

NEW INVENTIONS.—A London letter of the 31st August, published in the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser, has the following items:

A valuable invention has been made in Belgium. It is destined to effect as great a reform in the manufacture of linen cloths, as the steam loom has made in that of woollens. It is nothing less than a steam loom for linen fabrics. All the ingenuity and perseverance of manufacturers have been tested to invent a machine of this kind; but the fabrics have been uniformly so poor, that the machines have been thrown away and manual labor again resorted to. The difficulty has been removed by the scientific skill of a Belgian engineer. A model of his machine, with specimens of his fabrics, has been exhibited at the fair at Ghent. The cloths are said to rival in firmness, fineness, and smoothness, the best of those made by hand. If, on further trial, it shall be found practicable on a large scale, a revolution will doubtless be effected in the linen industry of Belgium, which will have a powerful influence on the political condition of the country, one half of the population of Flanders living, in one way or another, on the profits of that industry.

A late improvement in the musket will certainly meliorate greatly the art of war. This has been made in Prussia, and the secret is strictly guarded by the Government. Nobody is permitted to examine the work in the manufactories, and the soldiers are forbidden to show their muskets.—But these precautions are all useless; the improvement will be certainly known and adopted by other countries. Captain Stone, of the American army, now in Sweden, is, I believe, in possession of the secret. The United States offered to sell to Mexico her flint lock guns; she will soon be able I hope, to sell her percussion ones. From what I have seen of the new gun, as well as from what I have heard, I can say a few words

to satisfy in part the curiosity of our officers and gun-makers.—The musket has no lock, and is loaded at the stock end of the barrel.

The ball is long and cone-shaped, rounded at the big end.—The barrel is slightly rifled, but the grooves are perfectly straight and not spiral as in the American gun. The ball is consequently thrown a much greater distance, none of the force of the powder being wasted in giving it a useless rotary motion. The common charge is one half of that used in the percussion gun, and is said to carry the ball to its mark nine hundred yards. None of the powder is wasted, the fire being communicated from the side of the barrel, and not from the breech. This is effected by an ingenious contrivance. The part of the cartridge next the ball is filled with an explosive substance similar to that in a percussion cap. This is made to explode by the contact of a piece of steel about the length of an eight penny nail, which passes from the outside of the barrel through the cartridge.—The gun is called the "nail firer." It can be discharged by a common soldier eight times in a minute, and need not be taken from the shoulder to be reloaded.

The best soldier cannot discharge the percussion gun more than three or four times in a minute, and in battle an officer cannot count on more than one discharge in that time. Another advantage of the Prussian gun is, that the distance to which it carries, enables a force to fire some twenty-five or thirty times, before an enemy armed with the percussion musket, can get within shooting distance. The efficacy of the Prussian troops is thus doubled. The Prussian army might be reduced to half its present numbers, to the great delight of every body except the monarch and his immediate advisers.

[Mo. Republican.

A RAT STORY.—The Chicago Democrat tells the following, prefacing it with a remark that the rats of Chicago are 'noted for their firmness and daring.' A few days since a cat belonging to a friend became the parent of an interesting litter of kittens, which she was carefully rearing, as all well behaved tabbies will. A few nights since, however, Puss was attacked by a regularly organized band of rats, which, sad to relate, contrived to kill the parent, and make a prey of the offspring. In the morning the cat was found bitten to death, by the side of nine of her assailants, whom she slew before overpowered by superior numbers. This encounter is, we believe, without precedent.

A schoolmaster hearing one of his scholars read, the boy, when he came to the word 'honor,' pronounced it full; the master told him it should be pronounced without the H., as thus, onor.

"Very well, sir," replied the lad, "I will remember for the future."

"Aye," said the master, "always drop the H."

The next morning the master's tea, with a hot muffin, had been brought to his desk, but the duties of his vocation made him wait till it was cold; when, addressing the same boy; he told him to take it to the fire and heat it.

"Yes, sir," replied the scholar, and taking it to the fire, ate it. Presently the master called for his muffin.

"I have ate it, sir, as you bade me," said the boy.

"Eat it, you scoundrel? I bade you take it to the fire and heat it."

"But, sir," answered the lad, "yesterday you told me always to drop the H!"

☞ If a man could have half his wishes, he would double his troubles.

A gentleman was lately inquiring for a young lady of his acquaintance. 'She is dead,' very gravely replied the person to whom he addressed his inquiries. 'Is it possible! I never heard of it—what was her disease?' 'Vanity,' returned the other; she buried herself alive in the arms of an old fellow of 70 with a fortune, in order to have the satisfaction of a gilded tomb.'

AN ORDINANCE, in relation to Dogs.

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the City council of Great Salt Lake City, that every person having a dog, or dogs, who shall permit or suffer the same to enter the Bowery, on public days, or any other place of public meeting within this City; shall be liable to pay a fine of five dollars for every such offence, and the same may be collected forthwith by any City officer.

Sec. 2. Any person keeping a dog or dogs within the limits of this City, shall pay a tax of one dollar per annum, for each dog; and the assessor and collector shall collect the said tax as other taxes of said City.

Sec. 3. All fines, or taxes, so collected, shall be paid into the City treasury; and this ordinance shall be in force from and after its publication.

Passed, this 3d day of March, 1851.

J. M. GRANT, Mayor.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Recorder.