

All the world and his wife have now taken to travelling. Our respected great-grand parents seldom saw the town twenty miles from where they lived. Surely the prophecy, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," has been fulfilled in the locomotive principles and practices of society.

The invention of the chonograph has made a speech re-producing machine now a reality. The end of the eighteenth century saw but meagre summaries of the parliamentary debates reported. To us, who have electric wires and penny papers, the slowness of communication one hundred years ago would be intolerable.

Project an earlier occupant of this terrestrial sphere upon it now, in this our nineteenth century, then fancy his emotions, as he views for the first time, the railway train whizzing past him at the rate of a mile a minute; as he notes the operations of the mighty engines and machinery; as he watches the ponderous steamboat gliding rapidly by, on the waters that were, in his day, only ruffled by the Red-man's fragile bark, or the more civilized white man's birch canoe.

We live fast in these modern times. Fifty years ago, to cross the Atlantic in thirty days was considered a wonderful achievement, to-day we accomplish it in six days and a half.

But there are other changes that would strike our friend. Mighty forests have entirely disappeared, and the wood, by means of saw-mills, (with their newly invented machinery,) has been converted into timber, and this, in time, into furniture, building materials and other useful articles. He visits our large cotton and woolen manufactories, which in our day are so numerous, and finds the old water-mill almost a thing of the past; steam, the great world civilizer, has taken its place.—Enter the buildings, and instead of hundreds of men working patiently with their old-fashioned hand looms, young girls, by the means of new and improved machinery convert cotton into cloth faster, and of a better quality, than could thousands of last century's men, with

their old hand-looms.

It is hard to realize the great advance of the last fifty years. In the rural parts of America, not many years ago men and women's clothing was actually manufactured in the house where it was to be worn. Weeks of hard labor were expended upon it. To-day, a man could go out in the morning and pick enough cotton for a suit, and astonish his neighbors by appearing in it on the evening of the same day.

A comparatively small expenditure of physical strength will now secure the necessities of life. The way has been opened to the enjoyment of the luxuries and refinements of life, and to all educational advantages, through our modern inventions.

In olden days the fields of golden grain were harvested by hand, with the laborer's sickle; now we have the steam sickle, saving much time and expense. As this country is pre-eminently an agricultural country, it follows that here the most numerous attempts have been made to produce labor-saving machines. The number of new agricultural inventions which have been patented is so great that in 1869 they reached the number of nineteen hundred. The improvements that have been made in such tools as the shovels, spade and hoe, are so great that they can almost be considered entirely new inventions.

Think, in this connection, how much we owe to steam. James Watt so improved the steam engine as to place a new power in the world; and probably gave to us the greatest service ever rendered to man. Its power has been revolutionizing, drawing after it the steam-boat, rail-way car, and a thousand other great applications. Even down in the mines, where has been the most life-wearing labor, we find new machinery has lifted the load from the shoulders of the poor, over-worked miners, and has given them a chance to find, with other people, some enjoyment in life. The danger of mining was much lessened by Sir Humphry Davy's invention of the miner's safety lamp.