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The contents of the Scientific American are probably more varied and interesting, than those of any other weekly newspaper in the United States, and certainly more useful. It contains as much interesting Intelligence as six ordinary daily papers, while for real benefit it is unequalled by any thing yet published.

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The Wind in a Frolic.

The wind one morning sprung up from sleep, Saying, "Now for a frolic! now for a leap! Now for a mad-cap galloping chase!

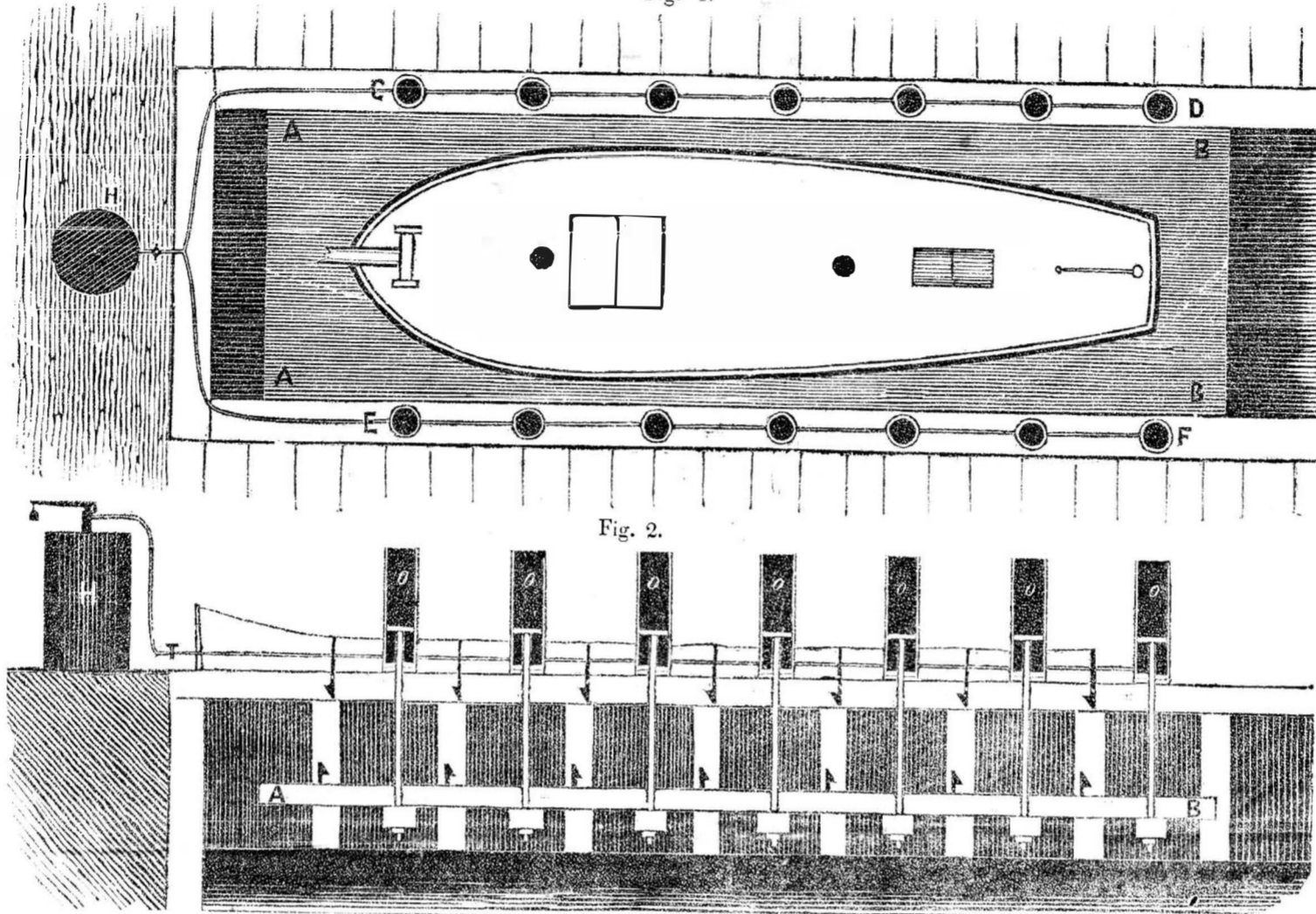
Then it rush'd like a monster on cottage and farm; Striking their dwellers with sudden alarm; And they run out like bees, in a midsummer swarm;

But the wind had press'd him, and had met in a lane, With a school-boy, who whistled and struggled in vain;

The booksellers are advertising a book of "Fairy Legends." It must have some curious feet-uses about it.

