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THE TRADER.

TOR ONTO, ONTARIO, OCT., 1882.

Sent free to every Jeweler and Hardware Merchant in the Dominion of Canada.

Advertising Rates.

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Half Page.	-	12 00	"
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SPECIAL NOTICE.

To ensure insertion, changes or new advertisements must be sent to the office not later than the 27th of each month.

Editorial.

GOODS RETURNED.

Very few merchants, wholesale or retail, like either the principle or the practice of sending out saleable goods on approbation. Part through the exigencies of business it has occasionally to be done, and this being the case the less trouble it makes to the dealer sending out the goods the better he will like the transaction. Any one at all conversant with the details of running a live business, knows that it is not a profitable thing for any merchant to send out saleable goods on approbation or sale. If he made a practice of doing such things he would certainly require double the amount of stock, for as a rule nearly one half of it would be away on approbation the whole time.

No live merchant cares about this kind of thing, it don't pay, and because it don't pay, it is seldom or never done unless by way of accommodation to some good customer, whose trade is worth the sacrifice. If the magnitude of the sacrifice were fairly estimated by the retail dealer, we are strongly of the opinion that the transaction would be attended, in many cases, with far less inconvenience to the wholesale merchant than is now the case. As a matter of fact many retail dealers treat this matter of approbation goods as if it were entirely a matter of right, and not a favor given by the wholesaler in order to oblige him, and it is

mainly because of this way of looking at it, that this custom, right enough in itself, has become such a nuisance that many of the best houses on 'the continent have decided to abolish the practice entirely.

In fact in many cases this habit of getting goods on approbation has become so scientifically managed, that by a judiciously worded "identical note" to half a dozen wholesale houses a very large and well assorted stock of goods are secured, from which the retailer can make his sale. While there may be nothing dishonest about such a transaction, it is hardly the square thing, to say the least of it. It is a kind of "getting goods under false pretences," a kind of business that should be discouraged by every possible means. As a matter of fact approbation goods should be a rare thing in a retail dealer's store, and when they are got they should be dealt honestly by, and any unsold ones returned as soon as possible.

We are sorry to say that this is not always the case, and that goods obtained in this way are sometimes used simply as a foil to help to sell the dealer's own stock.

Although in the present state of trade in this country it is inevitable that goods must occasionally be sent out on approbation, it is well however for retail dealers to remember that the use of a few simple business rules when returning such goods not only helps to facilitate matters but makes the transaction in every way more satisfactory.

Many persons when returning goods, simply do them up in a parcel and express or send them by post, without even notifying the house in any way that they may have done so. The result is that when the goods reach the wholesale dealer, there is neither mark nor means of any kind to help to identify the party from whom they come, and as a consequence they are often put into stock without being credited to the party sending them, and the mistake is never discovered until the sender raises a row about an error in his statement of account, which when examined turns out to be the omission of the unnotified goods.

Surely this mistake arises from want of thought, for no dealer can imagine for a moment that the wholesale merchant does business with no one else than himself, and therefore must of necessity know that the goods received came from him. The effect is the same however—it is annoying to the wholesale man and causes

him much extra work, and if not properly credited it ultimately becomes annoying to the retailer by throwing his account out of gear, and rendering it troublesome to adjust.

If retail dealers would follow the few simple rules we give below they need never fear having any trouble about their goods not being properly credited, and we are certain it would make it so much easier for the wholesale dealers that they would be much more willing to grant a similar favor when again called upon to do so. The rules are as follows:

(1) In sending back goods, in addition to the name of the house to whom they are sent, the name of the sender should always be marked upon the outside of the case, so that when they come to hand there can be no mistake as to where they came from.

(2) An invoice should at the same time be sent to the house giving the particulars of goods sent, prices, how shipped, and any other particulars it is necessary to give.

(3) Goods got on approbation should be returned as soon as possible, and not allowed to lie around the retailer's store for weeks; they should either be returned or kept for good, and the wholesale merchant notified forthwith.

Nothing is more annoying to a wholesaler than when he draws on a customer for goods sent out weeks or months before to have them returned with a note stating that they did not suit. In conclusion we need only add that while we do not doubt that this kind of trade is at times necessary, its practice might be very much curtailed with decided advantage to both wholesaler and retailer. Much or little as it may be done however, the above rules if followed will make it more agreeable to both parties to the transaction.

RAILWAY MONOPOLY.

From present indications it seems probable that before many months pass over our heads, we shall virtually have but two railroads in Canada, the Grand Trunk and the Canada Pacific.

The present is an age of monopolies, and although they are not the same as formerly secured by favouritism or special and unjust legislation, they are none the less dangerous. There is scarcely any limit to the possibilities in the way of monopolies that may at present be secured

by aid of the almost unlimited combination of capital that can be effected. A good instance of this may be seen in the recent amalgamation of the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways. These roads have been rivals ever since their construction, and their competition has in no small measure helped to advance the interests of the people of this country, lowering the rates of inland and outward bound freight. In their passenger traffic also they have always shown an inclination to keep up the full rates, except at competing points, in which cases they invariably brought them to an even figure, no matter what the difference would have been at the ordinary rate charged. All this was of course brought about by opposition, and the healthy rivalry thus created did the public very much good, while it did the railroad companies little or no harm.

All this is now to be changed however, and in place of opposition and cutting of rates we are to have fusion and monopoly, and as a consequence a tightening of the screws as far as they can legitimately be turned. By their recent amalgamation the Grand Trunk and Great Western shareholders have virtually placed the people of this province at their mercy, and if they are as soulless as corporations are usually represented to be we shall not be long in feeling the effects of the change.

In fact in many places both the freight and passenger rates have already been advanced to more profitable figures for the railroads, and it is only a question of time when it will become general all along the line.

The necessity for a Railway Commission appointed by parliament to look after the rights of the people is becoming every day more apparent, and cannot be ignored much longer. Such a commission has been found necessary in Great Britain, and we think that they could find plenty of work in Canada in putting down the abuses connected with the railway management as at present practised.

CANADA'S GREAT FAIR.

As we confidently predicted in our last issue, the fourth Industrial Exhibition of the City of Toronto proved a greater success than any of its predecessors, and the management and the citizens of Toronto may be fairly congratulated on the splendid success they have achieved. This, the greatest of Canada's fairs, has already grown to be a recognized institu-

tion throughout the country, and it is hardly premature to say that its successful inauguration and steady prosperity has sounded the knell of the perambulating system of exhibitions heretofore in vogue in this country.

We have previously expressed in these columns our conviction that the day of itinerant fairs was past, and that although they had served a good purpose in the early days of our development, that they had outlived their usefulness, and should, therefore, be quietly relegated to some honorable niche in our agricultural museum.

If the head pushers of that almost defunct institution could be brought to realize that their pet show had outlived its usefulness, and that the sooner they throw what little energy they possessed into some live concern the better it would be for themselves and the country at large, they would have made long ago a step in the direction of advancement. But, singular to say, they still cling to the idea that they, and only they, are able to run such a gigantic concern as a Provincial Exhibition, and that if they were to let it go by the boards the British constitution would be endangered. They fail to see that in this age of electricity and steam their Government paper fed rarsling is wholly unfit to compete against the healthy, wide-awake stripling that private enterprise has set up against it. They also fail to see that they are not keeping abreast with the spirit of the age, and that the people do not now see the propriety of subsidizing an institution that is always financially embarrassed, and one, moreover, whose work can now be accomplished, not only better, but without any expense to the country at large.

As a matter of fact, these great central fairs, which are the direct outgrowth of commercial rivalry and friendly competition, are so far in advance of the old provincial, that one can only wonder at the blindness which prompts the continuance of the latter. In an exhibition such as the Toronto Industrial one, where the buildings and other improvements are permanent, it can be easily seen that there is a great incentive for improving and beautifying it year by year. All this is entirely altered in the perambulating system where a great deal of money is expended upon a concern that exists only for a few days at the most and then destroyed, or left to return

to its former natural state. You might as well expect to get as good protection from the sun from a lot of saplings planted each year and left in the ground for about a month, as from a grove of healthy growing shade trees which had seen both the storms and sunshine of half a century.

