

In another part of the room a man was pouring out with a ladle what appeared to be a liquid paste made of the richest ingredients—sugar, milk, eggs and so forth,—to be formed into pastry cakes; while around and through the room at the different tables and machines a number of men and boys were busily engaged at different occupations, for the supply and feeding, with an endless variety of cakes of every shape and form that fancy can devise, the large ovens that here are constantly in operation during the entire day.

Passing out of this large room or bakehouse, we enter the Fancy Biscuit Bakery. The plan of operation and mode of manufacture is somewhat similar to those of the bakehouse. Here the arrowroot and fancy biscuits are produced. The oven is what is termed a "chain oven," and worked by a pressure regulator. It is also fed by one of the compound cutting machines already described, at one end of which was passing the dough-like sheets of pasteboard, not more than the thickness of half-a-crown, and passing beneath the stamper or cutter is moulded into the required fancy form, and has printed on it in raised letters those familiar names of "William," "Mary" &c., which render it such a favourite, particularly among the juvenile portion of the public. From this they are removed to pans with cross-bar bottoms, on which they are laid, then passed into the oven, and in a few minutes come out at the other end in actual showers transferred to boxes, and then taken to the Packing Loft.

Ascending by flights of steps from the basement story to the fourth or top loft we enter the packing department, which bears a strong resemblance to an arcade, being lit by a glass roof, shaded by a long linen blind, which while it shields off the rays of the sun, imparts a softened and cheerful light to the apartment. This extends the entire length and breadth of the building; and through the room are long tables, at which a number of men and boys are busily engaged packing an endless variety of cakes and biscuits in tin cases, canisters &c., of every size and description. These packages are then lowered to the street by the hoister into the carts and vans waiting in regular order to receive them for transit to every part of the world—some for different European countries, others for the East and West Indies, America, China, Canada, and the Colonies. We saw a number of boxes passing down the hoister, the first stage in their transit to Ceylon and Vancouver's Island; and all this, independent of a vast home consumption, may serve to give some idea of the quantity manufactured, and the extent of the business and correspondence of this enterprising firm.

This factory may, in fact be considered as a step in the right direction towards the introduction of manufactures into Ireland, and thus giving employment to the population,—an object so much needed and so much desired by every well wisher of his country; and to the citizens of Cork it must afford gratification to think that in the midst of their city one of the largest biscuit factories in the empire is in full and active operation, where a large number of persons obtain work, wages, and a livelihood; for all the barrels, canisters, &c., required are manufactured under the firm's own immediate inspection, so that hundreds obtain employment in the various departments.—*The Grocer.*

PETROLEUM WELLS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

In 1853 there was upon the premises of Brewer, Watson & Co., extensive lumber dealers, in Titusville, Pa., a well which from time immemorial, had been remarkable for producing oil, that floated in limited quantities upon the surface. This oil had been occasionally gathered for medicinal purposes, by absorbing it with blankets. Dr. Brewer, (who, by the way, is of New England birth, and received a medical education at Dartmouth,) conceived the idea of collecting this oil and using it in the saw mills of the firm for illuminating and lubricating purposes. The experiment was so successful that the foreman of the mill proposed to increase the production by pumping water from the well into tanks and collecting the oil from the surface. Considerable quantities were thus gathered "at the halves" by arrangement between Brewer, Watson & Co., and their foreman. This was the beginning of a business which now amounts in value to millions of dollars per annum.

Dr. Brewer subsequently interested Dr. Albert Crosby, (now of Wells River, Vt.,) in this discovery through whose efforts, and the active exertions of Evelyn & Bissell, of New York, the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company was formed, in the fall of 1854, with a nominal capital stock of \$300,000. The company purchased a hundred acres of land in the vicinity of the original oil well. But although some efforts were made to develop the property thus acquired, and to gather the surface oil, yet the corporation was regarded as a "fancy stock" concern, and the shares soon declined to a merely nominal price.

In the winter of 1854, Professor Silliman analyzed specimens of the oil, and his report upon its economic value was so favourable, that parties in Connecticut invested largely in the stock of the Pennsylvania Company, and sent out Mr. E. L. Drake to develop the property. But the enterprise languished for several years, until in 1856, Mr. Drake having heard that oil had been obtained in boring for salt in the Alleghany valley, conceived the idea of sinking a well on the lands which had yielded so promising a surface show of oil. He persevered in spite of pecuniary embarrassments, drilling through solid rock to the depth of seventy-eight feet, when he was rewarded by striking oil, his well pumping from sixty to seventy barrels per day.

This discovery created great excitement, and speculators were not slow to appreciate its importance. All the farms in the valley of Oil Creek which could be purchased or leased were secured, and numerous adventurers flocked to that promising locality to bore for oil. Some were successful, while others after expending all their funds were compelled to relinquish their hopes. One well was struck in 1860, which flowed, without pumping about fifty or sixty barrels per day. This was considered marvellous.

In 1861, the first large flowing well was struck. This well run, as was estimated, about one thousand barrels per day. But before arrangements could be made to take care of this astonishing product, the well caught fire, as was supposed from a lighted cigar, and twenty-two persons were burned to death. Shortly after, a well was struck on land