

THE AQUA-AERIAL OR WAVE SHIP.

English Mechanic.

The Aqua-aerial or wave ship is a vessel which is supposed to be capable of making the Channel passage in 20 minutes, or of running to New York and back in six days. It is the invention of Mr. J. Dickie, of East Parade, Leeds, who sends us three photographs of a model, with several diagrams and a description printed on the back of a card. Mr. Dickie has patented his invention, which in some respects resembles the polysphenic ship, but with the important difference that there are atmospheric ducts communicating with the bottom of the vessel. The aqua-aerial ship presents a different section at different parts of its lengths, but it may be described as a broad flat vessel with watertight chambers all round it, and a series of three inclined planes forming the bottom. The air ducts are of the usual shape on deck, but spread out so as to occupy one-half the breadth of the vessel at the point where they reach the bottom. They are situated just at the commencement of the inclined planes, and as two are placed side by side there are four altogether. The object of these ducts is to render each plane independent of the others, and thus all are supposed to assist in lifting the vessels out of the water, as it were, and to facilitate its passage over the surface. The bows curve downwards from about the deck level and merge into the front of the first plane or the bottom, while the watertight compartments at the sides of the vessel are formed into a sort of platform at the stern, by means of which eddy-making is to be avoided. The air ducts have another office to perform besides rendering the inclined planes of the bottom independent of one another, for by means of self-acting valves, which, however, are not shown in the diagrams published by the patentee, any tendency to roll is "immediately counteracted" by the air ducts on the raising side of the vessel closing automatically, thus creating a vacuum on that side, while the greater pressure exerted on the water on the other side will tend to restore it to the normal level. The aqua-aerial ship is also a novelty in this respect, that the power required to keep up the speed will decrease with the increase of the vessel's rate of progression—"the only thing necessary being a high speed of engines." The patentee may well say that this is one of the most remarkable features of the invention, being diametrically opposed to all past experience in naval construction. Unfortunately there is no proof that the aqua-aerial ship will do what its patentee asserts, for we have no information as to whether or not it has been tried even in model form. The device has several features to recommend it; for instance the form of hull admits of great structural strength combined with lightness, while narrowness of beam is of no object, as the vessel has not to cut its way through the water, but, like the polysphenic ship, will rise over the waves and skim along the surface—that is, if the patentee's views are corroborated by practical experiment.

LONDON CAPITALISTS.

Bradstreet's.

London is the true bonanza of impecunious states and communities. It is an apparently inexhaustible gold mine. If a railroad is to be built, a swamp drained, water or gasworks to be constructed, or any other enterprise demanding considerable money is to be promoted, those having the enterprise in hand turn their faces Londonward as naturally as the followers of Mohammed turn their eyes toward Mecca to pray for success and salvation. South and Central America worked this mine successfully for many years. Turkey and Egypt struck pay ore in it after it had been closed against Spanish-American exploiters, and lastly, the Grand Turk and his vassal, the Khedive, having exhausted their credit, the British colonists all around the globe have taken possession of the London money supply and are making themselves easy by repeated drafts upon it. They find the English capitalist in a melting mood, and are taking full advantage of this mental condition.

COLONIAL FEDERATION.

London, Aug. 3.—The conference on the federation of the Australian colonies is the most genuinely important and remarkable political event of the week. It marks the definite overthrow of the once omnipotent school of political thought, which had Mr. Goldwin Smith as its most eminent literary apostle, and was supposed to be quietly approved by Mr. John Bright and other leaders of the Manchester school. This school contemplated, and even longed for, the separation of the colonies from the mother country and the disintegration of the empire. A violent reaction has now set in. Lord Roseberry, a Radical peer, proposes that the colonies shall have representatives in the House of Lords, and the *Daily News*, which used to out-Manchester the Manchester school, prays for the poet who will teach the common-fatherland of the English race as Arndt taught the unity of all speakers of the German tongue.

BUILDING IN NEW YORK.—While the value of the building done in New York city during the first quarter of 1884 is given at a sum smaller than in the like portion of 1883, in the second quarter it ran far ahead of the building done in April, May, and June, 1883. For the first six months of 1884 the total value of new buildings in New York is placed at \$29,308,756, against \$26,695,619 in a like portion of 1883 and \$26,443,245 in the first six months of 1882. The low price of building materials, and particularly of iron, undoubtedly had a good deal to do with the increase. The withdrawal of funds from investment in railway and other securities may also account in part for the excess sum used to improve real estate here.

SWINDLING AN INSURANCE CO.

Niagara Falls Gazette.

