

A COLD POEM.

I don't touch object to a deershow a'd thed.
It waked up, a'd it clear out the head—
But, wind wud a'adn't fud horly to sight,
It's rather bodolous—ah! I don't right.
I subitly quite fady by head wud rub off
If wud of these shanes—they're worse than a cough.
A cough teary your ludge, but a worse teary you
through—
A'd—goodness—it's cubby!—a'—tackoo!—a'—tackoo!
That shanes was a bid wud—I thid shubly wud
Idible of by head—'Paps by tead!—a'—a'—a'—
That's shubly to what I can do when I tries!
Rip through by chest, a'd teary out at by eyes,
By dose a'd by mouth, with a shiverly cough,
That shubly by fraid wud horly shub!
Ah! that is a shane! When it rubs it's a crusher—
A'd—oh! it is cubby!—a'—a'—a'—a'—
a'—a'—a'—a'—a'—a'—a'—a'—
—Punch.

AIRING BEDS.

No housekeeper has any valid claim to neatness, cleanliness and tidiness, says the *Watchman*, who makes our beds as soon as they are vacated; or if she has such a claim, it is based on the condition of ignorance. To demonstrate this, let it be remembered that of all the food and drink taken, about three-fifths pass out of the system through the outlets of the skin—the pores, about seven millions in number. This waste and effete portion matter is dead and poisonous, passing off more rapidly by night, and becoming more or less entangled in the bedding and on the surface of the body. Hence the necessity for bathing and brushing, with still greater necessity for airing and purifying the bedding. This is done most effectually by exposure in the light of the sun and in the morning air. Indeed, the sun is the great purifier, and "nothing is hid from the heat thereof." And here it may be remembered that the bedding of the sick, so soon saturated by the filth of acute disease, by being changed once in at least six hours, and exposed to the free sunlight for the same time, will be safe with half the washing otherwise absolutely needed. Such clothes cannot be kept too clean, while there is no danger of too much care in these respects, as one of the means of controlling such acute diseases as fevers and inflammations.

The Dutch method of placing all of the movable clothes of the bed on two chairs near the window, allowing them to remain till afternoon, might well be copied by Yankee housekeepers.

COLD IN THE EYES.—The white matter appearing at times, usually in the morning, on the eyes and around the eyelids, is caused by a cold settling in the eyes, irritating them and causing a mucus deposit not very unlike the mucus deposited on the membrane of the throat from similar causes. As the eye is quiet and closed during sleep, at night, this deposit forms in sufficient quantity to be perceptible in the morning, and sometimes, frequently in the case of children, gums the lids together. As to the cure, it should be strictly observed that this matter must never be pulled or picked from the eyelids, nor the eye opened by any force. The best thing to do is to wash the eye very carefully in tepid, or lukewarm water, nothing else, using a soft sponge, until the white matter is washed away and the eye is clear. This will require patience, as it must be soaked off, not rubbed off. If the eye then shows any signs of inflammation by redness, or pain, a wash will be necessary. The simplest is made by dissolving a small piece of common borax in a cupful of strong green tea, and wash the eye with it often. Another is made by putting a few drops of cream, or very fine sweet oil, into the eye. But if the eye is very red, the nearest druggist will make you a weak solution of sugar of lead and water for a wash. This mixture must be handled with great care. It is a rank poison if taken internally, and as it resembles milk and tastes sweet, it must be locked up where it cannot be mistaken. If used on children's eyes, be careful they do not put their fingers to the eye and then suck them. Should the eye grow worse, call in a good doctor, and do what he says. You cannot afford to run any risk at all with your eye. During all such abnormal conditions of the eye as indicated by these secretions and inflammation, it should be carefully shaded and rested. Especially bright lights, reading of all kinds, exposure to sudden changes from light to darkness, etc., must be studiously avoided. A little negligence in these things may easily bring on inflammation of the optic nerve, or chronic weakness, causing weeks of confinement in a dark room, and very probable permanent injury to these very delicate organs.

TOMATO AND BEAN SOUP.—For two quarts of broth, soak a quart of beans over night, in plenty of clear water. In the morning drain, and put them into the broth, together with a quart of tomatoes, and two quarts of water. Let all boil together until the beans are soft, then mash them through the colander and strain the broth onto them. Put this into a clean saucepan and return to the fire. If too thick, add hot water; if too thin, let it boil until thick enough, then season to taste with catnip, pepper, and essence of celery. An onion added to the soup while boiling, will improve it for many, and fresh celery roots also, if they are to be had—in which case the essence of celery may be dispensed with. Dried pea soup made in the same manner is excellent. To make either of these soups without the broth, use four quarts of water, a slice of salt pork, a few scraps or bones of beef or veal, to a quart of beans, and a quart of tomatoes. It will require about two hours boiling. Cut stale bread into small diamonds; fry them in boiling dripping; drain well; place them in the bottom of the tureen, and turn the soup over them.