By the action of the directors of the Provincial last year in forcing themselves upon Toronto for the avowed purpose of killing its Industrial Exhibition, the last link in the chain which bound that valuable institution to this city was severed, and whatever be its ultimate ending, it is now practically defunct as far as Toronto is concerned.

We are sorry to notice a growing feeling of jealousy between the other large cities of Ontario and the Capital of the Province. They seem to think that Toronto's growth must mean their decay and that this city should go quietly to sleep and let every other place get the start of it. If Toronto goes into anything in a spirited manner they at once raise the cry of monopoly and centralization, and try to induce the public to beware of her grasping and selfish designs.

This should not so be. The Queen City of the West is no more selfish than any of its dearies; perhaps if the truth were told, hardly so much, but she is bound to keep in the van of Canadian intelligence and enterprise, and if by reason of her population, wealth and other attractions, she is able to make a success of what has hitherto proved a financial failure, her public spirited citizens should be praised instead of censured for it. This Industrial Exhibition is entirely an outgrowth of private enterprise, and now that its promoters have demonstrated to the country that such things can be run to pay without drawing on the public exchequer, their example ought to be imitated by many of the surrounding cities.

The large measure of success that the exhibition has met with this year, will no doubt have the effect of making the promoters put forth more vigorous efforts in the future, and there is every probability of the next year's fair outstripping all its predecessors in point of attractions and attendance. Its prize list, now the largest of any exhibition in the Dominion, is being increased annually, and it is no utopian idea to hope that before our exhibition is a quarter of a century old, it will have grown into such a vigorous manhood as to be recognized as one of the great attractions not only for Ontario alone, but for the whole of the Dominion.

Selected Matter.

THE LIEN LAW.

The dullness of the building trade in Toronto, there is ground for believing, is due in great part to the additional stringency which was given to the law of mechanics' liens, last session of the Ontario Legislature. This measure designed to afford a sort of paternal protection to mechanics in the building trades, is having economically a very different effect, if it be true that its mere existence has largely diminished the amount of building in Toronto and other places. Should the mechanics become convinced of this, it is probable that they will ask to have the severity of the law mitigated. The extent of the danger to money lenders is probably magnified in their own imaginations; but the effect is the same as if the danger was greater. At least seventy-five per cent. of all the buildings erected in our cities is due to borrowed capital; and any thing which, checking the movement of this capital, greatly diminishes the amount of building must be injurious to mechanics as well as to others interested. Indeed, the blow must be felt more severely by the wage-receiving class than by any other; for enforced idleness means to it a drying up of the sources of existence, while to others it means only a suspension or at most a loss of profit. Any thing which diminishes the employment of capital, is injurious to the capitalist.

It is very desirable that mechanics should come to look upon this matter in its true light, and whenever instances occur of this law preventing the erection of buildings, the fact should be brought under their notice. The alterations of the law will probably depend very much upon the mechanics themselves; for neither political party is likely to take, unasked, any step that might cause the loss of the workmen's vote.

The principle of a lien on the thing on which work is done is by no means new to the English law, though its operation is far from being universal. But between the old and the new lien there is a great difference. When a blacksmith claims a lien on a horse which he has shod, he simply uses an extraordinary remedy for collecting a debt from a man by whom it is owing. To such a lien as this—a lien which does not interfere with the rights of third parties—there can be no

objection. But it is different when a third party is called upon to pay a debt which he never contracted, and to meet the demands of men with whom he has had no transaction. If it be necessary to assert such an exceptionable principle, its operation should be confined to the narrowest limits, and it should never be invoked to prevent the natural consequences of the negligence of the parties making the demand. Mechanics' liens we suspect of American origin; but in the United States, owing to the salutary rule that no state can pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, their operation is strictly limited. No law can be passed by any state of the American union which would take away, in any contingency the rights of a mortgagee. Everywhere contracts ought to be held sacred, where the means of carrying them out exists. We trust the Mechanics Lien law will not long be allowed to remain in its present unsatisfactory condition.—*Monetary Times.*

ALCHEMY.

[JEAN FAFFRATH, *Journ. d. Goldsh.*]

By the name of alchemy is understood the art of changing baser metals into noble ones, such as, for instance, tin into silver, or copper into gold. The word alchemy comes from the Arabian *Cham*, the eye, this being the symbol of the secret, and chemistry penetrates into the hidden secrets of nature. *Al* is the article.

It may safely be assumed that gold is the oldest of all metals known to man, from the fact that it often occurs in a metallic state, and, stranger to say, is found in almost all parts of the globe. As gold is easily beaten and fashioned, not attacked by the common oxides, rust, verdigris, etc., it was from early stages adopted as standard for money. From this period forward, the cravings of man were directed upon its possession, as not alone purchasing the sustenance of life, but exchangeable as an equivalent for all its luxuries and enjoyments. Hence forward, the motto was, Gold; to obtain it was the sole object of all acts and deeds of man; gold was the enchantive rod, by the possession of which, every thing could be accomplished; gold was the powerful ruler, before whom humanity bowed; gold purchased all desires upon earth, and with gold, blessedness of the future state itself could be purchased; gold was the theme of the poet,

the preacher, the king, the beggar, and it is no wonder that the desire arose to produce it artificially.

It is probable that the conception first arose in the artisans of the races of antiquity, who observed that an alloy differing in color, texture, grain, etc., could be produced from two metals, say, for instance, copper and tin, from which arose a goldlike mass. According to the ancient and universally spread tradition, Hermis Trismegistos is said to have been the thrice greatest of all the founders of the Black Art. But doubt exists as to who he was. Some believe him identical with King Siphons (2,000 years B. C.), others assume him to have been a son of the god Anubis (equal to Mercury of the Greek and Roman mythology); he generally is set down as a sage and high priest, 2,500—2,700 B. C. He is said to have written more than 36,000 volumes on the alchemic and magic sciences, to have been the inventor of the gold test upon the touchstone, invented the alphabet, and several other useful sciences. His name has been preserved up to the present day, for instance, *hermetical*. Whether he was a tangible or merely an imaginary personage cannot now be decided, at any rate, all fables and traditions point to Egypt as the cradle of alchemy.

The alchemists, also called adepts, called all metals "sick gold." The further its properties were removed from those of gold, the "sicker" they were. Copper was not as sick as tin, and silver was almost well. For curing the infirmity they thought it necessary to have a material, a panacea, that must contain the primary substance of all things, whereby it had the power to dissolve all other metals into their primary components. If the metals could be decomposed at will, they might also be recomposed at will, and the missing ingredient, characteristically belonging to gold, either by melting or in any other manner, might be supplied to any other metal, in order to transmute it into the genuine gold. This primary substance of gold was called the "stone of the sages," "lapis philosophorum," "menstruum universale," the "Great Elixir," the "Great Magisterium," the "Red Lion," the "Red Tincture," the "Philosopher's Stone." It was imagined to be a preparation of a compact body and red color, and if only the smallest particle were added to another fluid metal, it cured its

infirmity and changed it into genuine gold.

Some of the adepts also took the word "sickness," in its real meaning, and deemed the philosopher's stone to be a universal panacea curing all diseases, retaining the body in health and strength, and prolonging life to the hundredfolds of its natural limits. Hence it is often called the Panacea of Life, and Potable Gold, *aurum potabile*.

In every epoch and nation, if it arose to any eminence, we find Alchemists; the Spaniard, under Pizarro, found them even among the Peruvian priests.

From Egypt, it went to Greece; although history has preserved the name of no Greek adept; and in common with all sciences and arts, it soon made its way to the Romans. During the time of the most senseless luxury under the tyrants, when all the treasures of the world were wasted recklessly at Rome, gold was often wanting, and the pretended discovery of the transmutation of metals was hailed with joy, by which gold was promised in boundless proportions. Emperor Caligula, 37—41 A. C. instituted such experiments. Diocletian, 285—304 A. C. on the contrary, ordered that all books treating on the art of gold-making should be burned. Since, however, the persecution of an idea, always contributes to spreading it, we find alchemy flourishing about this time. The suppression, however, effected that the adepts enveloped their science in a mysterious fold, they called themselves the "hermetical chain," and in aught bearing on their art expressed themselves in mysterious representations and language. At a subsequent date, the alchemists found it of advantage to retain this secretmongery, in order to shroud their secrets from the vulgar.