When the clothing of D. Albert was found on the *Maid of the Mist* landing a few days ago, but very few people had an idea that a suicide had been committed, or even that the owner of the clothing had been accidentally drowned. When it was ascertained that but a few days previous Mr. Albert had taken out an insurance policy, it was set down as an attempt to defraud the insurance company, and the matter was at once forgotten. The *Gazette*, when publishing the statement, remarked that "the Insurance Company would want more conclusive evidence of his death than a pile of clothing before paying the policy." The following from the *Utica Herald* is probably the closing chapter in the would-be tragedy:—

"A man who registered as D. Albert, at a hotel at Suspension Bridge, July 4, disappeared the following day and was supposed to have been drowned. Later it was discovered that Albert had taken out an accident insurance policy for \$3,000 a few days before, and fraud was suspected. The policy was made payable to Davis McIntyre, Pattsfield, Otsego County. Investigation showed that McIntyre, who was partially insane, had disappeared from home, and his family and friends came to the conclusion that Albert and McIntyre were the same person. A few days ago McIntyre turned up, and is now at his home."

NO MORE GOLD PAYMENTS.

New York, August 4.—It is stated that Secretary Folger's visit to the sub-treasury on Saturday was for the purpose of conferring with the assistant treasurer in regard to the reduction in the gold reserve and the prospect that in the near future the government may be obliged to give up gold payments. To a reporter the secretary said the gold reserve had been reduced to \$118,000,000, and when the amount fell to \$111,000,000 it would be impossible to pay out any more gold, and in view of the existing laws, the government will be obliged to fall back on silver or silver certificates. The secretary stated that he had tried to keep the gold reserve up to \$140,000,000, but recent acts of congress permitted the depletion of the treasury reserve. The chief clerk of the sub-treasury thinks \$50,000,000 in gold will come from Europe before the end of the year, and that the government will be saved from the necessity of resorting to silver payments. About a million and a half of gold was shipped from Liverpool for New York last week. The gold balances of the banks in England are decreasing daily, indicating the exodus of gold from England.

WHAT IS A DISCOUNT?

N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

The word "discount" has almost wholly lost its technical meaning. It was originally used to describe an allowance made for the payment of money before it became due, and in this sense is as much as that money, if put to interest, would gain in the same time and at the same rate. Thus \$100 present money will pay a debt of \$108 due one year hence, the discount being made at 8 per cent. The discount, in this sense, on any sum is less than its interest. Thus the discount on \$100 due a year hence, is \$8, while the interest is \$8.36. But the interest laws of the several States have allowed the banks to deduct the interest instead of the discount, and to pay the borrowed instead of the present worth only the net remainder after such deduction. Thus if a man makes a note for \$1,000 twelve months, and gives it to a bank for discount, instead of paying him \$943.30, which is a sum that at 6 per cent. would amount to \$1,000 in a year, they give him only \$940, thus charging him more than 6 per cent. for the sum he receives. In plain terms, they deduct the interest instead of the discount. Out of this has grown the modern use of the word discount, which has simply come to mean a deduction or a given rate per cent. from a given principal. To "discount a note at 6 per cent." is now only to take off 6 per cent. interest. To allow a discount is to take off the rate from the face of the sum.

BETRAYED BY A TOOTH.

Guibal, the assassin, has just been convicted at Perpignan of the murder of a girl named Marie Cerbere. The evidence which proved him to be her murderer was very curious. Guibal had been suspected of having killed the girl, as she had never been seen since one day when she was known to have been in his company. But he strenuously denied all knowledge of her, and the case was about to be abandoned for want of proof when a girl came forward who had been Marie's intimate friend. "Search among the possessions of the accused," she said, "and see if you can find among them a gold ring set with a woman's tooth instead of a stone. The tooth is mine—here is the space from which it was taken—and I had it set and gave it to Marie Cerbere as a token of friendship." The ring was found among a hoard of trinkets belonging to Guibal, and on hearing of its discovery he at once confessed.

AFFECTIONATE, VERY!—"Madam," said a neighbor, "prepare yourself for a great shock. We have found your husband's body in the mill-pond, full of eels." "Bring the eels up to the house, and set him again," was the prompt response.

TREADING THE DOWNWARD PATH.—"You are not taking as good care of yourself as formerly old man. What's the trouble? A streak of hard luck?" "Yes, rather." "What are you doing?" "I am the landlord of a large summer resort hotel." "I shouldn't think you would have very much reason to complain if that's the case. Last season you were only a waiter." "I know it," he answered regretfully.

INCREASING VALUE OF LABOR.

