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## THE COUNTRY HOME.

It was a dear old home, not grand,  
Nor built with classic taste,  
But blossoms cluster'd there, like thoughts,  
Bright thoughts all run to waste;  
And roses never seemed so sweet,  
Nor sunbeams half so bright,  
As those that fling their splendor round  
The home of farmer White.

He was a hale, broad chested man,  
His hand was hard and brown;  
His boot would hardly suit the slight,  
Pale dandies of the town;  
But there was that in his calm face,  
His earnest, manly tone,  
And the bold freedom of his step,  
Which they might wish to own.

And never round a home-hearth smiled  
A fairer group, than there  
Joined the bluff farmer's morning hymn  
Or simple evening prayer.  
What crimson lips, what laughing eyes,  
What brown and golden curls,  
Were claimed by his bold, handsome boys,  
And sweet light hearted girls!

And there was one whose music tones  
The heart's deep waters stir'd,  
Whose spirit sweetness gushed in song—  
The household, called her Bird;  
And one, whose brown eyes burned with light,  
Whose brow was wreathed with power,  
Who claim'd the strong, but fearful gift  
Of genius as his dower.

But all were lovely—when the eve  
Came forth to meet the day,  
And tore her shining robe of light,  
In crimson thread away,  
They laid aside the tasks of day  
For evening's holy rest,  
Then bent for "mother's kiss," and slept—  
The beautiful, the blest!

The dear, kind mother, how her hand  
Could soothe an aching head!  
A world of goodness seemed to live  
In every word she said.  
Ah! who would sigh for palace domes,  
Or halls of gleaming light,  
While standing in the love-wreathed cot  
Of honest farmer White?

G. S. L. City, April 1860. S. E. CARMICHAEL.

[From the Scientific American.]

## American Clocks and Watches.

American clocks have long enjoyed a world-wide reputation, and American machine-made watches have now become "fixed facts."—When the art of clockmaking was introduced into this country, we cannot tell, but certainly we know that David Rittenhouse, F. R. S. of Philadelphia, constructed one of the most ingenious astronomical clocks in the world; that it gained him a great name in Europe and at home, before the Revolution; and that it "ticked" time for many years in Princeton College, both before and after the struggle for Independence. It is also known that John Fitch, the earliest of steamboat inventors, was a clockmaker and worked at his trade in 1761; and yet we find the following, regarding the origin of American clocks, related in a contemporary paper, and its authorship attributed to Mr. Camp, president of the New Haven Clock Company, as having been uttered in a speech at a supper given not long ago, to the employees in his establishment. He said:—"Clockmaking was commenced about 1815, by Elias Terry, of Plymouth, who made wooden clocks, whittling out the wheels with a knife. The running was regulated by a heavy bag of sand, and was wound up by a ball at the other end of the cord. Terry used to make two clocks, swing them across his horse, and ride off in search of a market. Very soon he introduced the use of brass movements, using old kettles, because brass was scarce. When he undertook to make 200 clocks, people laughed at him; they thinking it would be impossible for him to sell them. In 1823, Hon. Chauncey Jerome commenced the business, and with progressive improvements the business now stands more perfected than any other in the country. In 1829 a wooden clock cost \$11—now a much better one can be bought for \$1.50. The business previously transacted by C. Jerome & Co., is now done by the New Haven Clock Co. In 1857 the company commenced making castings. Then it was thought wonderful that it turned out 75,000 clocks. In the year just ended, the company turned out 150,000 complete clocks and 170,000 finished movements."

The above statement about the origin of American clockmaking certainly requires correction. A very useful work on clock and watchmaking has just been published by J. Wiley, of this city; it is principally a translation from the French, with illustrations by M. L. Booth. From its appendix we learn

that there are eight separate clock manufactories in Connecticut, which State seems to engross nearly the entire business. Although we have exported clocks to other countries for a number of years, we have (until very lately) imported all our watches from England, Switzerland and France; but there seems to be a fair prospect, now, of not only supplying ourselves, but of ultimately furnishing those articles (as we do clocks) to almost every nation. In 1850 A. L. Denison, an ingenious American watchmaker, associated himself with several others to manufacture watches in a systematic manner in a manufactory, with improved machinery for executing most of the works previously done by hand labor. This factory was first put up at Roxbury, Mass., but was finally moved to Waltham, where after a number of vicissitudes, it is now being successfully conducted. About 200 operatives are employed in it, and 12,000 watches are turned out annually. These vary from the simplest form of the lever movement to the adjusted chronometer balance. Their movements are of one uniform size, and are constructed after the English fashion. The English patent lever escapement is used, widely modified after the Swiss method, by the omission of the main wheel fusee and chain; the power being communicated direct from the barrel to the train. The chief distinctive feature of this system is the duplication of every part of the watch by machinery. Steam power is employed, and four-fifths of the work is done by it, while in the establishments of Europe, only about one-fifth of the work is executed by machinery. These American watches have proved to be very good time-keepers, and are equal to the same class imported from abroad.

[From the Rochester Democrat.]