The signs and names used by them to designate the seven old metals, were as follows:

Gold, ☉ Heli. s.	Silver, ☽ Selene.
Mercury ♀ Mercurius.	Copper, ♀ Venus.
Tin, ♃ Jupiter.	Lead, ♄ Saturn.
Iron, ♂ Mars.	

Which symbols have been retained in metallurgy until the present day.

About this time also arose among the adepts the so-called Theurgy, that is, the power, by mysterious ceremonies, to summon the departed, and to press them into service, when the master could compel the spirit to reveal to him all secrets, especially the preparation of the Philosopher's stone. To do this, the most

horrible crimes against the life of a fellow-man was often committed, the quintessence requisite for this ceremony was human blood; because it was even then well known that "blood is a peculiar juice."

After the destruction of the Roman Empire, the art flourished in the Byzantine. Later it was adopted by the Arabs, who, together with other sciences, raised it to a high standard. The first Arab who wrote of Alchemy, was the doctor and chemist Geber, in the eighth century, in whose works already occurs a method for mercury preparations. The most celebrated of all Arabian chemists was Lullus; according to his system, all metals consist only of sulphur and mercury; correctly proportioned, all metals might be composed of these two ingredients—also gold (not alone Zinnabar.)

During the middle ages, the monks were often occupied with Alchemy, although it was forbidden by the Popes; the Franciscan friar, Berthold Schwarz, as is well known, in one of his alchemical experiments, invented powder. But we find adepts even among the Popes; John XXII, and many churchmen high in authority, dabbled in the goldmaker's art. Among the temporal rulers, also, we find seekers for the Great Magisterium, Rudolph II., German Emperor, 1576—1612. In general, the adepts found their warmest supporters during the middle ages in the both great and small potentates, for the simple reason that they always found themselves in a chronic state of impecuniosity, and thought to obtain the much coveted prize quickest through these alchemists. What of it, if, after having been disappointed by them, they should deal out summary punishment—the rack and the gallows. Thus the adept John F. Bottcher, druggist, was kept imprisoned by his Saxonian ruler, and barely escaped death, when in the place of the philosopher's stone, he discovered the Meissen porcelain. Frederic I., of Prussia, caused an alchemist, because he was not successful in the transmutation business, to be suspended from a gallows decorated with gold paper.

The most celebrated adept of the middle age was friar Basilius, a monk, living in Erfurt, in the 15th century. His system rested upon salt, sulphur and mercury, (*sal, sulphur, et mercurium*). In the 16th century we find the celebrated Swiss doctor, Paracelsus; in the 17th, Beuther, in the court of August I. of

Saxony, sharing the fortunes of most of the alchemists, who entered into princely service. He was tortured, maimed, and imprisoned for life. The Dutch Dr. van Helmont, who in the enthusiasm for the art, christened his son "Mercurius," who also died an adept in 1680. Dr. Helvetius, who was at first a bitter enemy to alchemy, but finally died one of its most devoted followers. Kunkel, who discovered the ruby glass and phosphorus, and many others might be named.

The researches, extending over 4,000 years, of these adepts have led to the most important discoveries and inventions in the field of chemistry, technic, and medicine. The first raised the condition of the people, and the latter has reduced sickness and disease to a minimum, and prolonged life, therefore the Philosopher's stone has been partly discovered, but in another form than was imagined by the alchemists.

There may have been many frauds and pretenders in the guise of alchemists, a few really are said to have been able to transmute baser metals into gold, for instance, a stranger caused such a transmutation in presence of Helvetius, who thereupon changed his opinion. That there were as many cheats among the adepts as history records, is undoubtedly one of its well known lies; a person who lived as retired as they did, only in communion with and in pursuit of his idea, with but few necessities, like the majority of adepts, is generally no cheat and swindler.

THE TRIBULATIONS OF A CONSCIENTIOUS EDITOR.

(*Jewelers' Circular.*)

Candor and professional pride compel us to affirm that all editors are conscientious, truthful and honestly intent serving their fellow men. Some of them, however, are wofully tempted to stray from the path of rectitude—not for filthy lucre, for that your true editor scorns, but through the insensivity of his ambition to do just the right thing, oblige his friends, and extend a helping hand to impecunious but deserving merit. He is more often misled through his good-heartedness and human sympathy than other cause. We have had editorial experience with all classes of journals—daily, weekly, monthly, semi-occasional, political, religious and profane, but nowhere have we experienced

such trials and tribulations as beset the pathway of the editor of a trade journal. In the conduct of *The Circular* we are actuated by the highest motives, and seek to promote the best interests of the legitimate trade; our ambition is to make an art journal, not only elegant in its typographical appearance, but that shall contain such instructive articles as shall stir the ambition of all persons who honestly seek to advance the arts of the goldsmith, the watchmaker and the jeweler, and make them emulous of better things than have heretofore been accomplished in their respective fields of labor. In this publication it is necessary, in addition to instructive articles treating of the technicalities of the business, for us to give to the news transpiring in trade circles, and to comment editorially upon the varying conditions of the business; in short, to give such information as shall be of value commercially to the merchants in the trade, as well as to its artisans. This we seek to do in a dignified manner, abjuring personalities, seeking to offend no man, but striving to tell the truth fairly, squarely and manfully.

No one, however, who has not attempted to conduct a trade journal, can imagine the difficulties interposed to swerve us from our purpose. For instance, we pen an editorial exposing the unbusinesslike practice of certain jobbers, who seek to cultivate, by surreptitious means, a retail trade, and so rob the retail dealers of that patronage to which they are justly entitled, when forthwith some jobber who feels that the cap fits him, writes us an indignant letter, threatening to withdraw his patronage and use his influence against us. Not content with abusing us, he assails the retail dealers, declares they do not pay their debts, that they are unscrupulous in their dealings with the public, palming off bogus goods for genuine; he charges them with being responsible for the degradation of the quality of goods by their constant demand for cheaper articles, and, in fact, holds them responsible for all the ills the trade is heir to. On some other occasion we read the retail dealers a lecture on the bad practices of which they are guilty, and forthwith we are overwhelmed with indignant protests from dealers, who declare that the articles are inspired by unscrupulous jobbers, and that the paper is "ruin" in their interests and that of watch companies. If rumor

is to be believed, every advertiser in the paper is its sole proprietor, while the gentleman whose name appears as editor and proprietor is a mere figure head, and his position is that of a cheap clerk. This, however, is comparatively trifling; they are annoyances that every editor has to submit to, and go to verify the old adage that he who tries to please everybody will please nobody. The special province of a journalist is to criticise, and he must expect to be criticised in turn; but if he be honest, and manfully maintains his convictions, his opponents will respect and sustain him, however much they differ from his expressed views.

The greatest difficulty the editor of a trade journal has to contend with is the bitterness engendered by active rivalry in business, and spirited competition. It is unfortunate that active, energetic rivalry generally degenerates into bitter personalities. Misrepresentation of one another's goods is a practice frequently indulged in, and crimination and re-crimination result. Both the contending parties are probably friends of the editor, and patrons of his paper; each, therefore, feels that he has a right to demand that the influence of the paper shall be employed in his behalf to expose the alleged rascality of his rival. They forget that the general readers of the paper care nothing for their petty personal quarrels, but insist that its columns shall be used to gratify their private animosity. Knowing the parties to the quarrel to be honorable men in their private capacity, the judicious editor refuses to parade their grievances before the public, or to prostitute his paper to the level of an individual organ. That competition is good for trade is unquestionably a fact, as the adage says, but when one seeks to build up his own trade by misrepresenting the goods of a competitor, he passes the bounds of legitimate competition, and becomes absolutely dishonest. Misrepresentation of this kind is exposed sooner or later, and is sure to react upon the person indulging in it. A salesman who disparages the goods of his competitors, declares them to be degraded in quality and fraudulent in construction naturally invites a closer inspection of the articles he himself is offering, and the intending purchaser soliloquizes to himself, "if those other travellers were liars, how can I believe this one?" More ill feeling is engendered in the trade by

indulgence in this kind of misrepresentation and back-biting than from any other cause. And the worst of it is, the editor of the trade journal must listen to all these grievances, and is expected to take both sides in the quarrel. How to steer his craft successfully past Scylla, escape Charybdis is a problem that has caused many a hair in the editor's head to turn gray, and he expects to be carried to an untimely grave and leave it still unsolved.