PATENT NO. 200,000.—Among the patents leaving the Patent Office on a recent date, says the *Scientific American*, is one issued for a carbureter, which bears the number 200,000. This, however, is not the whole number of patents that have been issued, but only those granted since the reorganization of the office in 1836, as before that period the patents were not numbered. The whole number of patents issued from 1790 to the reorganization in 1836 numbered 11,340. By adding those to the No. 200,000 above referred to, we get 211,345 as the whole number of patents. The average number of patents issued yearly, up to and including 1836, was 247. The average since that time was 4,839.

LABOR-SAVING MACHINERY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

A feature of the Massachusetts census of manufacturers of 1873, deserving special notice, is the showing made in regard to the effect of labor-saving machinery on the production of some of the leading staples. We find that, with 24,161 hands employed in 1863, there were produced 175,875,000 yards of goods, a ratio of 7,353 yards to each employee. In 1873 there were produced 874,780,000 yards by 90,176 employees, or about 12,213 yards to each hand. This shows that with an increase of a little over 140% during the ten years in the number of hands employed, the quantity of cloth produced was increased nearly 392%. Woolen goods also make a very striking exhibit. For 1863 the production is placed at 46,008,141 yards, and the number of employees at 18,733. For 1873 the production is 90,208,280 yards, and 19,036 employees, showing an increase of 96% in production to 1% in the number of employees. The number of pairs of boots and shoes made in 1863 was 21,870,581, and number of employees 34,021, and in 1873, 59,762,866 pairs with 48,090 employees. This is probably the most important showing made, the production during the ten years having been increased nearly 88%, while the force employed was less by 4,731. The product of carpeting in 1870 increased fourfold as compared with 1863, while the increase of force employed was less than half the amount. The average value of boots and shoes produced in

TESTS OF FOREIGN COALS.

The Government of Mauritius having become anxious to settle the vexed question of the respective merits of naval coals, they ordered some experiments, the results of which are summarized, below. The trials were made on board the *Fetoria* under almost precisely the same conditions as nearly all these kinds of coal are brought to this port and used by our coal consumers; these results will be of local interest. It was found that judging by the standard of economy, Cardiff ranks first, being followed by Sydney, New South Wales; the third place is occupied by West Hartley; Lambton, New South Wales, stands fourth; while Scotch coal stands last. Judging, however, by the standard of ash production, the order is the exact reverse. Scotch 1 (i.e., formed least ash); Lambton, New South Wales, 2; West Hartley 3; Sydney, New South Wales, 4; Cardiff, 5. For maintaining a regular supply of steam at a certain pressure (10 pounds per square inch), the samples gave the following results:—Lambton, New South Wales, 1 (best steaming); West Hartley, 2; Scotch, 3; Sydney, New South Wales, 4; Cardiff, 5. Comparing the cost per ton of coals here, they take the following order:—Scotch, 1 (i.e., the cheapest); West Hartley 2, Cardiff, 3; Sydney, 4; Lambton, 5.

The officers are therefore of opinion that on the score of economical consumption, free steaming qualities, comparative freedom from ashes, and looseness of price, the Scotch coal takes the first place, and West Hartley or Newcastle

THE "QUEEN'S PIPE."

The following is an extract from Mr. P. L. Simmonds' work on "Waste Products and Undeveloped Substances": "In the very center of the large tobacco warehouses in the London docks there is a great kiln, familiarly known as the 'Queen's Tobacco Pipe,' which consumes as 'waste' an enormous quantity of articles. The fire of this furnace never goes out, day or night, from year to year. There is an attendant who supplies it with its fuel as it can take it, and men, during the daytime, are constantly coming laden with great loads of tobacco, cigars, and other valuable merchandise condemned to the flames. Whatever is forfeited, and is too bad for sale, be it whatever it may be, is doomed to the kiln. At the other docks damaged goods are buried till they are partly rotten, and then taken up and disposed of as rubbish or manure. Here the 'Queen's Pipe,' sucks all up, except the greater quantity of the skin, which, having once set the chimney of the kiln on fire, is now rarely burnt. And strange are the things that sometimes come to this perpetually burning furnace. On one occasion the attendant informed us he found 800 Australian mutton lambs. These were warehoused before the duty came off. The owners suffered them to remain till the duty ceased, in hopes of their being exempt from it; but this not being allowed, they were left till so damaged as to be unsalable. Yet a good many, the man declared, were excellent, and he often made a capital addition to his breakfast from the roast that for some time was so odoriferously going on. On another occasion he burnt 13,000 pairs of condemned French gloves. In one department of the place often lie many tons of the shales from the furnace, which are sold by auction by the ton to gardeners and farmers as manure, and for killing insects, or to soap-boilers and chemical manufacturers. In a corner are generally piled cart-loads of nails and other pieces of iron which have been swept up from the floors or have remained in the broken pieces of casks and boxes which go to the kiln.

