

that of twenty-five horses, we have a total amount of steam power equal to that of about two millions of men. When we consider that a large proportion of this power is applied to move machinery, and that the amount of work now done by machinery in England, has been supposed to be equivalent to that of between three and four hundred millions of men by direct labour, we are almost astounded at the influence of coal and iron and steam upon the fate and fortunes of the human race. "It is on the rivers," says Mr. Webster, "and the boatman may repose on his oars. It is in high ways, and begins to exert itself along the courses of land conveyances. It is at the bottom of mines, a thousand" [he might have said one thousand eight hundred] "feet below the earth's surface. It is in the mill, and in the workshops of the trades. It rows, it pumps, it excavates, it carries, it lifts, it hammers, it spins, it weaves, it prints."

We need no further evidence to show that the presence of coal is, in an especial degree, the foundation of increasing population, riches and power, and of improvement in almost every art which administers to the necessities and comfort of mankind. And however remote may have been the periods at which these materials of future beneficial dispensations were laid up in store, we may fairly assume, that besides the immediate purposes effected at or before the time of their deposition in the strata of the earth, an ulterior prospective view to the future uses of man formed part of the design with which they were, ages ago, disposed in a manner so admirably adapted to the benefit of the human race.—*Buckland's Bridgewater Treatise.*

**DISCOVERY.**—Steam Navigation to distant parts of the world is likely to receive a new impetus by an important discovery which has recently been made by an English gentleman of the name of Bennet, who has recently visited France for the purpose of making an experiment which it is believed will be attended with the most important results to steam navigation and manufactures, particularly in that country, by means of which the steam in engine boilers can be generated at one-third the expense and with less than one-third the quantity of coals now used. The experiment was recently tried in Normandy by Mr. Bennett, in the presence of several scientific French gentlemen, and in every instance produced the desired result and excited the admiration and applause of the spectators. Mr. Bennett has been offered all the expense of taking out a patent in that country, accompanied with the most tempting pecuniary offers to secure the advantages of his ingenious discovery exclusively to France, where a number of wealthy gentlemen have proposed to him the formation of a Company, offering at the same time to secure him the superintendence of the establishment, with a very liberal salary for life.—*Sun.*

**ENGLISHMEN.**—It is striking to observe, in accounts of the progress of steam navigation abroad, how invariably the names of Englishmen are found to occur. If Italy may boast of supplying Europe with singers, and France of providing the civilized world with cooks, England may no less confidently claim the merit of sending forth her sons to every region of the globe to spread and improve the useful arts of life.—*Mechanics' Magazine.*

**UNION OF THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC.**—Letters just received from Guatemala, in New Spain, say that the works of the long-proposed canals for uniting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans are still actively proceeding; and that the vast enterprize, which is calculated to create a commercial revolution throughout the world, will be completed towards the end of next year. The line of route for the communication extends from the mouth of the river St. Jean de Nicaragua, following its course to the great lake of the

same name, a distance of 130 miles; the line then proceeds across the lake to the coast and town of Nicaragua, 97 miles; from this latter town it extends to Borette, in the gulf of Popaya, a distance of 16 miles, making the total length of the line 243 miles.

**WARMING PUBLIC OFFICES.**—A Copenhagen Journal mentions a new way now used in the war offices of that capital, of warming rooms and public offices, by placing 49 pound cannon balls, made red hot, in iron boxes of fine sand, which are put under the seats of stools, chairs, &c. The warmth thus communicated to the sand will keep up in an apartment an heat of 60 deg. of Fahrenheit for nine hours, the windows and fire-places being stopped.

**PRONUNCIATION.**—The difficulty of applying rules to the pronunciation of our language may be illustrated in two lines, where the combination of the letters *ough*, is pronounced in no less than seven different ways, viz.: as *o*, *eif*, *of*, *up*, *ow*, *oo*, and *ocks*:—

Though the tough cough and hiccough plough me through,  
O'er life's dark lough my course I still pursue.

**FLOWERS.**—Flowers in all ages, have been made the representatives of innocence and purity. We decorate the bride, and strew her path with flowers: we present the undefiled blossoms as a similitude of her beauty and untainted mind; trusting that her destiny through life will be like theirs, grateful and pleasing to all. We scatter them over the coffin, the bier, and the earth, when we consign our mortal blossoms to the dust, as emblems of transient joy, fading pleasures, withered hopes; yet rest in sure and certain trust, that each in due time will be renewed again. All the writers of antiquity make mention of their uses and application in heathen and pagan ceremonies, whether of the temple, the banquet, or the tomb—the rites, the pleasures, or the sorrows, of Man.

**THE REFINER OF SILVER.**—A few ladies who met together in Dublin, to read the Scriptures, and make them the subjects of conversation, were reading the third chapter of Malachi.—One of the ladies gave it as her opinion that the "fuller's" soap and the "refiner of silver," were the same image, both intended to convey the same view of the sanctifying influence of the grace of Christ, while another observed, "There is something remarkable in the expression in the third verse, 'He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.'" They agreed that possibly it might be so; and one of the ladies promised to call on a silversmith, and report to them what he said on the subject.—She went accordingly; and, without telling the subject of her errand, begged to know of him the process of refining silver, which he fully described to her. "But Sir," said she, "do you sit while the work of refining is going on?" "O yes Madam," replied the silversmith, "I must sit, with my eye steadily fixed on the furnace;" for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver is sure to be injured.—At once she saw the beauty, and comfort too, of the expression, "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver".

Christ sees it needful to put his children into the furnace; but he is seated by the side of it, and his eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying, and his wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for them.—Their trials do not come at random: the very hairs of their head are all numbered. As the lady was leaving the shop, the silversmith called her back, and said he had still further to mention, that he only knew when the process of purifying was complete by seeing his own image reflected in the silver. Beautiful figure! when Christ sees his own image in his people, his work of purifying is accomplished.