HONDURAS AND ITS RESOURCES.

The wealth of Central America and the States adjacent to it seems to be but limitedly appreciated by the world at large. The popular idea respecting that region is that the inhabitants are negroes or Spanish Indians; that reptiles of all kinds abound; that filth and fever are ubiquitous; and that plantains, oranges, and other tropical fruits may be had for the picking. That the foregoing features have some existence is not to be denied; but the other and more valuable ones—the soil, the climate, and the mineral wealth of Honduras—are persistently lost sight of. Few of the Anglo-Saxon race have settled there, and yet, if we may believe modern travelers, Meagher, Squiers, and others, there is no more delightful country on the globe than that lying between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, in the longitude 10° 20′ west from Washington. A recent letter from San Pedro, Honduras, thus speaks of the inexhaustible wealth of that region, vegetable and mineral:—

"A few days ago there passed, on their way to Minas de Oro, in the department of Comazagua, six Americans, three of whom are from the town of Binghamton, N. Y. These men are going to prospect those mines and the country from there to the river Sulaco, and thence to the department of Olancho, to try their luck in the celebrated gold-bearing rivers of that department. The mines known by the name of Minas de Oro are old abandoned mines, having been worked extensively by the Spaniards previous to the independence of the Central American States, which will be in September coming forty-two years. The traditions of the natives concerning them are that they are very rich, and that several *empresarios* left them for Old Spain very rich; but be this as it may, they are situated in the heart of a rich mineral country, containing mines of gold in quartz and surface-diggings, silver mines in profusion, copper and iron, with an abundance of medicinal minerals.

"Having been in Oregon and Washington Territories, and in the northern and southern mines of California, also having seen the greater portion of the State of Honduras, I have been able to compare the superficial appearance of those different States satisfactorily to myself, prospecting the earth and some of the rivers, and seeing the prospects taken out by the natives while at work, and the gold offered by them for sale. The gold and silver mines of this State are upon the coast range of mountains, and their extending spurs, covering a base of a hundred and thirty to a hundred and fifty miles—that is to say, from Minas de Oro in the south, to gold-bearing quartz in the vicinity of San Pedro, upon the Atlantic side of the state, north.

"The gold diggings of Olancho connect on the east with the extensive silver mines of Santa Maria, in this State, and the mines of Depilto, in the department of Segovia, in Nicaragua. I have been over the mines of Santa Maria. They are of quartz, sulphurets of silver, and rich lead ores; some of the lead ores yielding, from a rough assay, from four to five ounces to the arroba of twenty-five pounds. There is in a river near to Santa Maria rich lead ore, detached by time and the action of the atmosphere, sufficient for a thousand men to work for one year.

"Again, south and west, comes the gold-bearing earth of the river Sulaco. Further on, in the same direction, are the mines of Minas de Oro; and away in the extreme south, within half a day's travel of the Pacific Ocean, are the rich mines of Guasucarau and the Tabanca mines, in the State of San Salvador, now extensively worked by a French company. Still further west comes the gold-bearing earth of Santa Cruz, in the department of Santa Barbara. Next is Quimistan, near to which is the celebrated gold-bearing gulch called Quebrada Guayaba, containing coarse gold. A little south of this is the river Tiquitapa, from which the natives are constantly washing gold; also the river Chiquila, which, in my opinion, contains more gold than any in Honduras.

"Honduras contains many other things besides mines, and some that would perhaps pay as well, if not better. Among those are cotton, tobacco, sugar, rice, cacao and coffee. The natives only plant cotton sufficient to make pillows for their beds and candle-wick. They simply cut off the brush and burn it, plant and clean it once, and it yields abundantly, not only for one year, but for three and four years in succession. The people of the United States will soon have an opportunity of judging as to the quality of the cotton, as there is a small quantity in Omoa at the present time ready for shipment, the natives having been induced, from the high price of the article, to bring some from the interior. Tobacco grows well, very large and fine in the leaf, yielding a second crop, which is used here to make cigarettes.