An important function of the trade journal is to notice all new inventions or devices that are introduced in that branch of business to which he caters. In the jewelry trade, for instance, if a manufacturer obtains a patent for a new style of ring or pin, or designs a new form of setting for precious stones, it is a legitimate part of our duty to note the fact, and pass criticism upon the merits of the goods, and, where necessary, to speak of the enterprise of a person to whom the trade is indebted for a novelty. We do this gratuitously and cheerfully as a matter of news. But scarcely will the item be printed before a score or more persons come clamoring for a notice of their goods, which have neither the merit of newness nor originality. They argue that they patronize the paper as well as he whose new device was noticed, and are as much entitled to a "puff" as he. They fail to recognize the difference between a deliberate "puff," the giving of which we seek to avoid, and a notice of something new and desirable, of which the trade knows nothing. The one is a legitimate piece of news, while the "puff direct" is a fulsome piece of flattery, given without just cause or provocation, and is as discreditable to the person named therein as to the paper printing it. Items of news, even though they involve personal mention, belong to the legitimate sphere of journalism, while puffery does not. But there are many persons in the trade who seem to feel that if they patronize a paper, they are entitled to frequent notices in reading matter columns. No such obligation is imposed upon the editor by the advertising contracts entered into. Those call for advertisements, and the advertiser gets the worth of his money through the circulation of the paper. But some men are so eager to see their names in a notice that they get indignant when the editor refuses to insert "puffs" of them. We could sell

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our reading columns every month at liberal prices, but can truthfully say that never, since *The Circular* was established, has an article in its editorial columns been paid for. Advertisers may say what they please in their business cards, but their patronage cannot influence the expression of our editorial opinions.

A daily journal caters to the multitude, and is naturally oblivious of special interests; the trade journal, on the contrary, caters to a special interest, and ignores the general public. Within his special field the editor of the trade journal finds a great variety of individual interests, clashing at times like Chinese cymbals, and he is a skillful pilot who can steer his craft so successfully as to avoid all the breakers. The difficulty lies with his patrons, who, each seeking his own personal welfare, ignore the general interests of the trade at large, and who regard everything as an attack upon themselves unless it harmonizes with their views. Judging from the advice we receive from one and another, we are sometimes inclined to think that the editor of *The Circular* is the worst possible that could be found for the position. Yet we keep right along in the even tenor of our way, maintaining the stand we took at first, to seek to promote the interests of the entire trade, and not those of individuals; if in so doing individuals are benefitted, we rejoice at their success, and feel thankful at having been permitted to contribute to it. As a moral to this article, we desire to suggest that our critics strive to view matters pertaining to the trade from our disinterested standpoint before writing us denunciatory letters; sink your individuality for a moment and consider the welfare of the trade in general; then, as you believe in the sincerity and honesty of your own purposes, give us credit for the same qualities. You may differ from our conclusions, but at least admit that we may be honest in them.—(We say amen to the above.—Ed. Trader.)

We propose to publish from time to time, extracts from the very valuable work recently published by Mr. Edwin Streeter, of London, England, on the historic diamonds of the world. The particulars relating to the "Koh-i-Noor," and the "Pitt or Regent" diamonds will be especially interesting to every person acquainted with the crown jewels of England and France.

THE KOH-I-NOOR.

I

EARLIEST HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT IT.

"This is pre-eminently the 'great diamond of history and romance.' Its stirring adventures, when divorced from all connection with Travornier's Great Mogul, become intelligible enough. The first distinct and authentic reference to the Koh-i-Noor occurs in the subjoined passage from the *Mohairs* of Sultan Baber, the author of which was a direct descendant of Tamerlane, the founder of the so-called Mogul Empire in Hindustan. Under the date of May 4, 1526, the Sultan writes:—

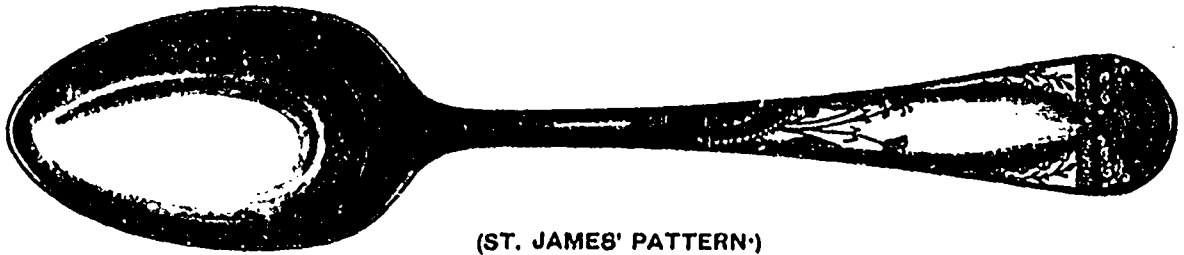
"Bikermajit, a Hindu, who was Rajah of Gwalior, had governed that country for upward of a hundred years. In the battle in which Ibrahim was defeated, Bikermajit was sent to hell. Bikermajit's family and the heads of his clan were at this moment in Agra. When Humaiun arrived, Bikermajit's people attempted to escape, but were taken by the parties which Humaiun had placed upon the watch and put in custody. Humaiun did not permit them to be plundered. Of their own free will they presented to Humaiun a "peshkesh," (tribute or present,) consisting of a quantity of jewels and precious stones. Among these was our precious diamond, which had been acquired by Sultan Ala-ed-din. It is so valuable that a judge of diamonds valued it at half of the daily expense of the whole world. It is about eight mishkels." On my arrival, Humaiun presented it to me as a peshkesh, and I gave it back to him as a present.

"That the diamond here referred to is the Koh-i-Noor there can be no reasonable doubt, nor indeed has the fact ever seriously called into question. It will be noticed that although he speaks of it as already 'famous,' Baber gives it no particular name, and it did not take its present designation till it passed into the hands of Nadir Shah. The illustrious historian mentions, however, that it had been acquired by Sultan Ala-ed-din, which enables us to trace its existence some 200 years further back. The Ala-ed-din here spoken of belonged to the Khilji dynasty, which succeeded that of the Ghuri, and which ruled over a large portion of Hindustan for 98 years, from A.D. 1286 to 1381, when they were replaced by the Toghlaqs. Ala-ed-din

Khilji had obtained possession of the 'famous diamond' in the year 1304, when he defeated the Rajah of Malwa, in whose family it had been as an heirloom from time out of mind. One tradition carries it back to the somewhat legendary Vikramaditya, and ancestor of the Rajah of Malwa here spoken of, and of Baber's Bikermajit, Rajah of Gwalior. This Vikramaditya flourished in 57 B.C., and is said to have driven the Saca (by whom are no doubt meant the Scythians) out of India. But no value can be attached to the tradition, which is evidently sort of an afterthought suggested by the similarity, or rather identity, of the two names Likermajit and Vikramaditya. At the same time the association is significant, as it serves to show that the gem was at all times regarded as the property of the Rajahs of Malwa, who are sometimes spoken of as the Rajahs of Ujein and Gwalior; for all these places were formerly included in the territory of Malwa which has since been subdivided among the states of Bhopal, Indore and Gwalior—the dominions of Scindia. We now understand how it happened that the diamond, after being acquired by the Sultan Ala-ed-din in 1304, is found in the possession of Bikermajit, Rajah of Gwalior, in 1526. It had evidently been restored to Bikermajit's family, by the Khilji ruler, after peace had been established between the two states.

