

made a fortune had not the original inventor been on the spot, and ready to direct the attention of Key's competitors to the true source of his improvement. The strange thing is, that Girard seems to have derived no profit from his advantageous position. We are afraid that he was a thoroughly impracticable man, or perhaps, as his biographer suggests, he still cherished a wish to reserve his best ideas for his native country. It seems from his correspondence that he proposed to go from England to France, but was prevented by information that his creditors intended to arrest him on his way. He remained in Russia until 1844, and during that time benefited his employers with numerous mechanical inventions of value. He also founded a great flax-spinning factory, which gave rise to a village called after him, Girardow. For this manufactory he invented a second machine for combing flax, which is universally used at the present day. But while he was doing so much for his employers he was never able to accumulate any fortune himself. In 1833, the competition of the English linen manufacturers was so active that the French hand-made goods were almost driven out of the market. It never occurred to the French Government to avail themselves of the services of their countryman, the originator of the great improvement in flax-spinning. They could think of nothing better than to employ agents to copy and smuggle over English machinery, the exportation of machinery being at that time unlawful. Newspapers, and even deputies in speeches in the Chamber, were not ashamed to boast of the manner in which the system of spinning flax by machinery had been 'secretly smuggled away' from England.

"Philippe Girard addressed from Warsaw a memorial to the King of France, claiming his share of the English improvements. This memorial would have been forgotten, had it not been for the Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures in Paris, in 1844, when in consequence of a warm appeal from Arago, he returned to his native country, after an exile of 29 years. He was received with acclamation. He exhibited models of many of his improvements in lamps, in agricultural implements, in the manufactures of sugar, of muskets, and steam-engines, as well as flax machines. For these he received a gold medal, and at the same time his models were seized under an execution for one of his old debts, and he was obliged to hide himself in the country until the 1st of February, 1849, when his age, 69, privileged him from personal arrest! All attempts to obtain the promised prize of a million francs failed. 'Monsieur Cunin-Gridaire, the Minister of Commerce,' according to the French biographer, 'would never admit Girard's claims as an original inventor, because that would have diminished his own merit as a smuggler of the English machinery.' Louis Philippe appears to have supported Girard's claims, but on the 26th of August this unfortunate genius died, a few hours after writing the last lines of a last appeal to the Government. It seems that his sympathizing countrymen embraced him, crowned him, medalled him, serenaded him, but did not subscribe for him. For his family nothing was done until 1853, when they obtained an annuity of £480 as a national reward. Thus Philippe

Girard, born rich, lived in exile, died poor and in debt, because he had invented a means of creating incalculable wealth.

"We must not boast. In the old days before newspapers spoke daily, we too have treated inventors ill enough; but it is not too much to say that the 'cold, egotistical, aristocratic islanders' could not have treated a great mechanic worse than the French treated Philippe Girard. Unfortunate gentleman!—for he was a gentleman—he should have been a brave, hard-headed, hard-hearted drummer boy, and then he might have died a marshal of France. We do not treat our soldiers so well in England, but we treat our mechanics better.—*British Jour. of Gas Lighting.*

TRADE WITH SOUTH AMERICA, QUITE PRACTICABLE.

Last year there were imported into this city alone Hides to the value of \$220,000, and Green Coffee to the value of \$94,000, almost the whole of it being the produce of South America. What was the quantity entered into the whole of Canada, we have not the figures at hand to show, but we must suppose it to be at least as much more. And yet not one vessel arrived at this port from any part of that continent. One of the principal articles of import at Buenos Ayres (whence most of the Hides are shipped) is lumber. They are also large importers of flour. Rio Janeiro is also a large importer of both of these articles. A great portion of the lumber which these two largest shipping cities in South America take is of Canada growth and manufacture, and yet not one particle of the trade is in our hands. We have a large supply of two of the principal articles of consumption in South America, and they have the same of two very needful articles which we consume in large quantities, and yet both are content to derive the supplies of the other through a third party—the merchants of the United States. We send our lumber and flour to the United States, and they ship it to South America, and derive the profit; and they purchase in South America the Hide and Coffee, and sell them to us and again make a profit. They are the factors and carriers for both parties. If the Reciprocity Treaty is actually rescinded it is to be hoped that it will make a change in this trade, and that Canadian merchants will take hold of it, and thus open up a direct market for our produce.

Some large firms in Boston have for a number of years cut lumber in Canada on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway, and had it carried to Portland, thence to be shipped to the La Plata. The description of lumber shipped was principally spruce, cut to certain dimensions known to the traders to that market. There is also shipped a certain quantity of pine. Ordinary spruce timber on the Grand Trunk Railroad, in the vicinity of Sherbrooke costs from seven to eight dol. per thousand feet, and sells in Buenos Ayres at six to ten times that price. Here is a large and profitable business from which the merchants of Canada might realise a considerable amount of money as well as finding a market for our produce. And at no better time than the present could that business be entered upon. Lumber is in exceedingly large