"Sugar grows as it does in no other part of the world, bearing successively for fifteen years without replanting. Rice grows luxuriantly all over the State; it never requires irrigation, growing equally well upon hill-sides and mountains as it does in the valleys. Cacao and coffee grow all over the State, the cacao growing better in the valleys, and the coffee upon the high ground. God in his bountiful goodness has done everything for the country, so that it requires but little or no labor to live, and the negro race, having but very little ambition, raise no more than is sufficient to live upon and to clothe them; therefore those in this country of the Spanish race wish for a white population. Here we have perpetual summer. It is very easy to raise two crops of corn, and you can raise three crops in thirteen months upon the Atlantic side, this being the side of the State nearest to New York; two crops of beans, and sweet potatoes all the year. Plantains and bananas grow all over. So does yuca, from which arrowroot is made; and the cassava, a fine vegetable—bulbous root. The country abounds in wild fruit of many kinds. Deer and wild hogs are plenty in the woods, and it is the greatest country in the world for raising chickens, the hens laying all the year round. The climate is good.

"I have just remembered that one of the persons who have gone to Minas de Oro told me that it was generally believed in the United States that this country was and is very unhealthy. I cannot understand how such an impression has gone abroad, for it is not so. I have lived in this country for three years, and during that time I have traveled over a thousand leagues in the interior, riding all day in the hot sun, and perhaps sleeping at night out on the savannah or mountain, as the case may be, and the natives do the same generally during the summer months, preferring to sleep out of doors when it is very warm. The manner of living of the people brings on fever in nine cases out of ten. Only imagine: they eat large quantities of meat, which is always cooked in hog's fat. Beans are a common dish. They first boil them and then fry them in fat; the beans must swim in lard to be good; with the beans they eat cheese—cheese of the country—that is made in the following manner:—The milk is taken from the cows and poured into a large wooden vessel. They use rennet in abundance, putting in an immense quantity of salt, so much so that you can taste nothing but salt. I have often thought if I was President for one week, I would put such a duty on salt as would stop this practice. Now, as the milk is warm from the cow, the rennet is not sufficient to make it thick, so they always have a large quantity of lemons on hand, the juice of which they use, to make it turn sour, I suppose. Well, this makes the cheese. Now, such cheese as this, as hard as a brick, but mixed with beans, cooked as I have stated, the natives eat liberally—for they have good appetites—perhaps three times a day. Would men in any temperate part of the world eat such a mess as this and not have fever? All that is necessary to do here, to have good health and retain it, is, to be temperate in all things, keep the system free from bile, and bathe often."

EXTRAORDINARY ENDURANCE.—Paul Bartlett is employed as a laborer at Tyndall Iron Works, Durham, England, and has been a teetotaler fourteen years. His employment consists in wheeling iron to the furnaces. He works 9 hours per day, and 5 days per week. He wheels twenty-four tuns of iron each day, four hundred weight at a time. The distance traversed is nearly nine miles per day. He thus walks 45 miles per week of five days, wheeling at the same time 120 tuns of iron. During the fourteen years Paul has driven his barrow, with its four hundred weight of iron, not less than 630 miles, and has wheeled in the same time 87,360 tuns. He can, on a "pinch," place one tun weight on his barrow, and wheel it several yards.

American Goods in Australia.

The following extract is from a letter of a correspondent of the Boston *Evening Traveler*, in Melbourne, Australia. He says:—"Still the starry banner floats over the nation's representative here; still the beautiful ships of our republic enter these waters, laden with the products of American skill. In direct competition with the boasted tools and implements of England many articles of iron and wood supersede here the use of English-made. The American cook-stove is a miracle of convenience; the American axe and shovel, the American carriage, the American miners' boots, and many other articles carry away the palm. An American with his machine shows how best to crush the rock, and how best (before slates arrived) to cover the roofs, and how best to open up a stage-coach communication with the vast interior. The men of the starry flag are here, active, intelligent, bold, liberal. They are not numerous, but they know how to be respected. This is no doubt the oldest of the continents. Its living forms seem yet in transition to the types elsewhere—its flora more allied to that of the ancient coal formations. There is here no horse, no deer, no cat, no dog (unless one or two of doubtful kind), nor any of the great mammalia. Marsupials, mostly of the strange, kangaroo type among animals, and curious evergreens and fern and palm-like trees among the flora, with no native berries and fruits (or very nearly none)—such are some of the obvious appearances in living forms; while scarcely any great rivers or lakes penetrating and beautifying the country are to be found."