"A still more obscure and extravagant tradition identifies this stone with one discovered first some 5,000 years ago in the bed of the Lower Godavery River, near Masulipatam, and afterward worn as a sacred talisman by Carna, Rajah of Anga, who figures in the legendary wars of the Mababharata. That such a stone should have been found in such a place is likely enough, as it may well have washed down to the delta of the Godavery, which flows through one of the oldest and richest diamantiferous regions in the world. But its identification with the stone under consideration rests on no solid foundation, nor will it readily be believed that a gem which remained unnamed till the eighteenth century, could be unerringly traced back to pre-historic times.

"Its subsequent history from the time when it fell into the hands of Baber to the present day is inseparably associated with many of the most striking and romantic events of modern days. But, to quote Maskelyne, though 'one long

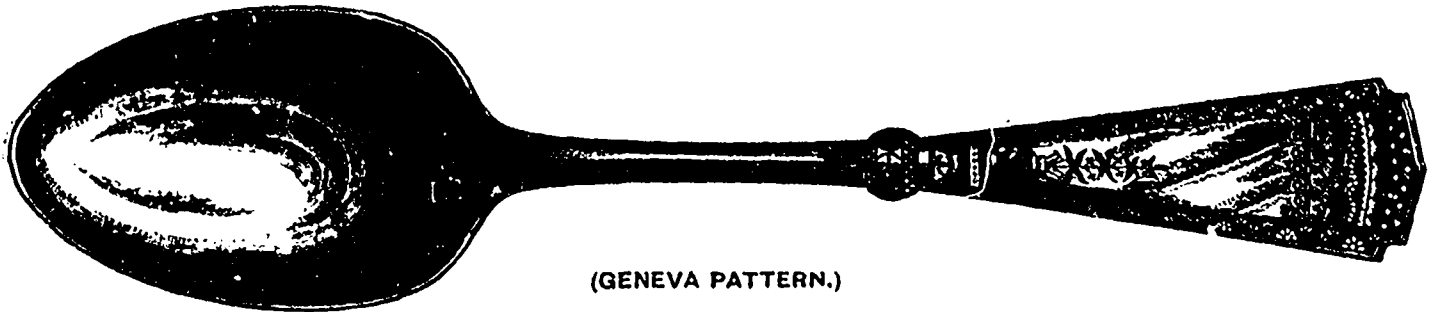


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romance from then till now, it is well authenticated at every step, as history seems never to have lost sight of this stone of fate, from the days when Alad-din took it from the Rajah or Malwa, five centuries and a half ago, to the day when it became the crown jewel of England.'

"Bernier tells us that, on the death of Shah Jahan, Aurung zeb 'set out immediately for Agra, where Begum Sahel received him with distinguished honor. On arriving at the woman's apartments, the Princess presented him with a large golden basin full of precious stones, her own jewels and those which belonged to Shah Jehan.' The Princess here referred to was Jihanira, the too well-beloved daughter of Shah Jehan, who remained with him to the last, and who had used her influence to prevent him from destroying his jewels rather than surrender them to Aurung-zeb, as mentioned in our account of the Great Mogul. It is uncertain whether Baber's diamond was one of those contained in the golden basin, or whether it had already been given to Aurung-zeb during his father's life-time. The former supposition seems to have been the most probable; for among Aurung-zeb's treasures exhibited to Tavernier, Nov. 8, 1685, there was only one diamond of great size—the Mogul—and Shah Jehan, already afflicted by a fatal disease, died in the following February. But the point is of little consequence, as in any case the stone remained in the possession of the Mogul dynasty until Nadir Shah's invasion of India, during the reign of Mohammed Shah, in 1739."

II.

HOW IT GOT ITS PRESENT NAME.

"In our account of the Orloff diamond it was stated on the authority of Whitaker that Aurung-zeb made use of the Koh-i-Noor as one of the eyes of the peacock, adorning his Peacock Throne, and that Nadir carried off and broke up his throne, thus gaining possession of the famous gem. But according to another and apparently more trustworthy account, when he seized on the Delhi Treasury, this stone, which he was bent on securing, was found to be missing, and for a long time all his efforts to obtain it were baffled. At last a woman from Mohammed's harem betrayed the secret, informing Nadir that the Emperor wore it concealed in his turban, which he never on any occasion laid aside.

"Nadir had now recourse to a very clever trick in order to secure the coveted prize. Having already seized on the bulk of the Delhi treasures, and concluded a treaty with the ill-fated Mogul Emperor, he had no further pretext for quarreling, and could not, therefore, resort to violence in order to effect his purpose. But he skillfully availed himself of a time-honored Oriental custom, seldom omitted by Princes of equal rank on state occasions. At the grand ceremony a few days afterward, held in Delhi for the purpose of reinstating Mohammed on the throne of his Tartar ancestor, Nadir suddenly took the opportunity of asking him to exchange turbans in token of reconciliation, and to cement the eternal friendship that they had just sworn for each other. Taken completely aback by this sudden move, and lacking the leisure even for reflection, Mohammed found himself checkmated by his wily rival, and was fain, with as much grace as possible, to accept the insidious request. Indeed, the Persian conqueror left him no option, for he quickly removed his own national sheepskin head-dress, glittering with costly gems, and replaced it with the Emperor's turban. Maintaining the proverbial self-command of Oriental potentates. Mohammed betrayed his surprise and chagrin by no outward sign, and so indifferent did he seem to the exchange, that for a moment Nadir began to fear he had been misled. Anxious to be relieved of his doubts, he hastily dismissed the durbar, with renewed assurances of friendship and devotion. Withdrawing to his tent he unfolded the turban to discover with selfish rapture the long-coveted stone. He hailed the sparkling gem with the exclamation Koh-i-Noor, signifying 'Mountain of Light.'


'At Nadir's death most of his treasures were dispersed, but the Koh-i-Noor, henceforth known by this title, passed, together with many other jewels, into the hands of his feeble son and temporary successor, Shah Rokh. On him it brought nothing but misfortune; yet he clung to it with amazing tenacity, refusing to part with it under pressure of the most atrocious tortures including even loss of sight. After his overthrow he had been permitted to reside at Meshd, as Governor of that city and district. Hither he brought the Koh-i-Noor, together with many other gems of

great value, which formed part of the plunder carried off by his father from India. Aga Mohammed, who had an insatiable appetite for such things, determined to get possession of them, and in order the more easily to effect his purpose, he advanced with a large force toward Meshd, under the pretext of visiting the sacred shrine of the Imam Riza, which is annually resorted to by many thousands of Shiah pilgrims. He thus succeeds in quietly occupying the city. After performing his devotions at the tomb of the saint, suddenly throwing off his disguise, he ordered the blind Prince to deliver up his concealed treasures. As the infuriated Shah Rokh still protested that he had already parted with them, he was ordered to be put to fresh torture, which had the effect of bringing to light several costly gems. But as neither the Koh-i-Noor nor the immense ruby known to have been in the crown of Aurung zeb were among them, Aga Mohammed devised a truly diabolical expedient to get hold of them. He ordered his victim's head to be closely shaved and encircled with a diadem of paste, and boiling oil to be poured into the receptacle thus formed. But even the frightful agony of this torture could only induce the victim to surrender the ruby. He still retained his hold of the great diamond. The miserable monarch never recovered from these injuries. Before his death Ahmed Shah, founder of the Afghan Empire, came to his aid in 1751, concluded an alliance with him, and received in return the fate of the whose brilliancy could no longer be seen by the lack-lustre eyes of Shah Rokh."

"Possession of the unlucky gem proved no less disastrous to the Durani dynasty than it had to the Mogul Emperors and to Nadir's family. At his death Ahmed Shah bequeathed it to his son and heir, Taimur Shah, who removed the seat of government from Kandahar to Kabul, and who died in 1798. From Taimur it descended, with the crown, to his eldest son, Shah Zaman, who was disposed and deprived of his sight by his next brother, Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk. The usurper thus became possessed of the Koh-i-Noor, which he retained almost to his death; but which, nevertheless, involved him in an uninterrupted series of calamities and sufferings. After having remained for many years concealed in the wall of



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All Cases of our Manufacture are Stamped  which indicates that they are manufactured by the American Watch Company.