## An Ancient and Valuable Clock.

There is now at the shop of Mr. Alexander Allen, in Richardson's building, Buffalo street, an old clock of elaborate workmanship and curious style, undergoing repairs. It is the property of Ellicott Evans, Esq., of Buffalo, to whom it descended from his uncle, the late Joseph Ellicott, Esq., of Batavia, surveyor of the Holland Land Company. It was constructed by the last named gentleman's father, Joshua Ellicott, and is supposed to be 90 years old at least. There are three dials to this curious time-piece, one of which indicates the year, month, day of the month, time of the day, changes of the moon, etc. Another dial shows the position of the heavenly bodies; and is, in fact, an orrery in which revolve the planets, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the earth, with its attendant moon. The third dial is a musical index; for, with its other accomplishments, the clock is capable of playing, when in order, no less than 24 tunes. The thing is a real curiosity, and, when put in order, as it will be within a week or 10 days, cannot fail to be worthy of inspection.

Mr. Allen fell in with this clock several weeks ago, while on a visit to Buffalo, examining some time-pieces belonging to the Central Railroad, which he was employed to repair. Happening to call at a clock and watch establishment, his attention was attracted to an old-fashioned clock case and, on inquiring about it, he was told its history. The works were shown to him, lying neglected in a box, and supposed to be useless, nobody thinking it possible to put them together perfectly. Being somewhat of an enthusiast in such matters, and a thoroughly competent man withal, he made a slight examination of the machinery, and modestly stated that he thought he could set the old clock running again as well as ever. The remark was reported to Mr. Evans, and a few days after Mr. Allen's return to Rochester, he received a box containing the works, and a letter requesting him to try his hand upon them. He complied, and has already progressed so far that a satisfactory conclusion is certain. The musical part is already in running order, and it will not be long before the whole is ready to return to Buffalo, and be set up in the owner's residence. So much is the clock valued, that it is insured to the amount of \$1,000.

We believe that time-pieces of this kind are not often seen in these latter days, but the date has been when they were objects of great desire with the wealthy and powerful. The first clock with an orrery attached, that we have any knowledge of, was completed for Louis XIV, of France, in 1749. The maker of it is said to have been 20 years in studying out the combinations. A good many have been made since that time, however, but they are only to be found in old families of opulence.

A ROUND BILL.—A butcher presented a bill for the tenth time to a rich skindint. "It strikes me," said the latter, "that this is a pretty round bill." "Yes," replied the butcher, "I've sent it round often enough to make it appear so; and I have called now to get it squared."

## Defects of Calf Skin Leather.

For the benefit of our tanners and shoe-makers we print the annexed communication, which we find in the *Scientific American*:

I have had some 30 years' experience in the manufacture of boots and shoes; during that time, I have particularly endeavored to ascertain the cause of defects in calf-skins, those being more sensitive to any chemical action than perhaps any other kind of leather, for want of maturity in the texture of the skin. I am led to conclude that the principal difficulty is in the process of tanning, in the use of lime, and especially in what is called 'baiting'; the tissues of the skin being so very delicate that any carelessness or ignorance in these processes proves injurious. This is an old complaint and one that has been prolific of thought and experiments for several hundred years, with but very little practical benefit. The field is still open for research, and would yield a fortune for any one who solved this great chemical problem. The wax-like substance which exudes near the seams and soles of boots and shoes is not what has been called "dry rot," or any particular kind of decay in the skin, but is produced by the oxyd of iron in the blacking used for coloring the edges of the soles and seams, which blacking has a strong affinity for the oil in the leather, especially for resinous oils, which in its amalgamation decomposes the fibers of the skin; this, even where this substance does not appear, is the more immediate cause of the cracking of the upper-leather near the soles. I am satisfied that the more active agents are the oxyds and oil, as this peculiar effect is confined exclusively to that furnished with oil, such as harness, 'top,' and other kinds of grain leather, when this kind of coloring is used, except (as before stated) when the oxyd in the blacking is brought into contact with the oil in the leather. The better the quality of the oil, the less its injurious effects. Pure, sweet neatsfoot oil is probably the best. For several years I never allowed the blacking used for coloring edges to touch the upper-leather; and this carefulness, in a great measure, prevented the cracking from the soles. I have known a calf-skin to be kept for more than twenty years, and to be then made into boots which did excellent service; still, I do not think they improve by keeping. A pair of calf-skin boots which I had made for me in 1835, have been worn frequently ever since, and are now in a very good state of preservation. One defect in the manner of dressing calf-skins is the too free use of the curry knife. Skins wear much longer when finished as near their natural thickness as can be, and yet obtain a smooth surface; the fibers near the flesh being very much stronger than those near the grain. A too free use of oil, even the best, tends to injure rather than improve calf-skins; when oil is used, the leather should be clean, and moistened with water before applying the oil. M.