As the world grows older labor increases its value and to a very large extent in proportion to the increase the products of human industry decline in price. Mr. Gervase Scrope, of Cockerington, who died in 1741, and his son Thomas Scrope, of Cockerington, and Coleby, Lincolnshire, left behind voluminous books from which a good idea of values a century and a half ago may be obtained. In 1700 a dark colored cloth suit cost 17 guineas. The charge for making a cloak was £5 16s, a plain cloth suit for ordinary use cost £8. Boots cost from £2 to £3. Lump sugar was 9d a pound, soap 6d and coffee 6s., a quarter of lamb cost only 1s. 6d, a pound of beef 4½ d. "Good red port" could be bought for 17s. per dozen bottles. Wages were anything but extravagant, year laborers were occasionally paid 1s a day, mowers earned 1s. 10d a day, ploughers 4s. an acre, maid-servants were paid from £3 to £6 a year, a washwoman could be hired for 9d and a charwoman for 4d a day, a pane of glass cost 1s., a blacksmith charged only 4s. for eight shoes, a rich grazing farm of 278 acres leased for £165, and 198 acres of good arable land for £90. From 1698 to 1702 a leg of veal cost 1s 4d, a round of beef 2½ d. a pound, a periwig £2 2s., a hat 7s., a watch £17. The cost of making 20,000 bricks was 15s.; lath nails cost 7s. for 3,500. An account of a funeral places the expenses at £70, of which £7 was distributed among the poor. It would seem that, after all, labor is sharing liberally in the growth and progress of the ages—is ever widening its influence and strengthening its forces. One hundred and fifty years from now it will have learned many more of the secrets of its power.

KISSING A PATIENT.

The following curious action is reported in London papers:—A porter, named Pitt, sued a surgeon, named Gledhill, at the Lambeth County Court for £5 0s. 6d., £5 being for an I O U and 6d for one month's interest. It appears that the doctor, in the course of his practice, had kissed the plaintiff's wife. On the 1st of May he gave the plaintiff an I O U for £5, for having kissed Jane Pitt, and on the reverse side of the document he signed the following statement: "I hereby acknowledge I have entered into a fair agreement between Henry Pitt, Jane Pitt and myself." Subsequently an I O U simply was given for this document. The defendant denied his liability to pay this money on the ground that the I O U was given as the result of the intimidation of the plaintiff, who had threatened him with a criminal prosecution if he did not compensate him for the assault. The judge said he doubted whether there had been any consideration for the I O U. It was urged that the consideration was the solatium for Mr. Pitt's wounded feelings, for which the plaintiff could have brought an action. The judge however, held that there was no consideration, and gave a verdict for defendant.

Kiss My Foot.—The somewhat curious question was presented to the Iowa Supreme Court in the recent case of Norton vs. Knapp, as to what construction should be placed upon the words "Kiss my foot" written with the drawer's signature on the face of a bill presented for acceptance. The court declared the rule in such cases to be that where the drawer does anything with or to the bill or writes thereon anything which does not clearly negative an intention to accept, he can be charged as an acceptor; but it held that in the case before it the words in question did not constitute an acceptance, it being the evident intention of the defendant, by the use of the contemptuous and vulgar words above stated, to give emphasis to his determination not to have anything to do with the bill or with the plaintiff.

WATER WORSE THAN BAD WHISKY.—The analyses by Professor Waller, chemist of the Health Department, of seven samples of water procured from New York city wells, sunk to a depth of less than seventy feet, in pockets between the folds of the rock, containing the drainage of the neighborhood, and used by the manufacturers of mineral waters, prove it to be impure and unfit to be drunk, especially by invalid persons, whose systems are easily undermined. Some overzealous temperance workers called upon Health Commissioner Raymond, of Brooklyn, a few days ago, and protested against the closing of the public pumps. The Commissioner assured them that such water, so full of organic and impure matter, is more unhealthful than even bad whisky.

NEW WHEEL OF FORTUNE.—A traveller to Long Branch describes a thing characteristic of the speculative sort of business men who so largely make up the season's multitude at the famous seaside resort. A dozen men, lacking room in the smoking car of the crowded train, went to enjoy their cigars in the baggage car. Here was a baby carriage lying on its side, thus bringing one wheel uppermost and horizontal. Not a minute had elapsed before a broker wrapped a bit of paper around a spoke. "Now, gentlemen," he said, "stand around the wheel of fortune while I whirl it thus," and he gave the wheel a turn. "It costs you 25 cents apiece, and the man in front of whom the marked spoke stops takes the pot. Make your game while the wheel is revolving." During the ride of an hour and a half, the impromptu game did not of an instant lag.

BOARD AT THE SEASHORE.—"What is your price a week for this room?" asked a gentleman of a seaside landlord. The price was named. "Does that include the ocean air, or do you charge extra for that?" "Well," replied the landlord hesitatingly, as though he wasn't the man to charge for anything that he could possibly afford to give away, "that depends. Of course if you keep your window open all night I should expect to add a little something to the bill."