What Desecration!

Messrs. Ayer & Co. have received from Alexandria a cargo of rags to pay for their medicines. They are evidently gathered from all classes and quarters of the Pacha's dominions—the cast-off garments of Hadjis and Howadjis—white linen turbans, loose breeches, and flowing robes. Not the least part of their bulk is cloth in which bodies were embalmed and wound for preservation three thousand years ago! They are now to be made into paper for Ayer's almanacs; and thus, after having wrapped the dead for thirty centuries, are used to warn the living from the narrow house which they have so long inhabited. —*Exchange.*

[Shades of Isis and Osiris to the rescue! Will you suffer the despoiler to disturb your subjects' manes without in some way visiting him with your displeasure? And you, oh, Sphinx! and Memnon, and the sacred bull Apis—open your lips of stone and hurl fierce wrath and denunciation at those who unroll the bandages from your kings and who, perhaps, remove the swaddling garment from Cleopatra herself, to furnish material for a Yankee pill-vender's almanac.—EDS.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

We learn from the report of the master of machinery—Thatcher Perkins—of the above-named railroad, that the number of locomotives employed upon it during the month of April last, was 172, the average number of miles run by each engine 2,282, miles run to one cord of wood 1,211, miles run to one quart of oil 22.9, pounds of coal consumed per mile run 61.8, cost of repairs per mile run 5c., cost of fuel per mile run 4c., cost of stores per mile run 1.2c., total cost 10.2 cents per mile. The total number of miles run by the passenger engines was 392,659, and by freight engines 307,117 miles.

THE CULTIVATION OF ROSES.—The rose requires abundance of air and light, and judicious grouping is indispensable. This may be accomplished by forming a rose pyramid, rising gradually in hight from the minutest dwarf at the base to the tallest standard at the apex. As the varieties are almost endless it would be impossible to enumerate them. Every florist's catalogue will supply the list, and the taste of the operator direct the arrangement. A proper discrimination should of course be manifested with regard to the time and continuance of blooming, so as to secure the finest possible effect.

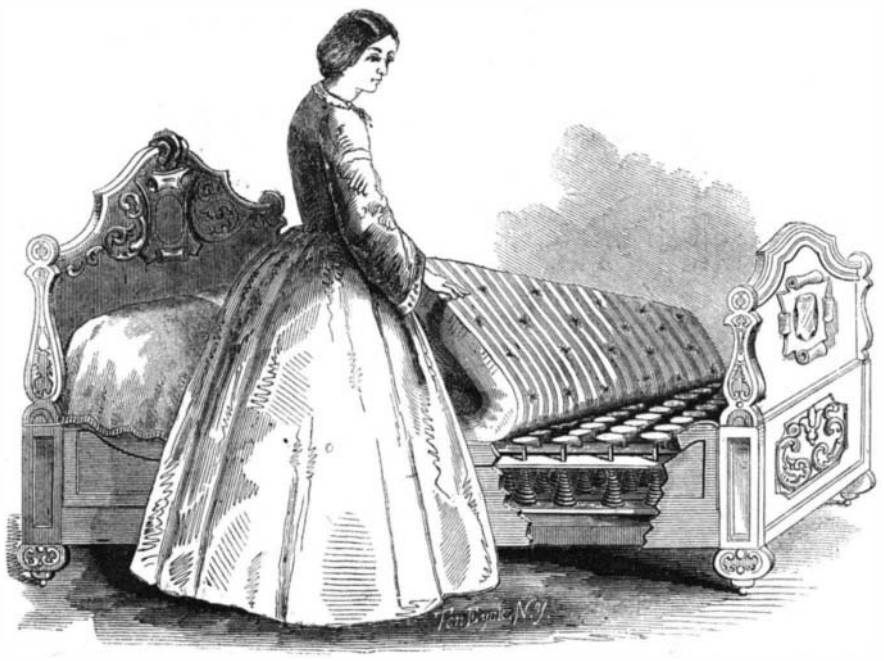
THE lighting of Paris by electricity, it is stated, is to be entrusted to M. J. Van Malderan, who has invented an electric light, one jet of which is equal to 2,200 jets of gas.

