

men started off in pursuit of bruin with axes. They soon came in view of his bearship, who showed not the least sign of fear, and proved to be an enormous large male, weighing nearly 400 lbs. After a little time the bear started off at a quick pace, and an animated chase ensued, which lasted an hour and a half, when suddenly in a very thick part of the bush, he stood at bay, with every demonstration of anger. The men now closed on him, when one of them very skillfully gave him a heavy blow of an axe on the head, which so stunned him that he was easily despatched. The inhabitants are quite rejoiced at his being killed.

Great credit is due to Mr. McLaughlin for his bold and well directed efforts to destroy such old and crafty marauders, which are at once the shame and terror of the settler, and year after year impoverishes him.

SAFETY CLOTHING.—Personal safety from burning is a question of serious import at all times, but more so at this particular season of the year. During the cold weather, when grates and other heating apparatuses are used in almost every house, and when artificial light is more extensively required for illumination, a greater number of accidents occur from clothes taking fire than in any other equal period of the year. As we may always expect, because the dangers are more numerous; but to the common causes of deaths from burnings, the sad list of victims has been greatly extended by the fashions in dress which have become prevalent among women. Ladies' dresses are now so extended in their proportions, and being oftentimes of the most inflammable materials, it is no wonder we frequently read of families being thrown to the deepest grief by some of their most valuable members having perished from their dresses becoming their funeral pyres. Such casualties shock the feelings more than any others, because we all know that the pains arising from burning are of the most excruciating character. How frequent have such accidents become during the past two years, that some of the highest efforts of science have been brought into requisition for their prevention. The moral argument against the causes of exposure by unsuitable dresses has been ineffectual; fashion hold its sway in spite of all remonstrances and so many terrible lessons, and all that science can do in such a case is to guide it to the most humane and safe results. This has been achieved by chemistry in the preparation of chemicals to be combined with the combustible fabrics of which dresses are made, whereby they are rendered non-inflammable. In Great Britain, these chemicals are now used in several large bleach-works where they are combined with the pieces of goods in the finishing operations. They are employed very extensively in large laundries and households, and they commend themselves to public attention everywhere. The best substance recommended for common use in render-

ing textile fabrics non-inflammable, are tungstate of soda and the sulphate of ammonia, which are now manufactured on a large scale for such purposes by a company in London, which has obtained two patents for the processes. In a late number of the *Chemical News*, Messrs. Briggs & Co. describe the mode of using these salts to the best advantage. Articles requiring to be ironed, after being washed, starched and allowed to dry in the open air, are soaked in a solution of the tungstate, then rolled in a sheet of dry linen, and ironed after in the ordinary way. The tungstate may be mixed with the starch, but this is not such a good method as the other. Articles which do not require to be ironed are treated with a solution of the sulphate of ammonia in the same manner as the tungstate of soda. Muslin so prepared does not present any peculiar appearance, and when exposed to fire it does not suddenly burst into flames; it merely singes away till it crumbles into ashes. Woolen and silk fabrics are not sufficiently inflammable to be dangerous, but all linen and cotton clothing, curtains for windows, sheets and various other articles, would be rendered more safe by such treatment, without injury to their texture or color. The treatment of children's clothes by these substances is especially solicited, because so many accidents from burning take place to the "little ones at home."

We should not wish to be understood as asserting that the two substances described are the only ones for rendering such fabrics uninflammable, as there are several other articles which possess this property; but according to F. Versmann and A. Oppenheim, London Chemists, who have made a host of experiments with various chemicals, the tungstate of soda and the sulphate of ammonia give the best results.—The stannate of soda appears to be equally as good a non-inflammable agent, but it is liable to impart a yellow tinge to white muslins; still, for children's cotton dresses, we can recommend its very general use. About one part of these salts dissolved in ten parts of water is about the proper strength to employ, and one gallon of this is sufficient for impregnating seven or eight ladies muslin dresses. Being very easy of application, all families should avail themselves of these substances for rendering life more safe from the dangers of fire.

We use, in our nursery, a brass wire grating, somewhat in the form of a blower, to hang in front of the grate. This is compact, convenient, and effectual; it not only protects the dresses of the children and nurse from contact with the fire, but it is quite a safeguard to the carpet from coals rolling out of the grate.—*Scientific American*.

DURABILITY OF CHESNUT SHINGLES.—In June 1834, I assisted the owner in shingling the east roof of a barn, 50 feet long and about 40 feet wide, with sawed chesnut shingles, and that roof