

dew very unlike anything that I had ever seen. It fell on the cottonwood leaves, a hard white substance and very readily dissolved in water. Men, women and children turned out with tubs and partly filled them with water then shook the white substance into the tube, then boiled this sweet water in iron kettles and without any process it thickened into sugar very much like our common brown sugar. As I was Bishop of Provo at that time, being ordained by President Young March 20th, 1861, I called on the Saints to pay their tithing of the sugar that the Lord had sent them, and they very willingly paid tithing on that sugar, and I took to the General Tithing Office 332 pounds of sugar, thus showing that the Saints had made over 3000 pounds of sugar. I well remember what President Young said when I arrived at the tithing office with the sugar. He came around from his office and looked at the sugar and said it was sent of the Lord, and instructed the clerks to deal it out in small parcels to the workmen on the Temple. Many other experiences of those early times I might relate, but this will suffice.

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MANUFACTURE OF TORTOISE SHELL.

[The American Stationer.]

The manufacture of tortoise shell is a restricted industry, necessarily, and requires a nice touch, quickness and good judgment. The principal modes of manipulation in the preparation of the shell for manufacture into various articles are moulding and welding. The moulding or pressing process consists in beating the shell until it is pliable, after which it is slowly and carefully pressed into moulds having the form of the object desired. When cold the mould is removed and the article polished. It is in this way that balls on combs and other round and shaped ornaments are made. This pressed shell can never be mended if broken, nor made into any other shape. If heated it resumes its original shape, and seems to have lost its welding property altogether.

In welding the shell the parts to be joined are beveled to a very thin edge, and are then laid together with a piece of fresh shell to make a thickness even with the remainder of the piece. The whole is subjected to the moist heat of scalding or boiling water, which gradually softens it, after which it is subjected to a strong pressure until the parts are securely joined; it is then worked in the usual way. Many people suppose that tortoise shell can be melted, but this is a mistake. If it could be done there would be an immense gain in the availability of the shell, a great deal of which is now wasted; as all of the waste, which is considerable, could be utilized and the danger of ruining the shell in welding or pressing would be eliminated. Efforts have been made to discover a method of melting the shell, but so far it has resulted all attempts.

Very few articles are made from a single thickness of the shell; for combs and hair-pins from two to four or five thicknesses are welded together. In heavier articles, such as paper knives, backs for hand mirrors and

brushes, handles for eye-glasses, fan sticks and other things, a dozen thicknesses are often used. In all carved work several plates are welded together in order to give the workman a body to work upon. Sometimes very light and dainty open carved work on a single plate is seen. It is lacelike in its delicacy and fragile accordingly, so that it is oftener a mere treasure of skillful workmanship than for use. The older the tortoise the heavier and more valuable is his armor, of course. All species of tortoises and turtles live to a great age, sometimes over one hundred years.

Sidecomb making is work which requires great expertness. The two combs are made from one piece a little wider than one finished comb, which is first made soft, then a deep fine, zig-zag cut is made through the middle of the piece, the zig-zags being nearly the length of the teeth. This must be done very quickly and the two pieces immediately torn asunder, otherwise the edges of the cut will unite firmly again, and the work, if not the shell itself, will be rendered useless.

The under shell, or plastron, is highly valued also, forming what is called in trade amber shell. It is almost transparent and very thin, several thicknesses being required before it can be shaped or carved. The shell from the claws is also used; being of a light yellow color, it is welded to form light streaks where variety of coloring is sought after.

The Chinese and Japanese are very expert in the manipulation of tortoise shell, and make many articles not attempted by European and American manufacturers. Exquisite workmanship in this material comes from Naples, as also do the best workmen employed here.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1893. — What isn't known about the manner in which the finances of the United States are managed would make a big book, while what is known, if it be fair to judge by newspaper publications, could be put in a fraction of a column. The idea seems to be general that the secretary of the treasury is a sort of czar and that no appeal can be taken from his decisions concerning the use of money belonging to the government. Nothing could be further from the actual condition of things. While he is necessarily given some discretion as to what may be done in certain directions his actions are restricted by law to a greater extent than perhaps those of any other member of the cabinet, and the things about which he may use his discretion are fewer than those which a cashier or a well-officed bank may do, and even in those he must have the President's consent. The danger that can be done by a secretary of the treasury lies, not in what he does, for he can do nothing that is not authorized by law, but in what he does not do. He may, either through ignorance or bad judgment, or upon bad advice leave undone things which he is authorized by law to do, but not in specific words compelled to do so, and thereby bring trouble. A case in point was when the gold reserve fund reached the limit which has been established by custom, not law,

of \$100,000,000. This gold was accumulated by the treasury under the specie resumption act, to redeem such legal tender notes as might be presented, and ever since the treasury notes, which state on their face that they are redeemable in "coin," have been issued they also have been redeemed in gold upon presentation, although there was no law giving their holders the right to demand gold for them. At a cabinet meeting Secretary Carlisle proposed that no more treasury notes be redeemed in gold, and he was supported by Secretary Gresham and Attorney General Olney, but was overruled by President Cleveland, and gold was still paid out for them, although the reserve fund had to be used to do it. Either policy would have been lawful; it was simply a question of discretion and the secretary had to give way to the President. The reserve fund is again intact and there is gold enough on hand in addition thereto to meet all immediate demands and there are promises of more from Western and Southern bankers.

The investigation of the condition of the four territories—Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Utah—now seeking admission to the Union as states, which the Senate committee on territories was directed to make, will be made by a sub-committee, which will leave Chicago about June 10th, and give about a month to the work, which includes visits to prominent points in each of the territories named.

The final and positive refusal of the Austrian government to receive Max Judd, a native of Austria, as U. S. consul general at Vienna, is no reflection on Mr. Judd, nor upon Mr. Cleveland for having appointed him, but it adds another argument, and a strong one too, to those advanced by many conservative people, against the sending of a native of any foreign country to that country as an official representative in any capacity, of the United States. It is perfectly natural that any foreign-born American citizen should cherish an ambition to return to his native country as an accredited agent of the country of his adoption, but experience has proven that such appointments are oftener embarrassing to this government than otherwise.

The recent decision of Judge Ricks at Toledo, involving the rights of labor organizations, is to be brought before the United States Supreme court on a writ of habeas corpus for the release of Engineer Lemon, who was sentenced to prison under that decision. The labor organizations will be represented by Mr. E. W. Harper, of Terre Haute, Ind., counsel for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and ex-Congressman Frank Hurd of Ohio. The arguments will be made, if possible, and it is hoped the decision handed down this week. The point is to get a decision from the Supreme Court in order that Congress may at its next session amend the law, if necessary, to protect the rights of everybody concerned.

Politics will now take a back seat for a few days, in order to give the Columbus celebration a chance. This celebration which will only end with the close of the World's Fair, began last week with the assembling in Hampton Roads of the war vessels