

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Engineer*, London gives information of the fact that watch making by machinery is a growing industry in Birmingham, England. At the factory of the English Watch Company, of Villiers street, London, there is as much as 500 feet of pulley shafting. Among much delicate machinery there is a milling machine, a wheel toothing machine, and a drill as fine as a human hair for the regulator holes. One valuable automatic, whose construction the firm keep private, is an apparatus for the cutting at one operation, of a dovetail not and dovetail jewel slip over a jeweled hole. The cutter, set by a micrometer gauge, and running at 2,000 revolutions per minute, can cut a hair stretched upon a jewel without touching the stone itself. The firm claim to employ the most minute steam-power lathes work in the world for turning the tiny balance-staff pivots for the jewel holes. The company report considerable success in the competition which they are carrying on with American and other machine-using watchmakers. Last year the company secured the contract for watches on the Indian State railways.

ONE of the results of the late disastrous war waged in South America, has been the sale of a large number of gold and silver church ornaments set with precious stones, and old personal jewelry sent from Lima by patriotic persons, in order to procure funds towards the defence of Peru. Of nearly 500 lots, which realized various prices, the following were sold at the highest rates: A pair of long pearl and diamond earrings, with four large Oriental pearl buttons, and a pair of extraordinary large pearl drops, £235; a curious silver gilt mitre, enriched with scrolls of diamonds, emeralds, rubies and other stones, £273; a magnificent old chased fine gold monstrance, enriched with a large number of precious stones, including fine aeralds, rubies, sapphires, diamonds and amethysts, likewise pearls, total weight, 378 oz. 19 dwt., £2,000; an old gold monstrance, with a centre of large diamonds and topazes, with rays of diamonds, rubies, and topazes, £940; fourteen gold rays for a monstrance, set with topazes and diamonds, £640; a gold crescent of eighteen brilliants, £200; an old silver-gilt monstrance, with a gold door and lining, 298 oz. 10 dwt., £200; a life-size silver figure of a pelican, with an enameled gold breast, the eyes and aigrette set with large emeralds cut en cabochon, three silver-gilt figures of young pelicans, £380; an old enameled frame in three pieces, enriched with emeralds, £275. Total of the prices, £10,778.

THE *London Times* describes a recent trial of a new musical instrument invented by Mr. Bailie Hamilton, which resembles in shape and in the means of producing sound, the harmonium or cabinet organ. There is, however, one important difference. Mr. Hamilton employs what is technically known as "free reeds," but instead of acting upon them singly, he divides them into groups of three, connected by a bridge, which so modifies their individual sounds as to emit a single note of great sonorous beauty and power. To each group of reeds belongs a sounding-box or cavity through which the air passes much as the breath in singing passes through the throat, the intention being to produce a quality of tone, re-

sembling the human voice. In this attempt Mr. Hamilton has been remarkably successful, by means entirely different from those employed in the "vox humana" stops of ordinary organs. The timbre of the new invention varies somewhat between the voice and the softer wind instruments, such as the French horn, clarinet, etc., partaking of the qualities of both, the beauty of the sustained notes being indeed remarkable. The chief defect of the instrument is its slowness of speech, which makes the execution of rapid passages a matter of extreme difficulty, if not impossibility. This drawback, however, does not appear to be structural, and may no doubt be remedied in subsequent specimens.

THE "Man About Town" in the *Buffalo Sunday News* is responsible for the following: "Do you know that lady?" I asked of a friend who lifted his hat as we were passing along the avenue the other day. "I ought to know her," was the answer, "when I gave her a gold dollar, for a button, on her dress." I had noticed the gold buttons, and I learned later that each one bore the monogram of some devoted admirer. More than that, as I learned on the best authority, this lady had made a practice of asking each of her admirers for a monogram dollar for the purpose. And I am told it is quite a common custom. It is a very popular idea as far as the ladies are concerned, but I can't say that the young men I have talked to like it. They say it too communistic, and the compliment isn't worth the cost. The coin is only a dollar, but it costs from \$1.50 to \$2 to have it smoothed down, and the monogram of giver engraved on it, and sometimes more, and when done the giver is not specially honored, but put on a par with a dozen or so of other fellows, each of whom is similarly mulcted. If it was a locket or ring or some other one-of-a-kind trinket, I doubt not any gallant youth would go to the bottom of his pocket with great heroism if not pleasure, but there's no distinction in this button scheme, and any one of a dozen admirers is as much honored as the best of the throng. The girls like the trophies, however, and suppose they will get them whether their admirers really like it or not.

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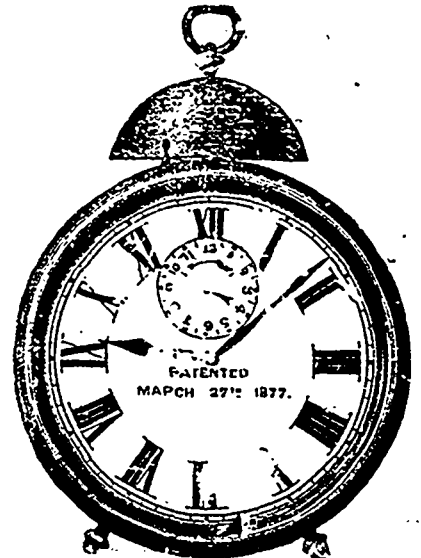
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