

waters still swarm with fishes as in the days of the Apostolic fishermen. A recent American traveller, while out upon the sea, encountered a tempest like those described in the Gospels; sudden, swift and violent, it swept down on the sea from the upper hills, and threw it into commotion as in a moment. He was unable to make headway against it, and was driven over to the coast of Ciniurenes.

### CURIOSITY OF COMMERCE.

Turning over the pages of the Cyclopædia of Commerce, a few matters attracted our attention as curiosities, which we propose to transcribe for our readers. We were looking for the small things in commerce—matters, that, in taking a magnificent, broad, and comprehensive view, would be overlooked—just as the invention of the greatest importance for domestic purposes would be overlooked and unnoticed in its homely attire when placed in exhibition and surrounded by works of polished art, costly machinery and gorgeous furniture. An humble inventor once placed in such an exhibition a few bunches of friction matches. They were unnoticed. Visitors went there looking for some great thing, not realizing that the despised package of splints, tipped with chemical fire, was the thing in that proud collection, destined to work a revolution in the means of procuring artificial light, and to become a universal necessity, to be deprived of which would be one of the greatest inconveniences that could happen.

It is not more than twenty years ago since the tinder-box was in universal use. It is abolished now. The invention of the friction match spread slowly; but who at this day would venture to say they could do without it? Insignificant as they appear to be, single factories with expensive machinery, cut up large rafts of timber annually for matches.

Under the head of pins, we find that the manufacture of this indispensable little instrument was commenced in the United States, between 1812 and 1820, since which time the business has extended greatly, and several patents for the manufacture of pins have been taken out. The manufacture in England and other parts of Europe is conducted upon improvements made in the United States. Notwithstanding the extent of our own

productions, the United States imported in 1856 pins to the value of \$40,255.

Still keeping our attention directed to small things, we find that the imports of needles into this country for 1856, amounted to \$346,000. It is said that needles were first made in England in the time of Queen Mary by a negro from Spain; but he would not impart his secret; it was lost at his death, and not recovered again till 1568, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when a German taught the art to the English, who have since brought it to the greatest perfection. It is stated that the construction of a needle requires about 120 operations, but they are rapidly and uninterruptedly successive.

The temperance people will find argument to enforce their doctrines in the fact that 41,071,636 bushels of grain, paying \$25,000,000 duty, are annually converted into malt in Great Britain for ale and porter. It may reasonably be inferred that a great quantity of these beverages is drank here.

Ground nuts are quite an institution with Young America, 800 tons having been imported into the United States from Gambia in one year. We, however, dissent from the encyclopædic list when he says they are most used here as a dessert, roasted as chestnuts are elsewhere. But France is the great market for ground nuts, where they are used for oil, of which they contain large quantities. The insignificant hazel-nut, so agreeable to the palate, but so difficult to get, is exported from Tarragona to the extent of 25,000 or 30,000 bags, of four to the ton. A kind of chocolate is prepared from them, and they sometimes have been made into bread. The pressed oil of hazel-nuts is little inferior to that of almonds.

The original inventor of the Ayrshire snuff-boxes was a cripple, hardly possessing the power of locomotion. They are made of wood, admirably jointed, painted and varnished, and were first manufactured only sixty years since. Instead of taking out a patent, the inventor entrusted his secret to a joiner in the village, who in a few years amassed a great fortune, while the other died, as he had lived, in the greatest poverty. Speaking of snuff-boxes, snuff taking took its rise in England in 1702.

Under the head of hair, the Cyclopædia

says that 200,000 pounds weight of women's hair is annually sold in France, that the price paid for it is usually six cents an ounce.

One hundred thousand roses, are required to give a yield of 188 grains of otter or oil of roses.

There are, doubtless, in this compendious work, many curious, interesting, and instructive facts, if one had the time to search them out. And now, as we are closing, we notice quite a number of items, such as, that a bale of Sea Island cotton weighs 333 pounds and measures 35 cubic feet, while a bale of East India cotton weighs 383 pounds and only measures 15 cubic feet—a fact of great importance in the question of transportation.—*N. York Tribune.*

### DECISION AND DESTINY.

Indecision ruins souls by millions. Truth and conscience and the Spirit plead for duty and right; pleasure and riches and ambition tempt to sin and ruin. Thousands know the better path of happiness and peace, but follow the road that leads to death.

Prescott, the eminent historian, relates that Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, in one of his reverses, was cast upon the island of Gailo, with a few of his followers. When in a starving condition, two vessels arrived from Panama for his relief, and to induce him to abandon his object. Now came the test of his decision of character, and the determination of his earthly destiny.

"Drawing his sword, he traced a line with it in the sand, from east to west. Then turning towards the south, 'Friends and comrades,' he said, 'on that side are toil, hunger, and nakedness, the drenching storm, desolation, and death; on this side, ease and pleasure. There lies Peru, with its riches; here, Panama, and its poverty. Choose, each man, what becomes a brave Castilian. For my part I go to the south.' So saying, he stepped across the line. He was followed by eleven others," and Peru was conquered.

Could we encircle each impenitent reader with a line drawn by the sword of the Spirit, we would say, "There are self-denial and providential discipline, and fearful conflicts, and ceaseless toils, and ultimate victory and reward; here, are present ease, and fleeting joys, and empty