

### A RAILWAY IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

A correspondent of the *Denver Times*, describing the extension of the Denver and Rio Grande railway from Conejos westward toward the San Juan country, gives these picturesque bits. He says: For miles the railway curved among the hills, keeping sight of the plains and catching frequent glimpses of the village. Its innumerable windings along the brows of the hills seemed, in mere wantonness, as loth to abandon so beautiful a region. Almost imperceptibly the foothills changed into mountains and the valleys deepened into canyons, and winding around the point of one of the mountains it found itself overlooking the picturesque valley or canyon of Los Pinos creek. Eastward was the rounded summit of the great mountain of San Antonio; over the nearest height could be seen the top of Sierra Blanca, canopied with perpetual clouds; in front were castellated crags, art like monuments and stupendous precipices. Having allured the railway into their awful fastnesses, the mountains seemed determined to baffle its further progress. But it was a strong hearted railway, and, although a little giddy 1,000 ft. above the stream, it cuts its way through the crags and among the monuments and bears onward for miles up the valley. A projecting point, too high for a cut and too abrupt for a curve, was overcome by a tunnel. The track layers are now busy at work laying down the steel rail at a point a few miles beyond this tunnel. The grade is nearly completed for many miles further. From the present end of the track for the next four or five miles along the grade, the scenery is unsurpassed by any railroad scenery in North America. Engineers who have traversed every mile of mountain railroad in the Union, assert that it is the finest they have seen. Perched on the dizzy mountain side, at an altitude of 9,500 ft. above the sea—greater than that of Veta Pass—1,000 ft. above the valley, with battlemented crags rising 500 or 600 ft. above, the beholder is enraptured with the view. At one point the canyon narrows into an awful gorge, apparently but a few yards wide and nearly 1,000 feet in depth, between almost perpendicular walls of granite. Here, a high point of granite has to be tunneled, and in this tunnel the rock men are at work drilling and blasting to complete the passage, which is now open to pedestrians. The frequent explosions of the blasts echo and re-echo among the mountains until they die away in the distance. Looking down the valley from the tunnel, the scene is one never to be forgotten. The lofty precipices, the distant heights, the fantastic monuments, the contrast of the rugged crags and the graceful curves of the silvery stream beneath them, the dark green pines interspersed with poplar groves, bright yellow in their autumn foliage, that crown the neighboring summits—height, depth, distance and color—combine to constitute a landscape that is destined to be painted by thousands of artists, reproduced again and again by photographers, and to adorn the walls of innumerable parlors and galleries of art. Beyond the tunnel for a mile or more the scene is even more picturesque, though of less extent. The traveller looks down into the gorge and sees the stream plunging in a succession of snow-white cascades through narrow cuts between the perpendicular rocks.

### CONSTIPATION.

It is doubtful if consumption numbers as many victims as are stricken down by the various diseases that result from habitual constipation. True consumption is an inherited disease. It may remain always dormant, but when aroused to action, decay commences at a point circumscribed, and gradually extends—unless arrested—until so much of the lungs become involved that vital action ceases. The evils of constipation result from inattention to the calls of nature, and usually commence with children whose habits are not closely looked to by their parents. The processes of nature are always active while life lasts. When effete matter is retained a moment beyond the time its expulsion is demanded, the system commences its efforts to get rid of it. When the natural egress is checked, the absorbents carry the more fluid portions of the poisonous mass into the circulation, and it becomes diffused throughout the body. The more solid or clay-like portion is forced into the lower rectums where it becomes firmly impacted, thus cutting off the circulation in the small blood vessels, causing painful engorgements known as piles and hemorrhoids. A continuance of these troubles often results in fissure, fistula, or cancer. The trouble is seldom confined here. As a result of the blood poisoning we almost invariably find more or less dyspepsia, with decided derangement of the functions of the heart, liver and kidneys, accompanied by headache and nervous debility, often verging on paralysis.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

### TRAPS ON MAIN DRAINS.

The Journeymen Plumbers' Benevolent Protective Society of New York has sent us the following card for publication:

To the Public:

In consequence of so many different plans and opinions of sanitarians in regard to the best means of protecting the public from sewer gas poison and infectious diseases entering their dwelling and business offices through their connections with the public sewer, we, the Journeymen Plumbers, feel called upon to give as our practical experience the necessity of a trap in the front of cellar with the proper ventilations as shown in cut, which we respectfully submit with the following reasons:—

*First*—Because practical experience has taught us that it requires a safeguard between dwellings and the public sewer, which has to receive the filth of thousands of people often afflicted with contagious diseases.

*Secondly*—Because it is an admitted fact that every inch of sewer, soil and waste pipes generates sewer gas, and therefore, air which has to travel through miles of public sewers becoming impregnated with different diseases and poisons, cannot but be dangerous to health.

*Thirdly*—Because we know by experience that pipes, traps under fixtures, etc., do not last forever; and that the moment an opening occurs, the public sewer relieves itself into dwellings, and too often the first warning we have is when one of the family is stricken down.

*Fourthly*—Because we know that when the trap of a fixture becomes empty by evaporation or other means, as when people go to the country, the furniture, carpets, etc., becomes saturated with sewer gas, which too often more than counterbalances all the vigor gained by country and sea-side air.

*Fifthly*—Because we have had opportunities to learn that when a trap is placed on a house drain and properly ventilated, it is impossible to have stagnant air in it, because the temperature in the inlet pipe and in the soil pipe is never the same, and, having only a short distance to travel, the foul air is never dangerous.

Signed,

JOHN GALLAGHER, *Pres't.*  
PETER J. CARPENTER, *Sec'y.*  
JOSEPH GREEN, *Treas'r.*

New York, Oct. 15, 1880.

WHEN TO CUT TIMBER.—July and August are the best months for cutting timber, that it may be the most durable. The growth of the year is then well nigh over, and if the trees are allowed to lie until the green foliage dries upon them, the greater portion of the sap is thereby withdrawn from the wood, and the seasoning is rapid and perfect. Cut in mid-summer, insects are much less liable to attack the wood, which is an important point with some kinds of timber, like hickory.

### A NEW CANADIAN INVENTION.

Architects will appreciate the neat and excellent device for fastening the shank of a door knob to its spindle, so that without the aid of screws or spring catches, it will not become detached from its spindle as those otherwise secured frequently do:—

This object is attained in the following manner:—Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the door knob, shank and spindle, put together. Fig. 2x and Fig. 2y, are longitudinal sections of the shank showing the corrugated socket E. Fig. 3 shows the two sections of the shank laid together as they appear when cemented into the door lock knob. Fig. 4 represents an end view of the shank and its excentric G, with the nut (F. Fig. 5), placed over the ends of the two sections binding them together. Fig. 6 shows a sectional view of the knob, shank, nut and rose, or washer, combined, as they appear when put together. Fig. 7 represents the lock spindle, showing its corrugated ends C C. Fig. 8 represents the method of entering both sections of the shank into the nut. Fig. 9 is a rose or washer, having a boss shaped face and counter sunk socket.

The excentric end I of the shank (Fig. 3) is made of a dovetail shape, in order to form a shoulder, over which the nut P (Fig. 5) is placed. The object of this form, or dovetail, is to keep the nut from coming off after it has been placed in position. The manner in which this is done is by placing the nut over the shank in the following way. First take that section of the shank E (Fig. 8) upon which the excentric commences and