

were deemed plausible to men of some talent, to use glass pipes for the distribution of water in houses. On the whole, were we very wealthy, we would rather prefer glass cocks, at the risk of losing money, than use brass, at the risk of losing health, or even white metal, in which we have no implicit faith. As a cheap article, black glass cocks may be worth thinking about.

The tin-lined lead pipe which is manufactured in New York is doubtless a great improvement, and may last a great many years; but in time the water may get at the lead, and very soon, if the joints be made by inexperienced workmen, there may be a trace of poison—more than a liberal man would like for himself and his family. We should rather not have even a suspicion of poison in water-pipes, cocks, kettles, or anything else. For steam-fittings we have no prejudice against brass; but, although we profess the Christian faith, we make too much account of this life to be indifferent to the influence of these poisons, even in a medicinal dose; life is too important to be thus trifled with, even by the righteous, who expect a better life when they cast off their present bodies. What then should it be to the great majority of wealthy speculators, who have means and influence to change the practice of the manufacturers of these articles?—*Am. Artizan.*

The import of Esparto grass for paper continues to increase. Last year the imports into England were 51,522 tons, against 19,190 tons in 1853. Mr. West, the British Secretary of Legation at Madrid, says: "This grass, which grows wild in almost all parts of Spain, resembles very much the common spear grass which is found on the sandy sea-shores of Lancashire. Its botanical name is, I believe, *Stipatenuscissima*. It has long been used in Spain for making matting, cord, baskets, etc., and appears to have been used for such purposes by the Phœnicians, who gathered large quantities from the coast of Spain."—*Exchange.*

—An American Journal says:—"It is reported in the newspapers that on the 4th inst. a boy, in the city of Portland, lighted a Chinese fire cracker and carelessly threw it among some shavings in a cooper's shop. The consequence was that the greater part of the city, since accurately surveyed, and found to cover an area of three hundred and twenty-seven acres was burned, and upwards of \$10,000,000 worth of property destroyed. The destruction of life and property in consequence of the free use of this mischievous explosive ought to cause stringent laws to be made, prohibiting its importation."—*ib.*

—We have had on our file for some time, and omitted to notice, an Act which was assented to on the 15th August last, and is of considerable importance for the public to know. It is to regulate the means of egress from public buildings, and corporate bodies, or proprietors of such, had better take notice of its provisions. The first section enacts that in all Churches, Theatres, Halls or other buildings in this Province hereafter to be constructed or used for holding public meetings, or for places of public resort or amusements, all the doors shall be so hinged that they be open freely outwards, and the gates of outer fences, if not so hinged, shall be kept open by proper fastenings during the time such buildings are publicly used to facilitate the egress of people, in case of alarm from fire or other cause. The section enacts that Congregations or others occupying Churches, and individuals, corporations and companies owning Halls, Theatres, or other buildings used for the purpose of holding meetings, or places of public resort or amusement, shall, within twelve months from the passing of this Act, be required to have the doors of such Churches, Theatres, Halls or other buildings, so hinged as to open freely outwards. The penalty for the violation of the Act is a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, and a further sum of five dollars for every week succeeding that in which the complaint is made, if the necessary changes are not made. And Congregations of every description, Incumbents, Church Wardens, Ministers or Trustees are held liable for their dissent societies or congregations for any and every transgression of this act.—*Montreal Transcript.*

—During the Mexican war, one newspaper hurriedly announced an important item of news from Mexico, "that Gen. Pillow, and thirty-seven of his men, had been lost in a battle." Some other paper informed the public, not long ago, "that a man in a brown surcoat was yesterday brought before the police court on a charge of having stolen a small ox from a lady's work-bag. The stolen property was found in his waist-coat pocket." "A rat," says another paper, "descending the river, came in contact with a steamboat, and so serious was the injury done to the boat, that great exertions were necessary to save it." An English paper once stated "that the Russian General Raskinozkowsky was found dead with a long word in his mouth." It was, perhaps, the same paper that, in giving an account of a battle between the Poles and Russians, said that "the conflict was dreadful, and the enemy was repulsed with great laughter."—*American Pop'r.*

—Perhaps the most curious specimen of minute workmanship ever constructed was a high-pressure engine made by a London watchmaker in 1845. Each part was made according to scale; it worked by atmospheric pressure instead of steam; yet it was so small that it stood on a fourpenny piece, with room to spare, and, with the exception of the fly-wheel, it might be covered with a thimble.—*Exchange.*

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