

## HE WANTED TO SELL A PATENT MACHINE.

Soon after dinner yesterday a pleasant-faced man, having something wrapped up in a paper under his arm, called at a Detroit hotel, and requested a few minutes' conversation with the landlord. When they were seated, the stranger began: "I am an old landlord myself. I kept hotel in St. Louis for twenty-eight years."

"Yes," was the non-committal reply of the landlord.

"And of course I know all about the inconveniences of hotel keeping," responded the man. "There were bugs around the beds in my hotel, and there are bugs around the beds in any hotel, I suppose. Of course I used to lie to the guests, but the bugs were there, and I knew it."

"What do you mean?" demanded the landlord growing red clear round to his neck.

"Just keep right still," replied the man, "for now I'm coming down to biz. This is the summer season, isn't it, and the only season when bugs bite. In the winter they are dormant, and unless there's a fire in the room they don't care to get in their work on the weary traveller. Well, the summer season is the season for the mosquito also. All hotels and houses have mosquitos, and nothing is thought of it. They seem to be a sort of necessity. Travelers will raise a howl over bugs, but they never grumble at anyone about mosquitos."

"Sir! do you think I keep a junk shop?" roared the landlord.

"No, sir; I don't. This is a regular hotel, and a very good one. As I was going to remark, I have invented and patented a machine, operated by a boy and a crank, which you and all other landlords want and will have. It is a machine to imitate the hum of the mosquitos. Its notes can be heard all over each floor, and with a good boy at the crank there can be no failure. The traveler, just dozing off to sleep, hears the hum. At the same time a bug works out from under cover. Then more hums and more bugs. Actually, sir, without any lying or exaggerating, men will strike and claw the air all night long to kill imaginary mosquitos, while the bugs go unmolested and grow fat. The hum is a perfect imitation, and has even deceived Yale College professors. Without it your guests will blow around about bugs. With it no traveler will mention bugs at all, but will rip and tear at the mosquitos."

"Do you mean to insult me?" shouted the landlord.

"No, Sir."

"But you talk as if I had bugs in my house."

"I'll tell you what I'll do, landlord. I'll examine five beds and if I do not find bugs in at least three of them I'll give you a machine for nothing."

It would have been a nip and tuck fight if the great big porter hadn't jumped in and hit the stranger with an iron bootjack. The inventor still lived, however, and within an hour was seen bearing down for another hotel under full sail.—*Detroit Free Press.*

## FARMING IN CALIFORNIA.

Some idea to what vast extent farming is carried on in California, and some other Western States, may be formed from the following item in one of our exchanges: "Plowing in unbroken furrows six miles long can be seen in Fargo, California. The teams start in the morning and make one trip across the entire township and back before dinner, and the same in the afternoon, making 24 miles' travel every day." It would seem that the steam plow ought to find a place in such a region.

**CEMENT.**—In stopping holes in castings, or for covering scars a cement may be made of equal parts of gum arabic, plaster of Paris and iron filings, and if a little finely pulverized white glass be added to the mixture, it will make it still harder. This mixture forms a very hard cement that will resist the action of fire and water. It should be kept in its dry state and mixed with a little water when wanted for use. A cement for making joints in water and steam pipe, or in any work where two pieces of metal are joined together and it is desirable to make a perfectly tight joint, may be made of iron filings or turnings mixed with sal-ammonia. The proportion of sal-ammonia is very small; only about a half pound is used to 50 pounds of filings. This cement is mixed when wanted for use, and is driven into the joint with a cold chisel or other tool.

**TO ATTACH TIN TO METALLIC SUBSTANCES.**—Mucilage tragacanth, 10 ozs.; honey of roses, 10 ozs.; flour, 1 oz. Mix.

## SOME WELL KNOWN BRITISH MOTHS.

Our engraving shows three specimens of moths, which resemble each other somewhat in the marking and color of the wings, but differ in size. The large one in the centre is the privet hawk moth (*sphinx Ligustri*) which is nearly as common as the eyed hawk moth; its wings are brown, streaked or rather clouded with darker shades of brown, the hind are of a pinkly color, with three black bands across them; the body is marked with brown and black in the center, and the sides marked with pink and black. The caterpillar is green, with seven pink stripes down the sides; the horn is black and green; it feeds on the privet or lilac bushes. The chrysalis is brown and has a beak in front. The privet hawk moth appears about midsummer, and frequents woods and lanes. Sugaring is a good way of obtaining this moth.

At the lower part of the picture on the left hand is seen the bedstraw hawk moth (*deilephila Galii*), which is only locally known, but in the south of England it is by no means uncommon. The fore wings are brown, with a white line across the middle; the hind wings are pinky white, with a red margin. The thorax and body are of a uniform brown, with the exception of a few white lines on the side of the thorax and the end of the body. The caterpillar is green with a pale line down the back, and a row of pale spots along the sides; the horn is a rusty red; it feeds on the bed straw. The chrysalis is brown. The perfect insect appears in June or July; it frequents lanes, and the downs near sea coasts.

The smallest of the three specimens, on the left hand in the engraving, is the small elephant hawk moth (*charocampa porcellus*). The fore wings are of a greenish shade, banded with pink; the hind wings are pink, but black at the base. The caterpillar is brown, with two conspicuous eye-like marks on the fourth segment; the first three segments narrow suddenly; this, together with the eye-like marks, gives the caterpillar the appearance of a hog, hence the name *charocampa*, or hog caterpillar. The caterpillar feeds on the willow herb or bedstraw. The perfect insect appears in June, and frequents lanes and the sides of brooks, especially where the willow herb is plentiful.

The reverse sides of the wings of the three specimens are shown by the flying moths in the upper part of the picture.

**A STILL MORE POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE.**—M. Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, has recently discovered a new explosive substance still more powerful than that. He has given it the name of "explosive gelatine," on account of its aspect, which closely resembles gelatine. The substance is composed of 94 to 95 per cent. of nitro-glycerine and 5 or 6 per cent. of collodion, mixed together. It is viscous, but can be easily cut with a knife or with scissors, and placed in cartridges or shells. Dynamite, it is well known, has the disadvantage of being altered by water; when it is moist the nitro-glycerine separates from the absorbent. The new substance, on the contrary, does not give the least symptom of exudation; it is impermeable to water, which does not at all affect its explosive properties. It is inflamed in the same way as dynamite, and its power is at least 50 per cent. greater. Several nations—notably Italy and Russia—have, it appears, already adopted this substance for charging bombs, torpedoes and mines. How far the new explosive is affected by frost is not stated, but it is probable that the collodion may lower the freezing point. Nitro-glycerine alone congeals at the freezing point of water.

## A SALMON'S ENDURANCE.

*Land and Water* relates the following concerning a remarkable battle lasting for sixteen hours, between a plucky sportsman and an obdurate salmon before the latter was conquered: "On Friday, at four P.M., Mr. A. Crawshay hooked a fish below Houghton Castle, but did not land him till Saturday morning the 24th inst., at eight A.M. Immediately after being hooked, the fish went down the river, taking out upwards of 100 yards of line. The water being strong and the fish determined, it was impossible to get him back. A wood by the water side made it equally impossible for Mr. Crawshay to follow his fish, and so things remained until a boat was brought at daylight next morning from some distance, by which means the wood was passed, and the fish at last landed on a gravel bed, in the presence of many spectators, some of whom had passed the night with the angler. The fish was a splendid male, forty inches long, and twenty-two inches girth; weight 25 lbs.