

no class in the community to which the world is so much indebted, so there is no class more generous with their wealth. In America, perhaps, more than in Europe, the inventors are likely to reap a fortune, as the rapid development of the sources of wealth and the scarcity and comparatively high price of manual labor, necessitate the almost immediate introduction of any really useful labor-saving machine. This is especially true of agricultural implements, and often large fortunes are realized on simple articles of use. A gentleman by the name of Peeler, who is said to have realised \$400,000 (£80,000) from the sale of a patent plow, has recently proved the profitableness of his invention and the goodness of his heart by giving \$200,000, or £40,000, of this sum to the Methodist Church of the United States."

MEMORY OF THE ELEPHANT.—A female elephant, belonging to a gentleman at Calcutta, who was ordered from the upper country to Chittagong, in the route thither broke loose from her keeper, and, making her way to the woods, was lost. The keeper made every excuse to vindicate himself, which the master of the animal would not listen to, but branded the man with carelessness, or something worse; for it was instantly supposed he had sold the elephant. He was tried for it, and condemned to work on the roads for life, and his wife and his children were sold for slaves. About twelve years afterwards, this man, who was known to be well acquainted with breaking elephants, was sent into the country with a party, to assist in catching wild ones. They came upon a herd, and this man fancied he saw amongst the group his long-lost elephant, for which he had been condemned. He resolved to approach it; nor could the strongest remonstrances of the party dissuade him from the attempt. Having reached the animal, he spoke to her, when she immediately recognised his voice; she waved her trunk in the air as a token of salutation, and spontaneously knelt down, and allowed him to mount her neck. She afterwards assisted in taking other elephants, and decoyed three young ones, to which she had given birth in her absence. The keeper returned, and the singular circumstances attending the discovery being told, he regained his character; and, as a recompense for his unmerited sufferings, had a pension settled on him for life. This elephant was afterwards in possession of Warren Hastings, when Governor General of Hindostan. —*Cassell's Popular Natural History.*

THE CUTTING ANTS OF TEXAS.—In the "Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia," Mr. Buckley describes these most destructive insects:—"They burrow extensively under ground, and form chambers generally from ten to twelve feet, sometimes eighteen feet deep, the upper cells being seldom

nearer to the surface than eighteen inches. These have avenues four or five inches in diameter, by which these ants convey their stores of barley, &c. Sometimes these ants tunnel beneath a stream to get into a garden. When their dens become foul, or are injured by heavy rains, millions emigrate *en masse*. Mr. Buckley saw multitudes on the banks of the Colorado river, going up hill, bearing fragments of leaves and berries, marching like an army with banners. Great is the damage they do by destroying trees and vegetables. They will strip a fruit-tree of leaves in a night. Attempts to exterminate them by fumigating their dens have failed: the only effectual method is to dig, and kill the females and young. This is so expensive that it is only resorted to near a garden or dwelling, and as these ants are scattered throughout Western or Central Texas, they will probably never be exterminated by man. —*Annals of Natural History.*

THE SPONGE.—The substance so well known by the name of sponge, is an animal product, which is found attached to the rocks under water in the Mediterranean and other seas. Sponge is a light, soft, and highly elastic material, very easily compressed, and rapidly resuming its original shape when the pressure is removed. It is exceedingly porous, containing an immense number of small tubes, which communicate with some larger apertures that are found in it. The substance of the sponge consists of living elastic fibers, and these are so placed as to form the tubes and pores described.

When the sponge is in the sea, alive, the inside of the pores are covered with a substance, like the white of an egg. This appears to be the flesh of the animal, and currents of water may be seen running into the sponge, through the small pores, and out of it through the large ones; and it is supposed that while the water is passing through the sponge, the nourishment requisite for the support of the animal is extracted. When the sponge is removed from the water, this soft flesh drains away, leaving nothing but an elastic fibrous substance, with which we are acquainted.

The use of the sponge, as a material for washing with, depends chiefly on its being so highly porous and elastic. When placed in water its pores become filled with the liquid. If in this state it is compressed, the water is readily forced out over anything desired to clean, and as soon as the pressure is taken away, the sponge resumes its former size, and its pores are again open to suck up a fresh supply of fluid, if required.

The sponge we use comes chiefly from the Mediterranean Sea, where it is procured by diving, and also by dredging, or dragging the bottom of the ocean. The best sponge, which is white and fine—comes from Turkey; the inferior