Scientific Museum.

A New Pin Factory.

We learn by the Albany "Knickerbocker," that a factory for making pins is about to be established in that city, by Messrs. Root & Co. It says: "they commence operations with twenty-four machines, which will be increased during the present year to one hundred. Each machine will turn out one hundred pins a minute. This is equal to six thousand per hour, or sixty thousand per day. At this rate the twenty-four machines will produce *daily*, pins to the amount of one million four hundred thousand! The machines are very simple and are managed by girls and boys with as much success as could be derived from the employment of men."

In further speaking of these machines, the "Knick." says: "Pin making has become a very lucrative employment. The improvements which have been made within the past fifteen years, have quite revolutionized the matter and given the pins manufactured in the United States preference over those made in any other part of the world. In this country pins are made with solid heads—that is, the whole pin is made at one stroke, and with one piece of wire. To place a proper estimate on this process, the reader should examine the manner with which pins are made in Great Britain."

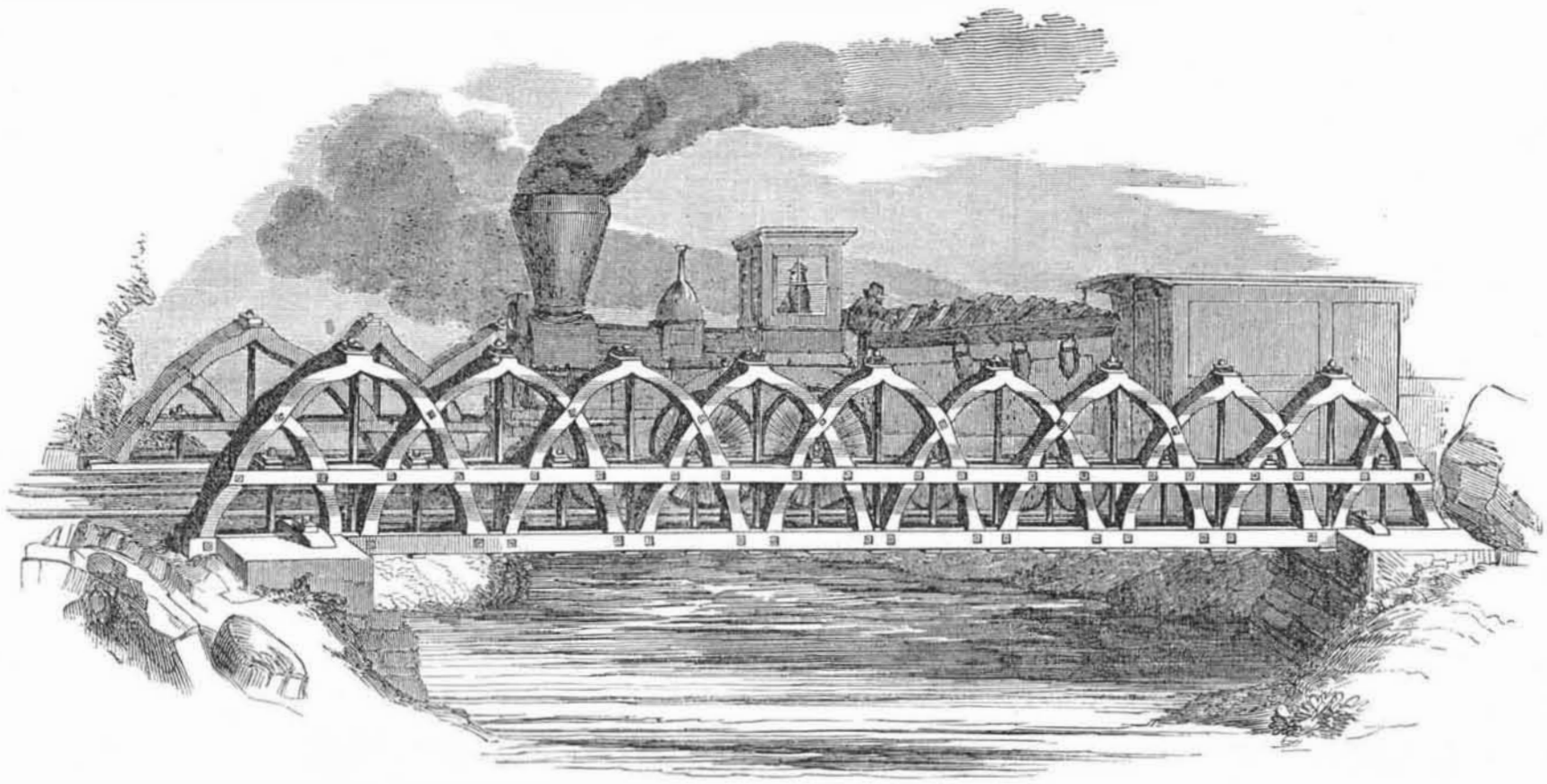
Here our cotemporary gives a long and detailed description of the complicated old method of making pins, by making the heads separate from the shank, supposing that this is the method now pursued in England for making pins, while the fact is, that the American pin machines have been used in England for quite a number of years. "Uncle John" now makes his pins with solid heads, as well as Brother Jonathan.