Improved Spring Bed.

The above engraving represents an improved mode of constructing spring beds, for which Letters Patent were granted to Warren P. Miller, of Marysville, Cal., on June 9, 1863.

These beds are composed of conical spiral springs placed between longitudinal slats, and attached to vertical bars traversing through holes in the slats. On the top of each bar is a cap or button, upon which the mattress rests. The springs are but four inches apart from centers; there being about five times the number usually employed. They are comparatively light, interpose but slight resistance to pressure, and, as their action is independent one of the other, they readily adopt a position corresponding to the person. Two persons of unequal weight may occupy these beds without inconvenience to either, nor do they sink away in the center and form the sleeper into a segment of a circle.

In point of economy, ease, and durability these beds are unsurpassed. One ordinary mattress is sufficient to make a superior bed. They are so constructed as to preclude the possibility of getting out of order, and it is confidently asserted that they will last fifty years. All that is claimed for these beds will be readily conceded by an observer, and they need only to be used to be appreciated. Patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency. For further information address G. & E. H. Parish, Hinsdale, Mass.



MILLER'S PATENT SPRING BED.

NORTHERN COTTON CULTIVATION.

Although cotton has become scarce and high in price, from circumstances well known to all, and although flax and wool have taken its place, and perhaps will maintain their position in many classes of goods for which cotton was formerly used, still it is of such a peculiar character, that no other known fiber can supplant it for many purposes. The operations involved in its preparation for spinning are all of a mechanical nature and are executed with machinery. It has not to be retted and treated chemically like flax, and it does not require to be soaped and oiled like wool. Its preparation is therefore more simple and economical. Taken from the field, it but requires to be run through the gin and the picker, and is then fit for the carder. And it is so soft and pliable that it may be made into fabrics that have surfaces soft as the down of the swan, and also into lace thread, attenuated as the spider's web. Its cultivation, we understand, is becoming extended in localities where it was not formerly thought of, as a crop, and no doubt it may be cultivated in districts where it has been supposed it would never reach maturity. The very finest qualities of cotton are undoubtedly raised in warm latitudes near the tropics, but in China and Japan very good short staple is raised in latitudes as far north as Long Island, and these oriental varieties in all likelihood could be acclimated here. Our consuls in China and Japan should be instructed to forward seeds from their respective localities, with descriptions of the modes pursued in their cultivation. The greater number of fibrous materials which can be raised at home render us more independent of foreign supplies, and tend to increase our industrial resources.

LARGE POWDER MILLS.--The Union Powder Works in New Durham, N. H., turns out two tuns of powder per day for the Government. These works, with three other larger establishments, furnish a large portion of the powder used in this war. The Dupont Works, Wilmington, Del.; Hazard, in Connecticut; Oriental, in Maine; and the Union, in New Hampshire, have turned out at the rate of 400 barrels per day.

"Highfalutin."

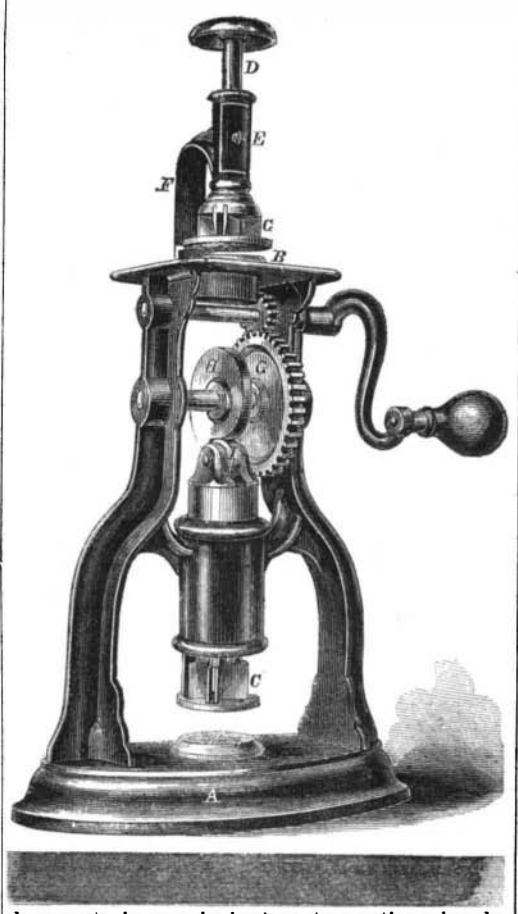
A writer in the "Atlantic," in the course of an interesting article on the photographic art, delivers himself of the following astounding paragraph:—