## Usefulness of Diamonds.

Many persons suppose that diamonds are only used in jewelry—for rings and other articles of personal adornment, and that they are really of no essential value whatever in the practical arts. This is a mistaken notion; they are used for a great number of purposes in the arts. Thus, for cutting the glass of our windows into proper size, no other substance can equal it; and it is exclusively used for this purpose. A natural edge or point, as it is called, is used for this work, and thousands of such are annually required in our glass factories. Diamond points are also employed for engraving on cornelians, amethysts and other brilliants, and for the finer cutting on emeralds and seals. Being very hard, the diamond is also used in chronometers for the steps of pivots; and as it possesses high refractive with inferior dispersive power, and little longitudinal aberration, it has been successfully employed for the small deep lenses of single microscopes. The magnifying power of the diamond in proportion to that of plate glass, ground to a similar form, is as 8 to 3. For drawing minute lines on hard steel and glass, to make micrometers, there is no substitute for this diamond point.

The rough diamond is called *bort*, and the "points" used for glass-cutting are fragments of the borts. Great care and skill are necessary in selecting the cutting points, because the diamond that cuts the glass most successfully has the cutting edges of the crystal placed exactly at right angles to each other, and passing through a point or intersection made by the crossing of the edges. A polished diamond, however perfect may be its edges, when pressed upon the surface of glass, splinters it with the slightest pressure; but with the natural diamond the most accurate lines are produced on glass, and their surfaces are so finely burnished that, if ruled close together, they decompose light and afford the most beautiful prismatic appearance—all the colors of the rainbow flash from them as from the silvery interior of a pearl oyster shell.

Diamonds are also employed for drill points to perforate rubies, and bore holes in draw plates for fine wire, and also for drilling in hard steel. Some inquiries have been made of us recently in regard to using them for dressing millstones, as a substitute for steel picks. We apprehend that they are altogether too expensive to be used for this purpose at present; but if some of our inventors would make the discovery of manufacturing diamonds as cheaply as we make charcoal, which is of the same composition, we might be able to recommend them to our millers. The coke obtained from the interior of gas retorts in many cases is found so hard that it will cut glass; but as its point endures but for a short period, it cannot be made available as a substitute for the natural diamond for such purposes.—[Scientific American.]

## The Earth's Old Age.

A writer in the *Eclectic Review* ventures to sketch a few of the consequences which might be supposed to result, were the great forces of Nature—the agencies which give activity to the phenomena of our globe—subject to the law of decline and decay. After treating of decline of the physical universe, and sketching the conjectural changes in mankind, he passes to the intellect, which it is supposed, has kept pace with the body in its decay. We copy the following suggestive passage:

The intellect, as well, has kept pace with the body in its decay. Suffering not only from the cramped 'physique' with which it is now associated, but also from the adverse external conditions under which men exist, and withering, too, under the decline of arts and social comforts, it has become so dwarfish in its development that little of its civilized brilliancy still survives. No more Platos, Miltons, Bunyans, Newtons, Davises, Humboldts are born. No great books are composed. Not a single discovery is effected in the course of a year. The Houses of Parliament are occupied by small statesmen, whose sublimest efforts are not equal to the eloquence of an African Palaver. Royal Academies and National Operas have become extinct institutions.

In the pulpits, sermons are heard which would not have done credit to a six year old schoolboy, when the race was in its prime.—The writings and the inventions of former ages are becoming quite unintelligible. Youths at school get as far as vulgar fractions in arithmetic, or the 'pans asinorum' in geometry, and then pull up, under the impression that their education is complete. To master a single language fully is deemed a sufficient occupation for a whole life. And when poor fallen humanity casts its eye upon some relic of by-gone grandeur—a ruined railway, a crumbling cathedral, a dilapidated picture, a mouldering volume, which tells of the great feats the race has performed—it might well parody Swift's melancholy exclamation upon opening the "Tale of a Tub," as the shadows of lunacy were falling around him: "What a genius I must have had when I wrote that work!"

## Curing Smoky Chimneys.

A correspondence of the *Scientific American* furnishes the following experience:

My theory is—the higher the chimney—the better the draft. As an illustration of the above, I will state a fact that occurred a few years ago, while I was engaged in chimney-building. A gentleman came to me, and said he had two chimneys (on the two wings of his house) that smoked very badly. They were 11 feet high above the roof; and on one of them he had tried a stovepipe 10 feet long, with a cap on the top to turn with the wind, yet it smoked worse than before. He now wished them "laid over," or fixed so as to prevent smoking, but would not have the job done unless warranted to cure. I undertook the job. The size of the chimneys was 20 by 32 inches on the inside. I took them down only to the roof, and commenced laying them up, drawing in gradually till the size was reduced to 4 by 12 inches on the inside; then carried them up straight to within 18 inches of the top; then laid out again, in laying on three courses of brick, to increase the size to 8 by 16 inches on the inside; then drew in on three courses, back to the size of 4 by 12 inches, and laid another course perpendicular to the last; the whole height being only five feet above the roof.—Neither of those chimneys has ever smoked since that time—a period of eleven years.

MAGNIFICENT.—The costly present to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, from the Maharajah of Cashmere, of a cashmere shawl tent, and solid gold bedstead of the value of seven hundred thousand dollars, arrived at Windsor Castle, and was formally presented to Her Majesty. It has been temporarily placed in the Throne-room. It is expected that the bedstead will be ultimately placed in the guard-chamber so that the public may be favored with a view of its magnificence.—[English paper.]