We are informed that cases are offered to the trade stamped W. W. Co. This is evidently done with the intention to deceive and further the sale of inferior cases. There is no Waltham Watch Co., but the name is used by us as a registered trade mark on a well known grade of movement.

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General Agents,

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a stronghold, where Shah Zaman had been confined, the diamond was brought to light by the merest accident. Shah Zaman had, as we supposed, securely imbedded it in the plaster of his prison wall. But in course of time a portion of the plaster crumbled away, leaving one of the sharp angles of the crystal exposed, or slightly protruding on the surface. Against this, one of the officials happening to scratch his hand, his attention was attracted to the spot, his eye fell on the sparkling facet, and the Koh-i-Noor was once more rescued from its hiding place. At all state ceremonials Shah Shuja now wore it on his breast, where it glittered when Elphinstone was sent by the Indian Government as Envoy to Peshawur during that Prince's troubled reign."

III.

LAST DAYS OF ITS CAREER IN ASIA.

"In his turn dethroned, deprived of his sight, and driven into exile by Shah Mahmud, third son of Taimur, Shah Shuja had contrived, amid all his disasters, to retain possession of the great diamond, with which he now withdrew to the Court of the famous Runjit-Shingh, the 'Lion of the Punjab,' accompanied by his brother, Shah Zaman, whom as stated, he had himself already rendered sightless, according to the brutal fashion of the Durani Court.

"Runjit at first received the two ill-starred brothers with open arms, and even declared war on their behalf against Shah Mahmud, from whom he took the territory of Kashmir, which at that time formed part of the Afghan dominions. He, however, not only forgot to restore their possessions to the unfortunate brothers, but began to oppress them in every way, and to extort from them all the treasures they had brought away from Kabul. Among these the Koh-i-Noor was coveted more than all the rest, and Runjit spared no efforts to get hold of it. How he at last effected his purpose is thus related by Kluge:

"Driven from Peshawur to Kashmir, and hence to Lahore, Shah Shuja became apparently the guest, but in reality the prisoner, of Runjit Singh, who, though no connoisseur of precious stones none the less attached great importance to their possession. Of the Koh-i-Noor he had heard only by report, and employed every means to secure it. Wuffo-Begum, consort of the unhappy King, had also sought and obtained protection

from Runjit, and was consequently now residing in Shadra. Runjit ordered her to deliver up the stone, which, however, she protested was not in her possession. Thereupon he caused all her effects to be seized and brought to Lahore, thus acquiring jewels of greater value than any he had ever possessed before. Supposing that the Koh-i-Noor was among them, the bulk of the property, including shawls, carpets and gems, was retained, and a few trifles returned to the Begum. But soon ascertaining that the Koh-i-Noor was not to be found among the jewels, he had the Begum closely watched; two of her most intimate attendants were thrown into prison, and the other members of the Zenana deprived even of bread and water. No one, without being first searched, was allowed to approach or leave the Princess, and it was at the same time intimated that nothing but the surrender of the diamond would satisfy Runjit. Thereupon the Begum sent him some very costly stones, and among them a ruby of considerable value. Having, as stated, no personal knowledge of gems, the tyrant of the Panjab now fancied that this ruby, which surpassed anything which he had yet seen, must be the real stone. But, in order to make assurance doubly sure, he sent for a person acquainted with the Koh-i-Noor, placed all the stones before him, and said, "Which is the Koh-i-Noor?" He received answer that it was not among those gems, which, compared to it, were of little value. This made him all the more eager to procure it, and he again began to treat the Begum and her family with great harshness. After keeping them without food for two days, finding that she still held out, he gave up the hope of bringing her to terms by such means, and had recourse to more insinuating ways. She now promised to give up the stone, provided Runjit released Shah Shuja from captivity in Kashmir, and conferred a life pension on him, besides sundry favors on herself and friends. Shah Shuja was liberated at once, but some of the conditions not having been fulfilled, the Begum declared that the stone was not in her keeping, but that it had been pledged to a merchant in Zandahar. Runjit thereupon returned to the former coercive measures, and the Princess was once more deprived of food, but all to no purpose. At last Shah Shuja himself volunteered to surrender the stone, and a time was fixed on which he promised to produce it.

* Early in 1761, Ahmed was recalled to Mesh by the revolt of Mir Allum Khan, (Aga Mohammed) Chief of Kavin, who had seized on the treasure at Mesh and blinded and dethroned Shah Rokh Murza. Ahmed restored Shmod Rokh and soon after took Kavin and put Mir Allum to death. Elphinstone's "Kabul," page 579. But according to other accounts Shah Rokh had already been blinded before the events here related.

(To be continued.)

BUSINESS CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER.

Hexton Bros, Lindsay, Hardware, assigned in trust; J. Trotter, Toronto, Tins, &c., dead; G. M. Butchart, Rapid City, Man., Hardware, deceased; Arms & Quigley, Toronto, Watch Case Manufacturers, have dissolved, R. J. Quigley continues alone; Woltz Bros., Toronto, Jewelers, dissolved, John Woltz retiring, Jacob F. and George continue under same style.

BUSINESS NOTES.

THE fastest trip across the Atlantic is now claimed for the *Alaska* of the Guion Line, namely, six days, fifteen hours, twenty minutes.

ORDERS to the amount of some \$70,000 have been received in Montreal from Australia, principally for railway supplies, including two parlor cars such as are in use on the North Shore R. R.

GEORGE TODD, a jeweler and watchmaker, having been in business at Newcastle, N. B., a couple of years, has failed, and assigned in trust to E. P. Williston. Liabilities small, and assets still more so.

THE other day we were shown a curiosity in the shape of a gold chain just made to the order of a Winnipeg jeweler by the firm of Zimmerman, McNaught & Lowe. It was an 18 K. fine trace pattern guard, weighing almost 200 dwts. of gold. Somebody up in that direction had surely struck a bonanza in corner lots.

BUNGLARS have been giving trouble to storekeepers in central Ontario. Jno. McRae & Co's. store at Beaverton was broken into, the safe blown open, and seven watches abstracted but no money. At Bethany, Armstrong's store was entered and the safe blown open, \$50 being stolen besides some promissory notes.

THE new show cases lately received by Messrs. Zimmerman, McNaught & Lowe, for showing their silverware, are pronounced by all who have seen them to be the finest kind going for displaying this class of goods. They make silver goods look doubly as attractive as the ordinary kind. Retail dealers should take a leaf out of this enterprising firm's book.

THE Winnipeg excursion last week brought to this city the greatest part of the Prairie City jewelers. Among them we noticed Mr. Thompson, Mr. Ormond, Mr. Radford and Mr. Fowler. Although some of them thought that Toronto was a very quiet little city, they seemed to take kindly to our monotonous way of living to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

THE silverware exhibit of the Meriden Britannia Co. at the late Toronto Industrial Exhibition was very fine, and deservedly attracted a great deal of attention. The Company went to the trouble and expense of removing their show cases from their factory to the exhibition, and the result was highly satisfactory both to the public and the Company themselves. The exhibition goods were disposed of en bloc to Messrs. Zimmerman, McNaught & Lowe, the well known wholesale jewelers, of Toronto.

NEVER play practical jokes on a customer, no matter how well acquainted you may be with him. He will have his revenge by going somewhere else to trade.—Do not praise the



INGLIS, PICARD & CO.,

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Canadian Agates, Amethysts, &c.,

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keepers in town and country will find all work
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Stones, Imitations, Locket Glasses, &c

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The Smallest,

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Filled Gold Case

ever offered

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SUPERIOR QUALITY. SUPERIOR FINISH.