SPENCE'S ELEVATOR, OR STEAM DOCK.

Fig. 1.



EXPLANATION.—Fig. 1 is a vertical view or ground plan of the apparatus; and fig 2 is a sectional side view, or longitudinal elevation. A strong platform, A A B B, fig. 1, or A B, fig. 2, is calculated to be submerged deep enough to allow a vessel to float over and rest upon the platform, as represented in fig. 1.

A CURIOUS SHAWL.—A scarf has been submitted to the editor of the London Times. Four colors are so constructed as to fold into twenty different effects; either color can be worn alone, and two together, three, or all four, according to the caprices of the wearer.

READING NEWSPAPERS.—A western paper says that young ladies who are accustomed to reading newspapers, are always observed to possess winning ways, most amiable dispositions, and invariably make good wives: while on the other hand, those who read nothing, or what is far worse, novels, are generally unfit for either society, or domestic cares, and their company is but little sought by either sex, farther than the rules of common civility actually require.

ECONOMIZING.—An Irishman once enquired of the toll-gatherer of one of the London bridges, how much a man was allowed to carry over, and was told in reply, to carry as much and whatever he chose: whereupon a company of Irishmen immediately appeared, each with a companion, or his wife and children on his back, and paying a single toll marched over, much to the chagrin of the collector, whose exposition of the law had proved so unprofitable.

A NEW DIAMOND MINE.—The rich stores of Brazil seem not yet to have been exhausted, and new discoveries are being made, developing the richness of her diamond mines. One of these has been recently opened, exceedingly valuable.

A RUM PAPER.—A new paper, commenced at Concord, Mass., edited by Doctor Carlos Tewksbury, goes in for liquor-drinking, with a perfect looseness. He proposes political action, and says: "We mean to have our conventions made up of tavern-keepers, liquor dealers, and liquor drinkers, and all others who will go against that old mother of harlots, the Massachusetts Temperance Union, alias compulsionists. We have no respect of persons."

CUT FLOWERS.—As you are fond of having flowers in your room, you will perhaps be glad to know how to preserve cut flowers as long as possible. The most simple rules are not to put too many in a glass, to change the water every morning, and to remove every decayed leaf as soon as it appears, cutting off the stems occasionally, as soon as they show any symptoms of decay.

DOGS IN THE BATTLES.—Very many of the officers attached to the army of occupation, own remarkably fine dogs, principally of the pointer and setter species. After the battle of the 8th began and the firing became very intense, two dogs, remarkable for their intelligence, appeared to listen to the confusion for a while with great astonishment, and then evidently holding a consultation, they started off at great speed for Point Isabel, being the first arrivals at that place from the battle field.

HUMBURG.—Everybody, perhaps, is not acquainted with the etymology of the word humbug. It is a corruption of Hamburg, and originated in the following manner:—During a period when war prevailed on the continent, so many false reports and lying bulletins were fabricated at Hamburg, that, at length, when any one would signify his disbelief of a statement, he would say, "you had that from Hamburg," and thus, "that is Hamburg," or "Humburg," became a common expression of incredulity.

GALVANISM EXPELLING DEVILS.—A man in France, believing himself bewitched, and possessed of seven devils, applied to a physician who gave a galvanic shock daily for seven days in succession, driving out a devil every morning, at twenty francs a-piece for six, and forty for the seventh.

KEEP DOING.—I know of nothing better for poor miserable, do nothing, fear-all sort of beings—such as not unfrequently attempt to act their part in life's drama—than to set about doing, with all their soul and strength, whatever proper work, either for body or mind, comes first to hand.

FLORIDA PINE APPLES.—The Charleston Evening News of the 29th ult., says:—We have been presented with specimens of this fruit raised at St. Lucia, East Florida. They have been produced with scarcely any trouble, and are the product of a second crop, and the only fruit of the kind which has been raised in the United States.

A LIST OF PATENTS ISSUED FROM THE 2d MAY TO 16th MAY, 1846.