The truth is that new and good improvements in machinery made in America, are now almost as soon introduced into England as at home, and *vice versa*, and this is as it should be. The great strife between nations should be "good to man, the advancement of literature, science and art," and not struggles for pelf and power.

Coal in Kentucky.

Eleven beds of coal have been discovered in Kentucky, in the recent geological examination of the State by D. D. Owen. The beds vary from two to five feet in width, and are in the southwestern part of the State.

THAYER'S NEW TRUSS BRIDGE---Figure 1.

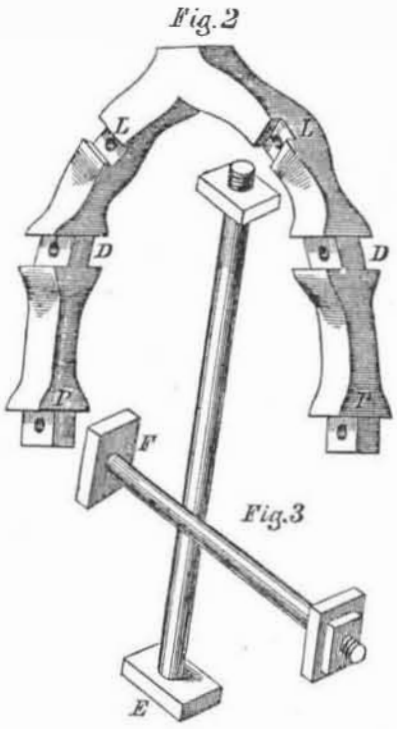


The annexed engravings are views of an improvement in the truss for iron bridges, roofs, &c., for which a patent was granted to G. W. Thayer, formerly of Springfield, but now of Hartford, Conn., on the 11th of last April, (1854.)

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the truss as applied to a railroad bridge; fig. 2 is a view of one of the gothic-arch braces detached, and fig. 3 represents two of the vertical rods with their straining blocks, their nuts and screws, the longer one extending from the bottom of the lower chords to the top of the gothic-arch braces, and the shorter one extends from the bottom of the lower chords to the top of the upper ones. The same letters refer to like parts. Each two of the gothic-arch braces are locked together at L, and secured by screw bolts. The lower chords of the bridge are applied to the tenons and shoulders, P P, at the bottom of the gothic arch braces—one on each side, and secured thereto by bolts. The upper chords of the bridge are applied to the daps and shoulders at D, near the middle of the braces, and are secured by bolts. The longer rods, E, pass through straining blocks beneath the lower chords, or through straining cross beams beneath them, and extend upwards between the chords and through the top of the gothic-arch braces, where they are secured by nuts and screws. The shorter rods, F, pass through straining blocks beneath the lower chords, extend upwards, and are secured at the top of the upper chords by straining blocks, nuts, and screws.

