

*From the New York Journal of Commerce of Feb. 1st, 1850.*

"Dr. Gesner has discovered a new illuminating gas, which he exhibited last night at No. 93, Liberty Street, in the presence of a company of gentlemen somewhat distinguished for their scientific attainments. With the use of a retort recently invented by him, in which he placed a pound of bitumen, or mineral pitch, obtained from the Island of Trinidad, he succeeded in producing in about twenty minutes, near six cubic feet of gas that burned with unusual brilliancy—sufficient to supply one burner four hours. The Doctor states that gas can be furnished in this manner, possessing a much higher illuminating power than that now in use and at a much lower rate. By introducing his patent retort into common gas works, the expense of manufacture will be reduced two-thirds."

*Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce of Jan'y. 26th, 1850.*

The few gentlemen who saw Dr. Gesner's apparatus in operation at his residence in Liberty Street last evening, felt well convinced that the end of exorbitant charges for Gas was at hand. Dr. Gesner, a distinguished professor of Nova Scotia, being on board the Admiral's ship on the northerly coast of America, made the discovery of a bituminous substance free from Sulphur, or other noxious ingredients,—and containing treble the quantity of Gas to be found in any description of coal,—and much cheaper than the latter in actual price. To enable him to succeed, however, in producing Gas from this substance, some improvement in the mode of using the usual apparatus was necessary, and being invented by him, was, as well as the discovery, duly patented both in Europe and this country. As an opportunity will soon be afforded to editors and men of science to view the operation of the Professor's new apparatus, no details are necessary at present.

It may be said, however, briefly, that,

1st. The cost of the new material in New York, is but little over one half that of the best bituminous coal.

2d. That it is inexhaustible in quantity.

3d. That, against a charge of coal, that is eight hours in being converted into Gas, this material takes but two hours.

4th. In the experiments last evening, while one pound of Coal produced  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet of Gas, the same quantity of the material produced  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet, in one quarter of the time.

5thly. The residum, or coke, is sufficient for ample fuel.

6thly. No lime or other purifier seems necessary; none such was used in the experiments, nor was there any unpleasant smell whatever.

7th. It does not corrode iron pipes,—a most serious expense under the old system.

Consumers of Gas, think of these advantages, and be cheerful. Come forward and form a new company at once.

*From the New York Journal of Commerce, Feb'y. 4th, 1850.*

DR. GESNER'S PATENT KEROSENE GAS LIGHT.—During the past year the attention of the Earl of Dundonald was directed to the improvement of the sugar and coffee estates in the West Indies. Among other substances proposed to be converted into manure, for their renovation, was the asphaltum of the great Pitch Lake of Trinidad. To analyze and decompose the bitumen, or asphaltum, and to conduct a series of experiments upon the material in reference to agriculture, the