"Then we replace the slide in the shield, draw this out of the camera, and carry it back into the shadowy realm where Cocytus flows in black nitrate of silver and Acheron stagnates in the pool of hyposulphite, and invisible ghosts, trooping down from the world of day, cross a Styx of dissolved sulphate of iron, and appear before the Rhadamanthus of that lurid Hades."

The English of this is that the photographer brings out the features printed on the plate by washing it with sulphate of iron and hyposulphite of soda.

SCOTT'S PATENT STAMP-CANCELER.

The creation of an internal revenue tax, and the adoption of stamps by which to legalize the various



documents in use in business transactions, has demanded the introduction of machinery; in order to guard against fraud each stamp must be effectually canceled after it has been used, so that there can be no possibility of its being affixed a second time to any other paper. The press herewith illustrated accomplishes this object by the following arrangement. The light cast-iron frame is supported by the bed-plate, A, and has on its upper end a polished table, B; this table has a raised boss under the knives, C, four in number, and is covered with leather to prevent them from being dulled. The knives are set in the shoulder of the rod, D, which works through the cylinder, E, of the arm, F. There is a spiral spring in this cylinder, so that by placing a document on the raised boss, and striking or pressing forcibly down on the button-head, the stamp is separated into four pieces and cannot be removed whole. This attachment of the press is intended for single stamps, but when necessary to cancel a large number at once, it can be done by turning the handle seen at one side; this is keyed on a shaft which carries a pinion working in the large spur wheel, G. The cam, H, runs on the friction roller, I, in the knife-head, and forces the latter down. When the cam has passed, the spindle carrying the knives flies up again and allows the papers to be withdrawn. This constitutes a power press, and is capable of exerting a great strain. The leather-covered portion may be seen very clearly on the lower part of the machine under the knives. This machine is very strongly made, and will very fully accomplish the object for which it was designed. It was patented on April 1, 1862, by Edwin M. Scott, of Auburn, N. Y.; further particulars can be had by addressing Swasey, Fosgate & Co., at that place.

Fast Running.

The Hudson river steamer *Mary Powell*, Captain A. L. Anderson, made the run between this city and Poughkeepsie lately, in three hours and forty-two minutes. Leaving here at half-past three o'clock, P. M., she reached the latter city at twelve minutes past seven o'clock. Deducting thirty-five minutes consumed at landings and five minutes lost on getting into the stream on starting, and the actual running time for the seventy-five miles is three hours and two minutes--a feat unprecedented in the annals of Hudson-river steamboating.

[The steamer *City of Buffalo*, formerly running upon Lake Erie, has run 75 miles in three hours and six minutes frequently. The distance from Toledo to Buffalo is said to be 300 miles by the course run; the time between these two ports, of the boat above-mentioned, was equal to a speed of 22 miles an hour for fourteen consecutive hours. We think that is pretty fast steamboating.—EDS.

Lumber shipped from Philadelphia to Maine, &c.

The Philadelphia *Press* says that one firm in that city has furnished to various ports in the State of Maine the lumber necessary to complete, within the past two years, at least forty ships, of which four were United States gunboats. During the past year the following amounts of oak and pine timber were furnished by one house to the ports named:—To Bath, Maine, 523,640 feet; to Thomaston, Maine, 325,000 feet; to Searsport and Freeport, Maine, 327,099 feet; to Richmond, Maine, 278,138 feet; to Yarmouth, Maine, 241,899 feet; to other Maine ports, 500,774; to ports of Massachusetts, 67,200 feet. Total, 2,263,750 feet.

THE prospects of the peach crop in New Jersey are said to be uncommonly promising. The backward spring delayed somewhat the budding of the trees and thus prevented the liability to blight.

AN anvil block, weighing 100 tuns, was cast at Sheffield recently. This is by far the largest casting ever made in England.