

STATUE OF CAPTAIN COOK.

The committee who have made the arrangements for the bronze statue of Captain James Cook, the great navigator, which is to stand on a lofty pedestal, 22 feet in height, overlooking Sydney Harbor, have given their sanction to the statue being exhibited for two months in London before it is shipped for New South Wales, and the colossal figure has been accordingly placed on the same square of land, between the Athenæum and the Senior United Service Club, on which the late Mr. Foley's equestrian statue of Sir James Outram, now in Calcutta, was displayed for a time for the criticism and admiration of London. The custom of preliminary exhibition in London has many advantages, and might well be made general. Mr. Woolner, R.A., is the sculptor of the fine piece of statuary which is now to be seen at the foot of Waterloo Place. He has chosen the moment when the intrepid sailor has just sighted the land of New Holland, which he called New South Wales and took possession of in the name of the King. As we know from the narrative of his famous voyages, this was at an early hour on the morning of the 19th of April, 1770—108 years ago. The founder of the Australian colonies is represented with his right hand thrown in the air in a gesture expressing exultation: his left hand holds the telescope with which he has just seen the dim loom of the land. He wears, of course, the naval costume of the last century, and there was no difficulty in procuring an accurate likeness of him to serve as the original of the manly and intelligent face, which in the statue is thrown back as the eyes seem to scan the horizon. The Royal Society struck a medal in commemoration of Captain Cook after his tragic death at Hawaii; there is a fine Wedgwood medallion of him extant by Flaxman, and Nathaniel Dance painted his portrait. It hangs not far from the relics of Nelson in the Painted Hall of Greenwich Hospital. The back of the figure will be scrutinized by those who are interested in the old naval pigtail, which was the head ornament of all the best known maritime heroes of English history. The monument is 14 feet in height. It is at present placed on a wooden pedestal 13 feet high, and the effect is, therefore, not quite the same as it will have on the much loftier pedestal for which it is destined at Sydney. It was the work of three years, and has been cast by Messrs. Cox & Sons, who have recently sent fine statues to Glasgow. The weight of the statue is about two tons. Mr. Woolner's hand is already known in the Southern hemisphere by his statue of J. R. Godley, the founder of the Canterbury settlement, which is placed in Christ Church, New Zealand. To have executed for Sydney the statue of Captain James Cook, which after thirty years' discussion the colony is at length on the point of possessing, is to have a surer title to immortality. We take our illustration from the *London News*.

WHAT IS GOLD?

A recent action at the Thorne County Court throws an odd light on the laxity of definition with which the precious metals are afflicted in this country.

A man named Whitehead, of Thorne, sued a jeweler named Gordon, living at Grimsby, for three guineas, the value of a chain sold by the defendant as "gold," but which plaintiff contended was not gold, and was not what was sold by jewelers as gold. Plaintiff produced a witness who swore that the Albert did not contain more than one part of gold to ninety-nine parts of copper, and he said that the utmost value of the chain would not be more than 10s. He admitted that on the swivel there was a mark giving the proportion of gold as nine carats, but he said that this mark only applied to the swivel, and not to the whole chain. Defendant admitted that he sold the chain as gold, having bought it as a gold one from a Biruingham manufacturing jeweler! As a proof of what he said, he offered to allow the chain to be sent to any assayer, and promised, if it was not gold, to return plaintiff his money and pay expenses.

The assayer will, we take it, be puzzled; for the gold of commerce is of no regulation strength and fineness. Twenty-two carat gold is more talked about than used for jewelry, and eighteen and sixteen carat are far more generally employed. For gold chains very common qualities are used, and it is difficult to say at what point the degradation of the precious metal ceases.

If we are not mistaken, the chain now *sub judice* is, in quality, akin to the metal known in the trade as "jewelers' gold." We are not certain of the proportion of gold and alloy in this precious product, but rumour says that to every golden sovereign a copper coal scuttle is added.

HORSE-SHOE NAILS.

One of the most prominent of all causes of lameness in horses is the slivering of poorly made nails, a portion of which pierces the sensitive part of the foot. Fig. 1 illustrates how this may occur, even without the knowledge of the shoer, as part of the nail follows its proper course, and is clinched on the outside of the hoof, as if it were the whole nail. Even if the splinter has so pricked the horse as to convince the shoer of the fact, and he attempts to draw the nail, it will often break off and leave a piece in the foot, to remain a festering cause of lameness, it may be for life. In Fig. 2 is represented a nail which has splintered in the foot, and broken when being drawn out. It is said that this nail was made from cold rolled iron, and splintered when being driven by a shoer in Providence, R. I. C represents the part which was clinched on the outer surface of the hoof; A, that which was driven through the soft lamina lining the hoof, and into the coffin bone, where it was broken off. Lockjaw followed and resulted in a loss of a \$1,000 horse. There was less difficulty of this kind in the days when blacksmiths made their own nails from the best Norway iron; but of late years, since machine-made nails, costing but a fractional part as much, have come into use, lameness from this cause has been frequent and expensive. To make a horse-shoe nail by machinery, which would be equal in texture to the hand-made nails, and could be sold at a low price, has been the effort of the Putnam Nail Company of Boston, Mass. After years of experimenting, they perfected machinery which, essentially, is a series of small hammers that, in operation, pound upon a rod of hot iron, turning out a finished, pointed nail, in every respect equal to any made by hand. It is well known that iron shaped by machinery, when cold, readily splinters, as may be shown by twisting a piece of wire.

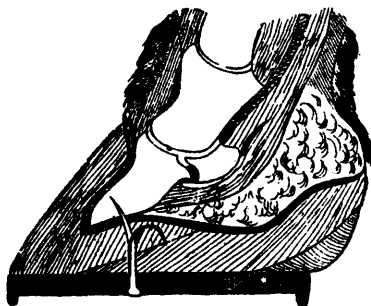


Fig. 1.—SPLINTER PIERCING THE COFFIN BONE.



Fig. 2.—KILLED A \$1,000 HORSE.

RAW-HIDE HORSE SHOES.

A method of shoeing horses with raw-hide has long been in use on the plains, and found so serviceable and convenient that it might doubtless be found useful in many places where there are long periods of hot weather. There are also cases frequently occurring, in which disease of the feet might at least be alleviated by the temporary use of shoes cut from raw-hide or properly prepared sole leather. With these, that portion of the foot which needs the most precaution, viz., the crust or wall of the hoof where it meets the sole, will be preserved from contact with hard or rough surfaces; while the frog, generally too much protected, will reach the ground and become subjected to healthful action. For farm work, upon smooth soils free from stones or gravel, this kind of shoe will be useful during the summer season. A simple strip of raw-hide or sole leather, well filled with hot pine tar to make it hard and waterproof, will be sufficient for general use. A more durable shoe may be made of two or more thicknesses, fastened together by copper rivets as shown in the illustration.