

EDITORIALS.

THERE is a loom in Chicago that is described as one of the most remarkable pieces of mechanism ever produced in this or any other country. It is called Abel's Weft-Thread Knitting Loom, and in the opinion of many practical men who have examined it, is destined to revolutionize the entire system of woollen cloth manufacturing. Bro. James W. Cummings, who has just returned from the East, and whose experience in cloth manufacture entitles his opinion to weight, speaks highly of it. The Chicago Times thus describes it:

"This loom is said to have been invented by a man named Abel, living somewhere in Vermont, his letters patent being dated July 19, 1870, but a great number of years was spent by the inventor in bringing his machine to perfection. It is styled the knitting loom probably because of combination of weaving and knitting, the process producing a very firm compact web of astonishing evenness of texture, beauty, and serviceability. The loom is quite simple in construction, and is capable of being able to produce 300 yards of cloth per day, of any given weight or texture. The importance of this rate of speed can be best understood when it is known that the swiftest loom in ordinary use cannot turn out above twenty-five yards a day, and that undoubtedly of a quality inferior to that woven by that of this machine. It runs easily, without noise, costs but a small advance on ordinary looms, and occupies less space. Still, in addition to all these advantages, so ready to be seized upon and turned to account by practical manufacturers, dressing, beaming, spooling, warping, and other preliminary processes necessary with other looms are done away with, thus effecting, an estimated saving of over one half in preparing the yarns, while the ratio of production exceeds ten to one."

THE Philadelphia Press, edited by Col. John W. Forney, late Secretary of the U. S. Senate, contains a leading article from his pen upon the Grant and Sumner imbroglio, in which he condemns, without qualification, the treatment which Sumner has received. He says Mr. Sumner stands to-day removed for not agreeing with President Grant on the San Domingo question, and asks is this decent or fair? He thinks President Grant is abundantly justified by precedent in repudiating this assault, in his own name, upon the chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs in the Senate; and that if he needed any further suggestions they would be found in the weakness of James Buchanan in giving directions to slaughter Stephen A. Douglas, more than twelve years ago. He adds:

"Douglas was as dear to Pennsylvania as Sumner. Sumner, in many respects, succeeds Douglas in thousands of our Pennsylvania hearts. When Douglas was struck from the Committee on Territories, in December of 1853, the outrage wrecked the Democratic party, encouraged revolt against proscription, and broke the organization that cravenly sanctioned it."

At the time that Douglas was proscribed by Buchanan, and the Senate obeyed his wish by removing the Illinois Senator from his position of Chairman of the Committee on Territories, Col. Forney wrote a letter from Washington to his paper in Philadelphia, in which he used very strong language respecting this act, and said that the action of the Senatorial caucus demanded prompt and signal repudiation and rebuke. In this letter he asked how this despotism could be resisted, and suggested that it would be well for the people—men of all parties—in the middle and North-Western States to assemble, and take such ground against this high-handed outrage as it deserved and demanded; and closed with the remark that it behooved the people to take the case into their own hands and protect themselves against faithless and infatuated public servants.

This letter, twelve years old, Colonel Forney republishes in his columns on the 11th inst. Written as it was on the occurrence of a similar event, brought about by a similar cause, as that which to-day occupies public attention, its reproduction at present is, to say the least, significant, and plainly exhibits how feeling is likely to run in Pennsylvania; for there are but few men who are the equal of Col. Forney in comprehending the drift of public sentiment.

THE Mississippi blacks are not satisfied at being excluded from the "white cars;" they want to ride first-class. The railroad managers have flatly refused to admit them into the "white cars;" but proposed to furnish separate cars for their accommodation equally good as those furnished to the whites, from

which the whites should be as rigidly excluded as the blacks were from the "white cars." But this does not suit the colored dignitaries. They insist on a perfect equality of the two races and the most unrestricted intercourse. They evidently like to mix up with the whites and find it more agreeable to them than the associations of their own color.

In districts of country infested with venomous snakes the knowledge of an effective antidote for their poison is of great importance, as their bites are often attended with fatal results. If such antidotes be in existence the knowledge of them is very restricted, for it is quite common to read accounts in the papers of deaths, in various parts of the country, resulting from the bite of the rattlesnake. In the East Indies, where the cobra and other deadly snakes are very numerous, the deaths of persons through being bitten by them frequently number many hundreds in a year. The statistics for 1870 show about three thousand deaths from this cause alone.

A statement in connection with this subject appeared recently in the European Mail, which if true, ought to be widely circulated in every district where the rattlesnake, cobra, viper or any other deadly species is known to exist. The writer of the statement says that every species of venomous snake carries an antidote for its poison, and that antidote is its gall; and so effectual is this said to be, that in fifty cases of the bite of the cobra, a repetition of the medicine was only needed in two cases.