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ten of any article more than it will bear. Boats are often sunk by being overloaded.—Persuading a customer to buy goods when he does not need them, is an unprofitable operation in both parties.—“Didn't think” will cause just as many troubles for the clerks to-day as it did before the telephone and electric light were invented.—The clerk who knows more about business than his employer, is a much scarcer individual than the one who thinks he knows more.—*Talks to Clerks*, by P. F. Felker.

SEVERAL merchants are known to have lost their lives on the unfortunate steamer *Asia*, which foundered last week in the Georgian Bay, during a gale, when out of some eighty souls on board, only two are known to have escaped. Among these merchants was Mr. A. Duncan, wholesale dry goods merchant, of Hamilton. Mr. Duncan came to this country in 1853, and engaged with Messrs Adam Hope & Co., of London, remaining in their employ until the firm removed to Hamilton, when he became a buyer. He was associated with the old firm of Messrs. Buchanan throughout its numerous changes. Since 1878 he has been the leading partner of the wholesale house of A. Duncan & Co. He was largely interested in manufactures as well, being a shareholder in the Ontario Cotton Company, Hamilton Knitting Company. Mr. Duncan was esteemed in mercantile as well as social circles. Messrs. H. B. Gallagher, and J. H. Tinkiss retail storekeepers at Manitowaning, lost their lives by the disaster. A nephew of the latter, and a Miss Morrison are, according to the latest accounts, the only survivors of the wreck. Another victim was Mr. Wm. Henry, who had lumber mill at Mudge bay. By a sad coincidence, Mr. Henry's brother was drowned at the burning of the *Manitoulin*, the steamer which was replaced by the *Asia*.

WORKSHOP NOTES.

TO REMOVE RUST.—If you immerse the articles in kerosene oil, and let them remain for some time, the rust will become so much loosened that it will come off easily.

DIAMOND FILES.—Shape your file of brass, and charge with diamond dust, as in case of the mill. Grade the dust in accordance with the coarse or fine character of the file desired.

CLEANING-PITH.—The stalk of the common mullen makes the best pith for cleaning pivots. The best time when to gather it, is winter, when the stalk is dry. Some use cork instead of pith, but it is inferior.

TO FROST WATCH-PLATES.—Watch plates are frosted by means of fine brass wire scratch brushes, fixed in a lathe, and made to revolve at great speed, the end of the wire brushes striking the plate, producing a beautiful frosted appearance.

TO CASE-HARDEN IRON.—If you desire to harden to any considerable depth, put the article into a crucible with cyanide of potash, cover over, and heat altogether, then plunge into water. This process will harden perfectly to the depth of one or two inches.

TO DRAW TEMPER.—If you wish to draw the temper from part of a small steel article, hold the part from which you wish to draw the temper

with a pair of tweezers, and with your blowpipe direct the flame upon them—not the article—till sufficient heat is communicated to the article to produce the desired effect.

TO TEMPER CLICKS, RATCHETS, ETC.—Clicks, ratchets, or other steel articles, requiring a similar degree of hardness, should be tempered in mercurial ointment. The process consists in simply heating to a cherry red and plunging into the ointment. No other mode will combine toughness and hardness to such an extent.

TO TEMPER GRAVERS.—Gravers and other instruments larger than drills may be tempered in quicksilver, or you may take lead instead of quicksilver. Cut down into the lead, say half an inch, then, having heated your instrument to a light cherry red, press it firmly into the cut. The lead will melt around it, and an excellent temper will be imparted.

RESTORING WATCH DIALS.—If the dial plate is painted, clean the face off with spirits of wine, or anything else that will render the dial perfectly clean; then heat it to a bright red, and plunge it into a strong solution of cyanide of potassium, then wash in soap and water and dry in box dust. Repeat if not a good color. India ink, ground with gum water, will do for the figures.

TO BLUE SCREWS EVENLY.—Take an old watch barrel and drill as many holes into its head as you desire to blue screws at a time. Fill it about one-fourth full of brass or iron filings, put in the head, and thus fit a wire long enough to bend over for a handle, into the arbor holes—head of the barrel upward. Brighten the heads of your screws, set them point downward into the holes already drilled, and expose the bottom of the barrel to your lamp till the screws assume the color you wish.

JEWELLING.—In using the broaches, press but lightly upon the jewel hole, and turn the broach rapidly with your fingers. For polishing, use a bone or ivory point lightly coated with the finest diamond dust and oil, and, while using it with the one hand, accompany the motion with a slight, oscillating motion of the other hand, in which the jewel is held. This will insure a more even polish to the hole, with less liability to press the jewel out of its place in the plate, than if held firm and steady.

TO TEMPER DRILLS.—Select none but the finest and best steel for your drills. In making them, never heat higher than a cherry red, and always hammer till nearly cold. Do all your hammering in one way, for if, after you have flattened out your piece, you attempt to hammer it back to a square or round, you will ruin it. When your drill is in proper shape, heat it to a cherry red and thrust it into a piece of resin or into mercury. Some use a solution of cyanuret of potassium and rain water for tempering their drills, but the resin or mercury will give better results.

SCIENCE NOTES.

ACCORDING to the *London Times*, Mme. Modjeska wears in a ring a large diamond, cut with a flat face and rising with a spring. Under it is a portrait of her son. She calls the ornament her two jewels." Mr Modjeska doesn't seem to cut much of a figure in the family.

The smallest circular saw in practical use is a tiny disk about the size of a five-cent nickel, which is employed in cutting the slits in gold pens. They are about as thick as ordinary paper, and revolve some 4,000 times per minute. Their high velocity keeps them rigid, notwithstanding their extreme thinness.

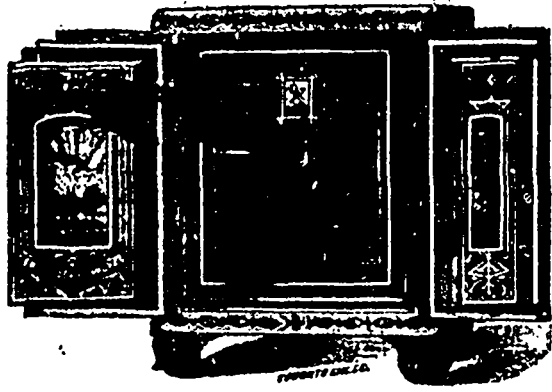
The progress of the great bail for St. Paul's cathedral from Loughborough to London was followed with an interest somewhat short of that following the movements of Jumbo, but still with interest. The ball, which weighs nearly seventeen tons, has been transported a hundred miles on a car with a traction engine. After sticking in the mud several times, and having to be protected from the people, who insisted on scratching their names on the surface, it has arrived safely, and will soon be placed in the southwest tower of the great cathedral and add its terrific E flat to the numerous other noises of London.

THE Princetown, N. J., telescope of twenty three inches aperture nears completion. Its object-glass was finished and approved more than a year ago, and the spectroscope was received from London last autumn. The work upon the mounting, clock-work, and accessories, has been going on steadily at Cambridge, and in Princeton the preparations for receiving the instrument in the Halstead observatory are nearly finished. Though a little smaller than the Washington telescope, and considerably smaller than the enormous instruments now constructing for Poulkova and Nice, it will be one of the great telescopes of the world, and abundantly powerful for the work it is designed for—stellar spectroscopy.

SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS has increased to so great an extent among the youths at the great government schools in France, that a committee was appointed some time ago to enquire into the subject. In their report, which is now published, the committee point out that in their opinion the cause of the prevalence of the infirmity is to be found in the fact the school books are printed in type which is too finely cut; and further, that the custom of printing upon white paper is still more hurtful. It is recommended, therefore, that the authorities will consider the advisability of substituting thicker characters in the books, and also of printing in white letters upon tinted paper.

THE most valuable diamonds are not those which are entirely colorless, but those known to merchants as "blue-white." Of blue diamonds, the finest known is the "Hope," valued at \$150,000, and formerly in the collection of Henry Thomas Hope, of England. This is in color of a beautiful sapphire blue, and there are only three or four other diamonds known in Europe which can really be termed blue. The only known specimen of a red diamond is now in the hands of a great connoisseur residing in London. It weighs about three grains, and is valued at \$4,000. The finest green diamond—a pure emerald green—is the property of a West End, London, merchant, and weighs about four grains. There is no other stone known at all, approaching this for depth of color. It is valued at \$5,000. Diamonds that contain a slight tinge of color are numerous, but have no special value.

