

A Righteous Decision.

The owners of the four leading machines—the Wheeler & Wilson, the Wilcox & Gibbs, the Singer and the Howe—have organized a sort of sewing-machine ring, and obtained what almost amounted to a monopoly of the business. This combination has been actively engaged ever since 1873 in besieging Congress for the purpose of obtaining an Act which would enable them seven years longer to monopolize what is known as the "four-motion feed," the most valuable feature of the principal machines now in use. How profitable the monopoly has been appears from the fact that A. B. Wilson has already realized three or four millions out of it, while Singer admits that his profits prior to 1870 amounted to \$2,000,000. How much his patents have paid since that time is not known; but it is estimated by those who are familiar with the subject that the further extension sought for, granting another seven years monopoly of this feed-motion, would be worth not less than from twenty to twenty-five millions of dollars.

The Senate Committee on Patents have at last agreed to report adversely to the extension sought by the monopolists, and in so doing have rendered a righteous decision in favor of the hundreds of thousands of poor needlewomen out of whose scant earnings the colossal fortunes of the members of the combination have been built up. The inventor of any contrivance useful to mankind has an equitable right to a fair reward for his ingenuity and skill, and for the thought and labor expended in perfecting it. But it is too much to ask that he shall be permitted to levy a perpetual tax upon those who use his invention. The actual cost of the average sewing machine does not exceed twelve or fifteen dollars, and yet for more than twenty years prices have been exacted by the monopoly yielding them a clear profit on each machine from thirty to fifty dollars. The effect of the refusal to grant the extension will soon begin to be felt, and within two years the price of the best machines in use will be reduced to \$20, or even lower.—S.F. Chronicle.

The British Mission.—The following is from the *Millennial Star*:

"Nottingham, Dec. 26.—Since I wrote to you on the 27th ult., I have visited and preached to more than half of the Saints in this Conference and to many strangers. In the village of Brixworth, in Northamptonshire, there is a family of Saints named Littledike, who have been twice visited by Elder Squires. Learning that there was an opening to get an audience of strangers, I sent notice some time in advance that I would hold meeting at brother Littledike's, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, the 8th inst. To my surprise I found the room was well filled, for 23 strangers crowded into it; they were obliged to sit two deep, on chairs, tables and lounge. I must say that I found myself in an enviable position, for a more eager and attentive audience I never stood up to address, and the Spirit of God was upon me, so that I talked an hour and a half, taking as my text the 16th and 17th verses of the 7th chapter of St. John, and I do not think there was a heart present but beat amen to every word that was uttered; and there were many stood upon the causeway by the door and window and listened breathlessly to all that was spoken. At the close of this great treat many came up to shake hands with me, saying they would stay all night if I would continue to talk. I found I was tired at the close of that day, for I had done considerable traveling to get to Brixworth.

"I also held good meetings in Leicester, but there was no strangers. Since then I have held meetings in Gresley, Sheepshad, Whitwick, Gosberton-Clough, Grantham and Nottingham, and I find that there is a noticeable improvement in all of these Branches and strangers attend the Sunday meetings in most of them."

"Yesterday, being Christmas, Elder Squires and I went by morning train to Mansfield, to spend the day with the wideawake Saints of that thriving Branch, and to eat plum pudding and roast beef, 'as other folks do,' and to attend a tea-party which commenced at 4:30 p.m. The time till 7 was occupied in social visiting, and then commenced what I consider the more inter-

esting part of the day's enjoyment, hymns by the able choir, songs and recitations. We were joined by many who were not in the Church, * * * and the pieces sung were of the finest kind and were well rendered. The Spirit of the Lord was upon us, so that all was peace, harmony and joy; and I must record it as one of the brightest spots in my history and the most interesting Christmas I ever passed. The hall was beautifully decorated, and great credit is due to President Joseph Betts, and his Counselors, the Choir, and to do justice I must say to every member of the Branch, for their untiring efforts and determination to make the affair a success. * * *

"Elder Squires and I are in good health and spirits."

"F. M. LYMAN."

In culling the flowers of poetry, no one should miss Cullen Bryant.—Worcester Gazette.

Ladies are generally very good-natured when they experience the marriage ceremony, but at Marquette, the other day, a girl was married and it made her Riley.

