

a process of vulcanization, by which Gutta Percha was made permanently elastic and flexible, like India rubber, were made by Wm. Rider, of the firm of W. Rider and Brothers, now the President of the North American Gutta Percha Company, and his brothers, Emory and John Rider, who had for years been engaged in experiments with India rubber, (which resulted in the vulcanization, as patented by Goodyear.)

No time was lost in making application for a patent, which was granted.

Under this discovery, Gutta Percha, which before was a fibrous, non-elastic and horny material, and affected by the changes of climate, is converted into pliable and elastic fabrics, which remain the same under all changes of climate ; is not injured by acids or fatty substances, is free from offensive smell, and, unlike India rubber, does not decompose and get sticky : with such advantages this invention must prove one of vast importance in the arts.

As this discovery presented a field for business beyond the means of any individual or firm, it was deemed advisable to vest the right to the same in a company. Accordingly the North American Gutta Percha Company was incorporated.

This Company have an extensive establishment in Twenty-fifth-street, in this city, covering eight lots of ground ; their machinery is of the most approved make, and very ponderous, weighing over one hundred thousand pounds, which is driven by a splendid engine of one hundred horse-power.

The cutting, cleansing, mixing, grinding, callendering and vulcanizing-rooms are all arranged with regard to the economical despatch of business—the work-rooms are light and airy, and the whole establishment is lighted with gas. The establishment employs about two hundred females, and fifty men and boys, and can turn out six hundred thousand dollars worth of goods per annum.—*New York Day-Book.*



## IMPORTANCE OF THE COMPASS.

Captains of ocean steamers differ considerably in their attention to exactness in compasses. Good compasses are doubtless furnished to all vessels of this important class ; but the very best compass may be rendered worse than useless by a