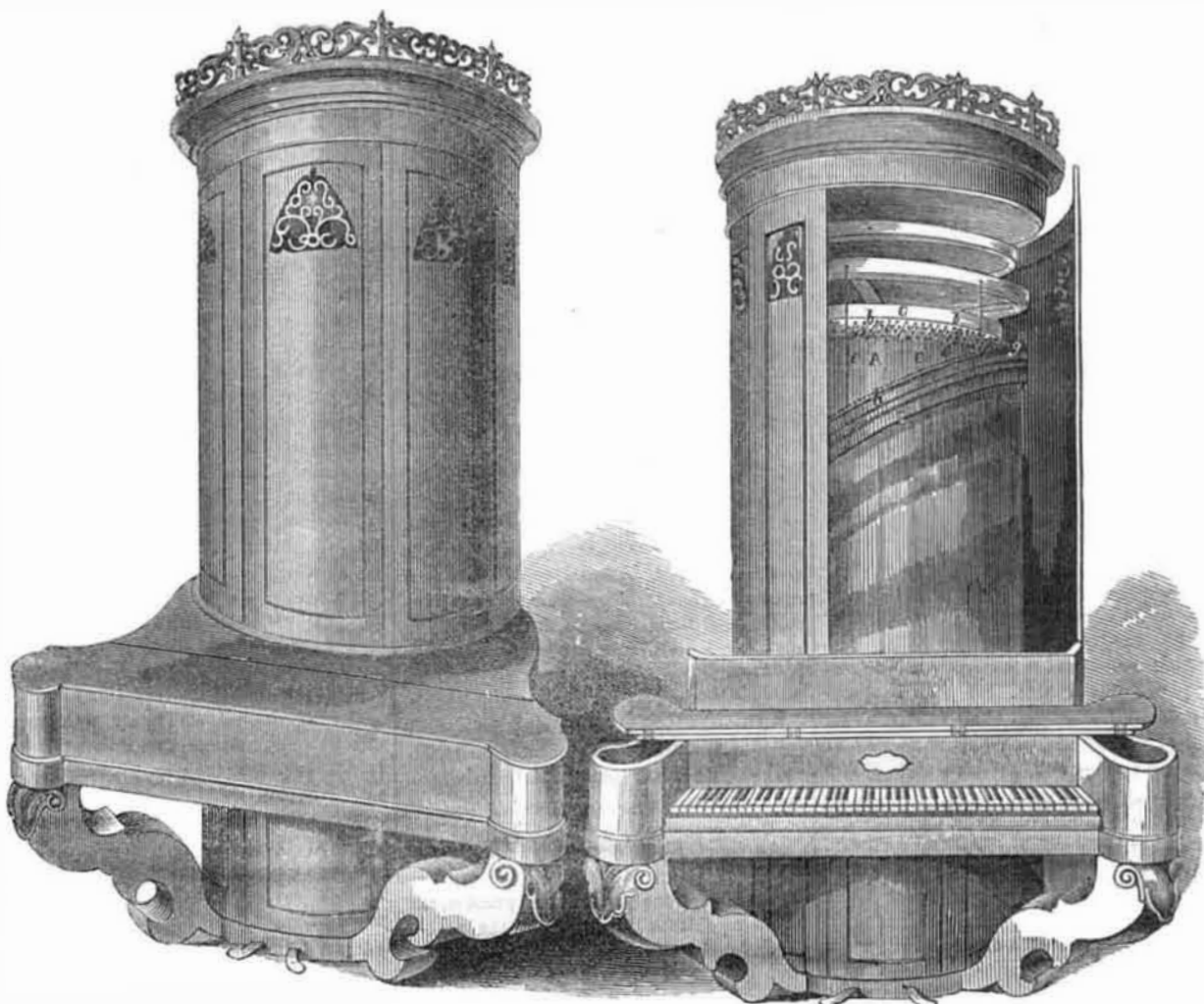
We see it stated in the "Ohio State Journal," that there is a movement on foot for holding a National Railroad Convention somewhere in the Great West, at a time to be named hereafter, to bring the people of the East, West, North and South together, for the purpose of consultation and the acquisition of necessary intelligence relating to the interests of the country.

In the English mining districts the colliers are agitating for a rise of wages.

