

**MANUFACTURING STEEL BY ELECTRICITY.**—The *London Mining Journal* describes the new and interesting process of converting iron into steel by a current of electricity, passed through the iron when placed in a furnace, and imbedded in charcoal, whereby an immense saving of labor, time and fuel, is the immediate result. By this method it is found that iron can be made, even from ores, equal in purity to the finest of iron at present imported. It also secures a greater power of governance to the operators, inasmuch as the application of the battery for a certain time will insure a certain amount of carbon being taken, absorbed or concentrated, amalgamated with the iron, and thereby increasing or diminishing the action of the battery, different qualities of steel will be produced with a certainty, regularity and efficacy which hitherto, under the ordinary process of manufacture, has been the object wanting—the great desideratum sought after, as well as the end desired to be attained. The *Journal* thinks that if, on a more extended scale, the electric process should be found practicable, we may yet have cast iron mortars, guns and ordnance at once carbonized into steel, and lowered in rigidity, toughness and ductility, as well as in the tensible properties, to any degree or amount of temper.

**MECHANICAL GENIUS.**—The *Paris Patrie* contains the following:—"A youth, aged eighteen, belonging to a respectable family of Paris, had, about a year ago, been condemned for theft to five year's imprisonment. His conduct in prison being quite exemplary, he gained the good opinion of the Director, who soon remarked in him a peculiar aptness for mechanical contrivances. A few days ago he begged the Director to tell him what o'clock it was, that he might set his watch. 'You have a watch, then?' asked the Director. 'Only since yesterday, sir,' said the prisoner; and to the astonishment of the Director, produced one made of straw! The little masterpiece is two and a half inches in diameter, about half an inch thick, and will go for three hours without winding up. The dial-plate is of paper, and a pretty straw chain is attached to the whole. The instruments the prisoner had at his command were two needles, a pin, a little straw, and thread. Several persons of distinction, moved by the surprising genius for mechanics, are now endeavouring to obtain his liberation."

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## EDITOR'S TABLE.

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**NOTICE TO CANVASSERS.**—Those persons who consider themselves entitled to prizes for obtaining subscribers for the present volume, will please send in their applications, stating number of subscriptions sent, and how the books, and other prizes (as the case may be) are to be disposed of. By reference to the advertisement in the January, and two or three subsequent numbers, canvassers will see whether they are entitled to a prize, and what kind.

**WADE'S SALE OF SHORT HORNS.**—This great sale came off with much success pursuant to advertisement. The prices ranged from \$100. to \$100 for thorough-breds, and in proportion for grades. Sheep sold at fair prices also, notwithstanding the hard times. The attendance was good, and of the right sort of people. We are glad to state that nearly all the herd remains in Canada. We have not space for a further notice this month, but may find room for details in our next issue.

We request the attention of our readers to the advertisement on another page, in reference to agricultural instruction in University College. No young man of ordinary attainments and perseverance but might spend four or five months during the winter season, with very great advantage, both as respects his general education, and his special improvement in a knowledge of the scientific principles and most approved practices of agriculture. Such students may enter without being subjected to any previous examination, and have the privilege of attending as many of the collegiate classes as they may think convenient or desirable, at an expense that is merely nominal. Surely there must be many among our farmers' sons, who only require to be made aware of these advantages, that they may avail themselves of them.