The advantages of this truss over others of a different construction are stated to be, first, "that it is not so liable to be affected by expansion and contraction from heat and cold; second, not liable to be increased in length by cambering; third, there is no thrust strain on the chords, but the greater the pressure on the truss, the nearer the parts are brought together, and the closer becomes the joints; fourth, every piece supports a part of the whole structure, and there is no dead-weight of iron or useless material."

The claim for this improvement in trussing for bridges and roofs, will be found in this Vol. "Scientific American," in our list of patents on page 251.



More information upon the subject may be obtained by letter addressed to Mr. Thayer, at Hartford, Conn.

Lamps in the Houses of the Arabs.

The houses of the Arabs are never without lights. Not only all the night long, but in all the inhabited apartments of the house. This custom is so well established in the East that the poorest people would rather retrench part of their food than neglect it. Therefore Jeremiah makes the taking away of the light of the candle, and the total destruction of a house the same thing. Job describes the destruction of a family among the Arabs and the rendering one of their habitations desolate after the same manner. "How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them." On the other hand, when God promises to give David a lamp always in Jerusalem, (1 Kings xi. 36) in this point of view, it is considered an assurance that his house should never become desolate.

Wolf Nurses in India.

An article in Littell's Living Age, copied from Fraser's Magazine, relates some queer stories of boys being stolen by wolves, in the East Indies, and brought up by them, like Romulus and Remus of old. The information is principally taken from a pamphlet published in Plymouth, England, by an Englishman, who had resided for a number of years in the British-Indian possessions. An account is given of two boys who were captured in caves inhabited by wolves. These boys walked on all fours, eat their food raw, and had many wolfish habits. They never could be tamed, although every effort was made for this purpose. The parents of both these boys proved their offspring by certain marks, and asserted that they had been stolen when very young, by wolves.

The article, we perceive, has been extensively copied without a word of comment.—We can give no credit to such stories; they lack the very first quality of positive testimony, namely: the personal evidence of the relater. He did not see the boys himself, he merely received his information from others.

New Steam Mail Line.

The Senate passed a bill on the 5th inst., by a vote of nearly two to one, establishing a line of mail steamers between San Francisco and Shanghai, in China. This line of steamers will touch at Japan.

MECHANICS

Manufacturers and Inventors

A NEW VOLUME OF THE

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Is commenced about the 20th September, each year, and is the BEST PAPER for Mechanics and Inventors published in the world.

Each Volume contains 416 pages of most valuable reading matter, and is illustrated with over

500 MECHANICAL ENGRAVINGS

of NEW INVENTIONS.

☞ The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN is a WEEKLY JOURNAL of the

ARTS, SCIENCES, AND MECHANICS,

having for its object the advancement of the INTERESTS OF MECHANICS, MANUFACTURERS AND INVENTORS.

Each Number is illustrated with from FIVE TO TEN

ORIGINAL ENGRAVINGS

of NEW MECHANICAL INVENTIONS, nearly all of the best inventions which are patented at Washington being illustrated in the Scientific American. It also contains a WEEKLY LIST of AMERICAN PATENTS;—notices of the progress of all MECHANICAL AND SCIENTIFIC IMPROVEMENTS; practical directions on the CONSTRUCTION, MANAGEMENT, and USE of all kinds of MACHINERY, TOOLS, &c. &c.

It is printed with new type on beautiful paper, and being adapted to binding, the subscriber is possessed, at the end of the year, of a LARGE VOLUME of 416 PAGES illustrated with upwards of 500 MECHANICAL ENGRAVINGS.

The Scientific American is the Repertory of Patent Inventions: a volume, each complete in itself, forms an Encyclopedia of the useful and entertaining. The Patent Claims alone are worth ten times the subscription price to every inventor.

TERMS! TERMS!! TERMS!!!

One Copy, for One Year	$2
" Six Months	$1
Five copies, for Six Months	$4
Ten Copies, for Six Months	$8
Ten Copies, for Twelve Months	$15
Fifteen Copies for Twelve Months	$22
Twenty Copies for Twelve Months	$28

Southern and Western Money taken at par for Subscriptions, or Post Office Stamps taken at their par value

Letters should be directed (post-paid) to

MUNN & CO.,
128 Fulton street, New York.

© 1854 SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, INC