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A CORRESPONDENT of the *Engineer*, London gives information of the fact that watch making by machinery is a growing industry in Birmingham, England. At the factory of the English Watch Company, of Villiers street, London, there is as much as 500 feet of pulley shafting. Among much delicate machinery there is a milling machine, a wheel toothing machine, and a drill as fine as a human hair for the regulator holes. One valuable automatic, whose construction the firm keep private, is an apparatus for the cutting at one operation, of a dovetail not and dovetail jewel slip over a jeweled hole. The cutter, set by a micrometer gauge, and running at 2,000 revolutions per minute, can cut a hair stretched upon a jewel without touching the stone itself. The firm claim to employ the most minute steam-power lathes work in the world for turning the tiny balance-staff pivots for the jewel holes. The company report considerable success in the competition which they are carrying on with American and other machine-using watchmakers. Last year the company secured the contract for watches on the Indian State railways.

ONE of the results of the late disastrous war waged in South America, has been the sale of a large number of gold and silver church ornaments set with precious stones, and old personal jewelry sent from Lima by patriotic persons, in order to procure funds towards the defence of Peru. Of nearly 500 lots, which realized various prices, the following were sold at the highest rates: A pair of long pearl and diamond earrings, with four large Oriental pearl buttons, and a pair of extraordinary large pearl drops, £235; a curious silver gilt mitre, enriched with scrolls of diamonds, emeralds, rubies and other stones, £273; a magnificent old chased fine gold monstrance, enriched with a large number of precious stones, including fine aeralds, rubies, sapphires, diamonds and amethysts, likewise pearls, total weight, 378 oz. 19 dwt., £2,000; an old gold monstrance, with a centre of large diamonds and topazes, with rays of diamonds, rubies, and topazes, £940; fourteen gold rays for a monstrance, set with topazes and diamonds, £640; a gold crescent of eighteen brilliants, £200; an old silver-gilt monstrance, with a gold door and lining, 298 oz. 10 dwt., £200; a life-size silver figure of a pelican, with an enameled gold breast, the eyes and aigrette set with large emeralds cut *en cabochon*, three silver-gilt figures of young pelicans, £380; an old enameled frame in three pieces, enriched with emeralds, £275. Total of the prices, £10,778.

THE *London Times* describes a recent trial of a new musical instrument invented by Mr. Bailie Hamilton, which resembles in shape and in the means of producing sound, the harmonium or cabinet organ. There is, however, one important difference. Mr. Hamilton employs what is technically known as "free reeds," but instead of acting upon them singly, he divides them into groups of three, connected by a bridge, which so modifies their individual sounds as to emit a single note of great sonorous beauty and power. To each group of reeds belongs a sounding-box or cavity through which the air passes much as the breath in singing passes through the throat, the intention being to produce a quality of tone, re-

sembling the human voice. In this attempt Mr. Hamilton has been remarkably successful, by means entirely different from those employed in the "vox humana" stops of ordinary organs. The timbre of the new invention varies somewhat between the voice and the softer wind instruments, such as the French horn, clarinet, etc., partaking of the qualities of both, the beauty of the sustained notes being indeed remarkable. The chief defect of the instrument is its slowness of speech, which makes the execution of rapid passages a matter of extreme difficulty, if not impossibility. This drawback, however, does not appear to be structural, and may no doubt be remedied in subsequent specimens.

THE "Man About Town" in the *Buffalo Sunday News* is responsible for the following: "Do you know that lady?" I asked of a friend who lifted his hat as we were passing along the avenue the other day. "I ought to know her," was the answer, "when I gave her a gold dollar, for a button, on her dress." I had noticed the gold buttons, and I learned later that each one bore the monogram of some devoted admirer. More than that, as I learned on the best authority, this lady had made a practice of asking each of her admirers for a monogram dollar for the purpose. And I am told it is quite a common custom. It is a very popular idea as far as the ladies are concerned, but I can't say that the young men I have talked to like it. They say it too communistic, and the compliment isn't worth the cost. The coin is only a dollar, but it costs from \$1.50 to \$2 to have it smoothed down, and the monogram of giver engraved on it, and sometimes more, and when done the giver is not specially honored, but put on a par with a dozen or so of other fellows, each of whom is similarly mulcted. If it was a locket or ring or some other one-of-a-kind trinket, I doubt not any gallant youth would go to the bottom of his pocket with great heroism if not pleasure, but there's no distinction in this button scheme, and any one of a dozen admirers is as much honored as the best of the throng. The girls like the trophies, however, and suppose they will get them whether their admirers really like it or not.

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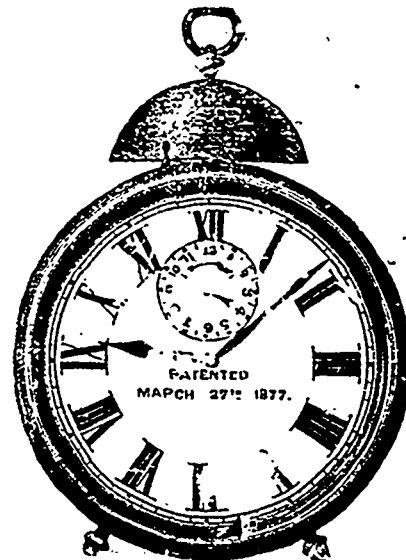
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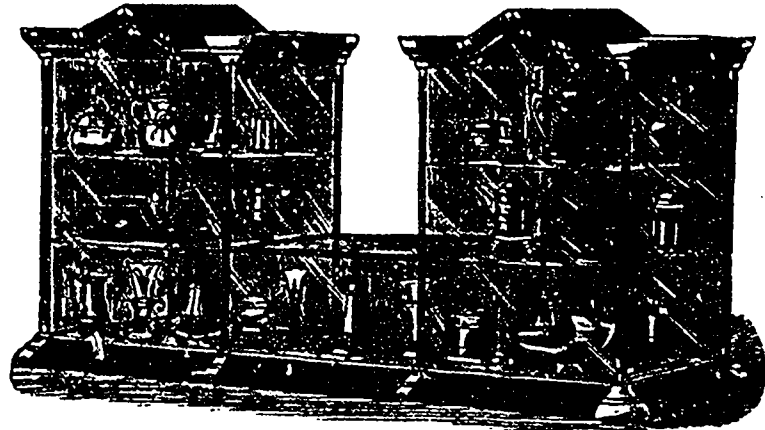
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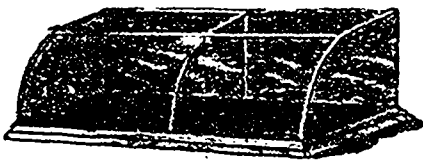
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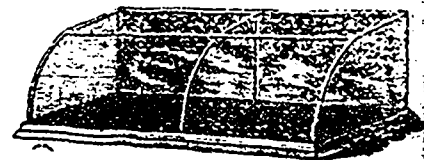
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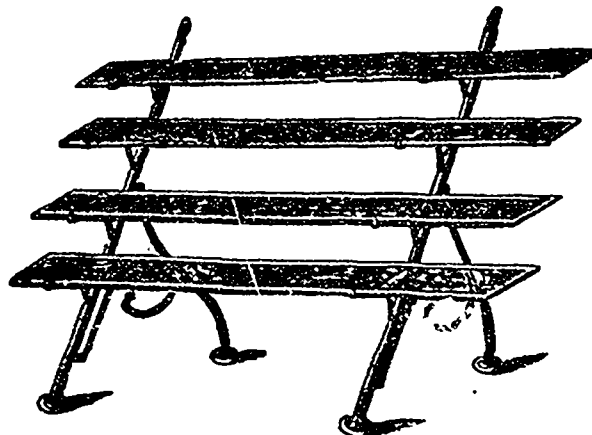
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