PATENT CULINDRON PIANOFORTE.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.



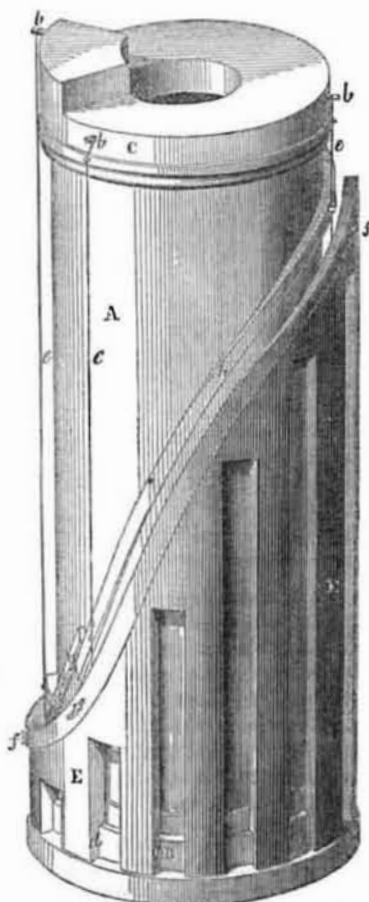
The annexed engravings are views of an improvement in Pianofortes, invented by Alfred Speer, and Ernest Marx, of Aquackanonk, N. J., and for which a patent was granted on the 28th of last September (1852). Figure 1 is a perspective view of the instrument; fig. 2 is a front view, with the keys, sounding-board, and strings exposed. Fig. 3 is a perspective view, showing the sounding-board with all the parts to which the strings are connected. The same letters refer to like parts.

The improvement relates to the sounding-board of these instruments, and consists in making the same in the form of a hollow cylinder, cone, or prism, or part of such figures, the said board having its ends secured between two discs or heads. The strings, cap, tuning-block, and all parts of the instrument are suitably arranged around it to produce the sound. The principal object of making the board of this form, is to improve the sound,—afford facilities for making double instruments with more than one set of strings in a single case, &c. The instrument is very ornamental indeed; it can be made of a gothic, or any other pattern, and will form a more beautiful piece of parlor furniture than the common pianoforte.

A is the sounding-board, which is represented to be in the form of a hollow cylinder; it is secured between two strong wooden discs, B C (fig. 2), which are well braced together by braces or by tension rods. The top disc, C, serves for a tuning-block, the tuning pins, *b b*, being screwed into its periphery. E is the cap, made of cast-iron; its form is part of a cylinder, so that all parts of its face may be at an equal distance from the sounding-board; it rests upon, and is firmly secured to the disc, B, having a deep flange, *c*, which extends over

the outside of the disc; it is recessed around *f f*, in the cap, and pass through holes, then over the bridge, *g h*, to the tuning pins, *b b*, in disc C.

FIG. 3.



e e are the strings, only a few of which are shown; they are secured in loops to the pins,

The sounding-board, as shown in the engraving, is a perfect unbroken cylinder, which the patentees believe to be the best, but any of the forms heretofore specified, as embracing the principle, may also be employed. This instrument has a sounding-board of two feet in diameter, and is six feet high, consequently it is six feet and four inches (nearly) in circumference, or a little over thirty-seven square feet. This great surface, together with the cylindrical form of the sounding-board, the makers assure us, greatly improves the tone of the instrument, both as respects sweetness and strength. The strings being arranged around the sounding-board, are not so liable to get out of order as those arranged on one side. Two, three, or more sets of strings may be arranged round one sounding-board; and with keys for each set, a number of performers may be able to play at the same time, and yet no more room would be occupied than with a common flat piano. Its form allows of its being placed at the side, or the centre of a room, and yet have full length strings.

More information may be obtained by letter addressed to the patentees.

Colored Silk Cocoons.

A Monsieur Rollin lately exhibited before the French Academy, a silkworm's cocoon of a rose color; remarkable because the color was produced by feeding the worms upon mulberry leaves sprinkled with chico (Bigonia chica.) A cocoon had been exhibited on a former occasion of a blue tint, produced by sprinkling indigo upon the mulberry leaves. The tint in the present case was, however, much stronger than that of the blue cocoon.