Mrs. Gridley is the oldest woman in Chicago. She ascribes her longevity to marrying when past 35. That's consoling for ladies who have "turned the corner."

The late Julia Smith, of New York, bequeathed her husband "\$1 and her forgiveness;" the remainder of her estate, some \$10,000, she bequeathed to her niece. Some people's forgiveness is so mild.

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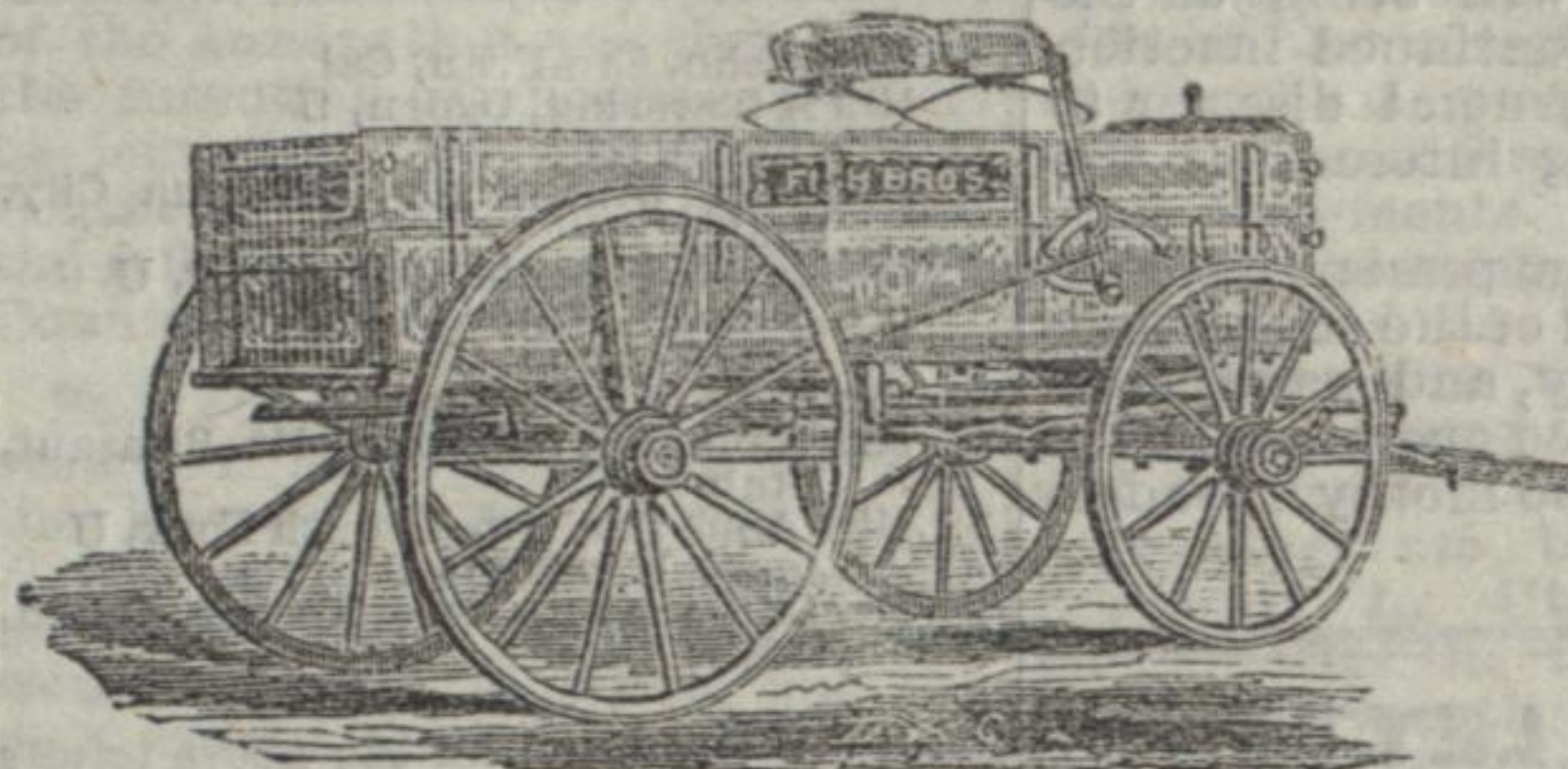
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