The formula is as follows: Dissolve twenty drops of the pure gall, dissolved in two hundred drops of alcohol. Five drops of this solution is put in half a tumbler of water, thoroughly stirred, and a tablespoonful of the mixture administered to the bitten person every three or five minutes, until the whole is taken.

Whisky has been recommended as an antidote, and in some cases it may have been successfully used; but it has to be used so freely that in systems not used to its influence, the remedy is almost as bad as the disease.

But efficacious as whisky, or the new formula consisting of snake gall and alcohol may be they might be required under circumstances where it would be impossible to procure either, or if procured could not be administered according to rule; and if a sure remedy could be found, easily obtainable, requiring no special mode of preparation it would be more valuable than either of the above.

The name of such an antidote and its method of application has been forwarded to us by Bro. Joseph W. Young of St. George, Southern Utah, a gentleman who has had great experience in crossing the plains between this city and the Missouri river, and while doing so, has had abundant opportunities to test its efficacy. He says:

"Noticing in the News an account of the application of the madstone to the bite of a rattlesnake, and in the last issue a recipe for bee-sting, I thought perhaps it was my duty to give the public the benefit of my experience on these matters. Now, I always have a madstone at hand that is a sure cure for snake bite, the sting of scorpions, bees, &c.

It is simply a little dry indigo, bound on the wound. It is a sure cure if applied in reasonable time. I have many times had oxen bitten by rattlesnakes when on the plains. I used to carry a piece of indigo in my pocket with which I would rub the wound until the hair was well blued over, and the cure was perfect and speedy. A Swiss man was bitten in one of the companies I brought across the plains. No report of the accident was made to me until several hours had elapsed and the man's leg was badly swollen and as spotted as the snake that bit him. I had a little indigo pulverized and bound on, changing it in about fifteen minutes; about three applications were sufficient.

When I went to the Muddy I found that the scorpion was the dread of everybody. I made this remedy as public as I could, and many have tried it with perfect success. I have been twice stung by this hateful reptile but with no serious effect.

Parties working among bees will find it to be convenient to carry a small piece of the indigo in the pocket, and when a bee stings rub a little on the wound and in a few minutes they will forget the accident."

THE wreck of the French transport, *Le Cerf*, an account of which appeared in the London Globe, of the 21st ult., is one of the most deplorable disasters of the kind on record. The vessel left Calais, on the 5th ult., her destination being Brest, Cherbourg and Bordeaux. At the time of her departure she had on board a crew of 150 men, and 1,080 poor fellows who had been wounded at Metz, and on various battle-fields; and their

privations and sufferings, before embarking, had been of the most frightful description. When they arrived in Calais their clothes were rags, and they had not a cent of money. They were billeted at the huts of the poorest fishermen, where they slept; but during the day had to go to the casernes for food, which consisted of dry bread and a little greasy water, called soup, once a day, and not above half enough of that. They were mostly the sons of gentlemen, and, no doubt, their hearts were gladdened, after embarking on *Le Cerf*, at the prospect of speedily reaching their homes again. But, alas, death, amid horrors transcending those of the battle-field, was in store for them.

The vessel sailed on Sunday, the 5th inst., and on the night of the 8th she was wrecked on the rocks off Cape de la Hague, and eleven hundred of the twelve hundred and thirty on board perished.

THE Kansas City Bulletin, of the 9th instant contains an account of a narrow escape from death by suffocation, of a woman and two children, named Hondershilt, and as its publication may prove a warning, we reproduce it in brief.

The head of the family was a coal heaver and had left his home early in the evening to go to work at the coal yards, with the understanding that he would return at mid-night. Their cabin consisted of only one room, and after the departure of her husband, Mrs. Hondershilt securely barred the door, replenished the coal fire, and sat down to work, while her children were playing on the hearth.

The room being very warm and its ventilation poor, its inmates soon began to feel inclined for sleep, and preparations were made for bed. Before going, the woman closed the damper of the stove and hung a quilt over the window, with an eye to having the place warm and comfortable for her husband on his return at midnight. This so completely destroyed the ventilation of the cabin that it nearly proved a tomb for the whole family; and would certainly have done so had it not happened that the husband returned much sooner than he expected; for by a strange over-ruling of Providence, he did not go to work at the coal yards. When he reached home he knocked repeatedly, but failed in gaining admission, and, at last, weary and somewhat alarmed, he burst open the door. He spoke to his wife, but received no answer; and then shook her, but she and the children were insensible from the poisonous gases generated by the coal fire in the unventilated room. Mr. Hondershilt speedily obtained assistance, and in a short time had his fears removed by seeing them all restored to consciousness.

This circumstance forcibly illustrates the necessity of good ventilation, a thing of paramount importance to health and life, especially in sleeping apartments; and all who peruse the above should take warning, and avoid the fearful danger so easily incurred by Mrs. Hondershilt and her children.

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