- (Continued from No. 49.) To John Street, of Philadelphia, for improvement in lamps: patented 2d May, 1846. To Elisha S. Snyder, of Charlestown, Va., for improvement in bolting flour: patented 2d May. To Allen Judd, of Cabotsville, Mass., for improvement in wind-mills: patented 2d May. To Luther Gifford, of Syracuse, N. Y., for improvement in weather strips, for doors, &c.; patented 2d May. To John M. May, of Philadelphia, for improvement in plows: patented 2d May. To Joel H. Morse, of Lowell, Mass., for improvement in machinery for dressing tortoise-shell, &c., patented 2d May. To William S. McLean, of Alleghany, Pa., for improvement in window-sash fasteners: patented 2d May. To Daniel Asbury, of Colburn's Post-office, N.C., for improvement in machinery for washing gold and silver ores: patented 2d May. To Andrew Vetter, of Philadelphia, for improvement in over-shoes: patented 2d May. To Joseph Hayward, of Cleveland, Ohio, for improvement in compositions for blacking leather: patented 9th May. To J. Shaler, of New York City, for improvement in tuning metallic reeds: patented 9th May. To Moses D. Wells, of Morgantown, Va., for improvement in shovel ploughs: patented 9th May. To William R. Kelsey, of Big Steam Point, N. Y., for improvement in bee-hives: patented 9th May. To Daniel Arndt, of West Middletown, Pa., for improvement in bee-hives: patented 9th May. To Joseph Echols, of Columbus, Ga., for improvement in propelling vessels: patented 9th May. To Robert Frederick, and Granville A. Trump, of Baltimore, Md., for improvement in Refrigerators for corpses: patented 9th May. To Walter W. Hart, of Philadelphia, for improvement in the manufacture of spoons: patented 9th May. To Hiram Todd, of Columbus, Ohio, for improvement in Dentists' turn keys: patented 9th May. To Abishai Clark, of Doe Run Post-office, Pa., for improvement in meat-cutters: patented 9th May. To John Haslet, and Cornelius Devitt, of Irvine, Ohio, for improvement in bedstead fastenings: patented 9th May. To Samuel Wilson, of Danville, New York, for improvement in machines for the manufacture of harness bridles, &c.: patented May 9th. To John H. Lester, of New London, Conn., for improvement in machinery for dressing staves: patented 9th May. To Philos B. Tyler, of New Orleans, for improved Safety Switch for railroads: patented 9th May. To J. W. Howlett, and F. M. Walker, of Greensborough, N. C., for improvement in smut machines: patented 9th May. To J. K. Millard, of Town Hill, Pa., for improvement in regulating and directing upon water-wheels: patented 9th May. To Benjamin A. Holbrook, of Providence, R. I., for improvement in riveting weaver's pickers: patented 9th May. To Andrew Ellicott, and John M. Crone, of Baltimore, Md., for improvement in Reverberatory Furnaces: patented 16th May. To H. H. Stimpson, of Boston, for improvement in backs of cooking ranges: patented 16th May. To Christopher Hand, of Port Elizabeth, N. J., for improvement in water-wheels: patented 16th May. To John L. Sullivan, of New York city, for improvement in spinal supporters: patented 16th May. To Alfred Stillman, of New York city, for improvement in sugar pans: patented 16th May. To John Lee, of Wellsville, Ohio, for improvement in cooking-stoves: patented 16th May. To Thomas Culbertson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for improvement in brick presses: patented 16th May. To Laban Morse, and Whitman T. Lewis, of Athol, Mass., for improvement in stoves for burning fuel: patented 16th May. To John R. Rennington, of Lowndes Co., Ala., for improvement in the construction of Andirons: patented 16th May. To Henry Staub, of Martinsburgh, Va., for improvement in smut machines: patented 16th May. To Albert W. Gray, of Middletown, Vt., for improvement in wrought-nail machinery: patented 16th May. To John F. Winslow, of Troy, New York, for improvement in the mode of manufacturing malleable iron directly from the ores: patented 16th May. To Squire M. Fales, of Baltimore, Md., for improvement in feeding furnaces: patented 16th May. To James Wilson, of New York city, for improvement in cooking stoves: patented 16th May. To William P. McConnell, of Washington, D. C., for improvement in propellers in vessels: patented 16th May. To Matthias W. Baldwin, of Philadelphia, for improvement in locomotive carriages: patented 16th May. EFFECT OF SULPHATE OF IRON ON VEGETATION.—The Journal d'Horticulture Pratique, asserts that a tree, of which the wood is tender, poor and sickly, to which a strong solution of sulphate of iron (cop-pers) should be applied, revives and puts forth an extraordinary vegetation. This solution of sulphate, of which M. Paquet has made many successful applications this summer, should be given in and with the water, when the plants or trees are watered, so that the roots may more readily absorb the chemical agencies which reanimate the vital forces of the tree.

