

and uttered some sentiments on the occasion, quite in unison with the conqueror's forest laws. However, his bark was worse than his bite, for he presently proposed giving the said bogtrotters a horn each of grog, which the poor fellows were very glad of; greatly to the disgust of Mr. da Fini, who had conceived a violent hatred towards the unfortunate men, and scowled at them like a demon: his indignation afterwards reached a climax on our giving them peas to make soup.—*Id.*

FOOD OF THE CHINESE.—A late traveller Mr. Williams, contradicts the popular impressions that kittens and puppies are an ordinary food of the Chinese. He says:

"A few kittens and puppies are sold alive in cages, mewling and yelping as if in anticipation of their fate, or from pain caused by the pinching and handling they receive at the hands of dissatisfied customers. Those intended for the table are usually reared upon rice, so that if the nature of their food be considered, their flesh is far more cleanly than that of the omnivorous hog; few articles of food have, however, been so identified with the tastes of people as kittens and puppies, rats and snails, have with the Chinese. The school geographies in the United States usually contain pictures of a market-man carrying baskets holding these unfortunate victims of a perverse taste, (as we think) or else a string of rats and mice hanging by their tails to a stick across his shoulders, which almost necessarily conveys the idea that such things form the usual food of the people. Travellers hear beforehand that the Chinese devour every thing, and when they arrive in the country, straightway inquire if these animals are eaten, and hearing that such is the case, perpetuate the idea that they form the common articles of food.—However commonly kittens and puppies may be exposed for sale, the writer never saw rats or mice in the market during a residence of twelve years there, and heard of but one gentleman who had seen them; in fact they are not so easily caught as to be either common or cheap. He once asked a native, if he or his countrymen ever served up *lau-shu-tang*, or rat-soup, on their tables; who replied, that he had never seen or eaten it, and added, 'Those who do use it, should mix cheese with it, that the mess might serve for us both.' Rats and mice are, no doubt, eaten now and then, and so are many other undesirable things by those whom want compels to take what they can get; but to put these and other strange eatables in the front of the list, gives a distorted idea of the every-day food of the people."

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.—We find in the *Boston Atlas* an interesting communication from a correspondent in the copper mine region of Lake Superior. One of them details some remarkable discoveries which have been recently made a few miles interior from the mouth of the Ontonagon River:—"A large mass of native copper, the weight estimated at seven tons, was found in the loose ground. A vast amount of labour had been expended upon it. Every inch of it had been battered and hammered over, and attempts had been made to pry it up, and place it on a platform. All this was the labor of a race of beings long since passed away. There is too much skill manifested for the present race of Indians, and yet the workings are too ancient to be those of white men. Many loads of rude stone hammers are found buried below the surface—are abundant proofs that in stoning up a cellar, it was found more convenient to use them than to throw them out. Hemlock trees, two feet in diameter, and, from examination, two and three hundred years old, are growing over the workings, and have to be felled to enable the miners to excavate the earth. Remains of charred wedges, and levers, and copper gads, are found under

these trees and under the principal mass. These ancient workings can be traced for more than half-a-mile through the forest, and an expenditure of \$50,000 at this time would not pay for the accomplishment of the like amount of labour. Their great antiquity would seem to carry us back to other times. Yet it is not impossible that the present Indians may be the descendants of those who wrought them."

BENEFITS OF MACHINERY.—Fifty years ago wages were no better, in fact less, than at the present day, and comforts and luxuries of life were far more difficult to obtain. Articles needed by the poor man, cost in those days of comparative freedom from machinery, from twice to three times what they do now, and often more, and you will find that the greatest reductions are in those articles to which machinery has been most successfully applied.—There is no article of luxury or comfort to which machinery has been extensively and successfully applied, of which the poor man cannot now get more for a day's labour than he could before such application of machinery. Salt is now less than one-third; iron less than one-half; shirting and calicoes and cloth generally from one half to one fourth; pins, needles, shoes, hats, everything in similar proportions.

Forty years ago, such articles of use or ornament as locks were scarcely known, and could be afforded by the rich only. Farmers' waggons were chiefly sleds; their houses, cabins; their chairs, stools and benches; their bureaux, pins drove in the wall or poles hung across; and their windows often an old sheet or blanket.—Nails and glass cost money in those days, and labour commanded little.

Since machinery has been applied, better roads, turnpikes, railroads—all of which are a species of machinery—have been constructed. Steam has been made to propel the boat and the great ship, and to give power to the mill, to the jenny and the loom. Production in many articles has been more than trebled, and everything the labourer needs has fallen, while his wages have risen or remained stationary. The clock, which the farmer had not and could not afford, now adorns the mantel of his poorest tenant, and summons him to his meals.

There have been less improvements in agricultural implements than in machinery for manufacturing purposes—but this is the age of improvement. Let machinery be applied to husbandry also. Let bread and meat be as cheap as clothing, and if the distributing is not as equal as it might be, let us rejoice that if the rich man has more, so also the poor man has much more.

The cottager has now, by the aid of machinery here, what great kings have not in Africa, and what the kings of England had not before the introduction of machines. The great Alfred sat upon a three-legged stool, while many an English or American tenant now reclines on a gilded sofa. If the poor of England and America are not so well off as they should be, machinery is not at fault. It has saved them from much greater misery, and the reforms which they need are chiefly governmental and social.—*Scientific American.*

STONE CUTTING.—Mr. C. Wilson has invented a new stone cutting machine, propelled by steam, and said to be capable of doing the work of 100 men. Only one has been made, and that is in use at New Haven. It is thus described: "The cutting instrument is simply a half-dozen circular saws fastened firmly by an axle running through the centre. These saws are made very hard, and the teeth rather larger than the ordinary size. When firmly adjusted, it is forced rapidly over the surface of the stone, smoothing it very evenly."