CHEESE FROM POTATOES.

A foreign journal describes the process of making a sort of cheese from potatoes in Thuringia and Saxony. It is as follows: After having collected a quantity of potatoes of good quality, giving the preference to a large, white kind, they are boiled in a caldron, and after becoming cool, they are peeled and reduced to a pulp, either by means of a grater or mortar. To five pounds of this pulp, which ought to be as equal as possible, one pound of sour milk and the necessary quantity of salt. The whole is kneaded together, and the mixture covered up and allowed to lie for three or four days, according to the season. At the end of this time it is kneaded anew, and the cheeses are placed in little baskets, when the superfluous moisture escapes. They are then allowed to dry in the shade, and placed in layers in large vessels, where they must remain for fifteen days. The older these cheeses are the more their quality improves.

Three kinds are made—the first and most common is made as detailed above; the second, with four parts of potatoes and two parts of curdled milk; the third, with two parts of potatoes and four parts of cow or ewe milk. These cheeses have this advantage over other kinds, that they do not engender worms, and keep fresh for a number of years, provided they are placed in a dry situation and in well closed vessels.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

The passenger pigeon, or wild pigeon of America, ranges far to the north and south of the United States, and westward to the Rocky mountains; but is rarely met with except in communities of millions or billions, requiring for their roosting place an immense forest, the trees of which are soon crushed and blighted by their weight. This extraordinary gregariousness is wholly inexplicable.

The home, or roosting place, of this pigeon is selected with reference to the abundance of beech and oak mast in the vicinity; that is to say, within a few hundred miles; for it is alleged of them that they fly at the rate of a mile a minute. Indeed, although they digest rice in 12 hours, food of this kind, which must have been procured in the fields of South Carolina or Georgia, has been found undigested in the stomachs of passenger pigeons killed in New York.

A JEWELER'S TEST FOR GOLD.—A liquid for testing gold, says the *Jeweler and Silversmith*, may be made with two ounces of nitric acid, four drams of water, and one scruple of muriatic acid. The articles should be well mixed together and kept ready for use in a stoppered glass bottle, and the stopper should have a glass prong dipping into the mixture, so that when it is taken out, the article to be tested may be touched by this prong with some of the liquid upon it. But before touching with the acid a file should be drawn over some part of the article, so as to make certain that it is not gilt or plated, and the liquid should be applied to the place of the file mark; if the metal is base the fraud will be immediately detected, as the acid would have no effect on gold. Qualities above nine carat will stand this test. The acid would boil more or less green in inferior qualities; if alloyed with an extra quantity of silver they will only partially stand this test, but the color of the gold would then be considerably paler, which would afford a guide to its value.

THE GROWTH OF LONDON.—Some idea of the rapid and gigantic growth of the British Metropolis may be gained from the statistics recently furnished by Col. Henderson, Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police. He says that during the past year, 226 new streets and three new squares have been opened and handed over to the police. They extend over 56 miles, 1,074 yards. Twelve thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight new houses were built during the year, and 4,151 were in course of erection, a considerable increase above previous years. One thousand two hundred and forty-seven miles of new streets have been opened in London since 1856, and there seems no tendency to decrease in the annual rate of progression.—*American Builder*.



PASSENGER PIGEON.

1845 was 70 cents per pair; in 1855, 80 cents; in 1863, \$1.80 and 1873, \$1.50. The value of carpeting was \$2 per yard in 1863, and less than 75 cents per yard in 1873—which shows the source of the immense supply of dollar carpetings. The great reduction in the number of employees in the clothing business shows to what an extent the sewing machine, the machine shear and more careful gradations of "ready-made" have superseded the need of the tailor and the needle woman.—*N. Y. Daily Bulletin*.

IMITATION TERRA COTTA.—The following recipe from the *Magasin Pittoresque* will enable our readers to convert plaster casts into excellent imitations of terra-cotta ware: The colors required are brick red, lampblack, zinc white, and yellow ochre, all in powder. The object to be treated is first carefully rubbed with "0 0" sand-paper, so as to remove all roughness of the surface or ridges indicating where the parts of the mold have been joined. The mixed color consists of yellow ochre two parts, brick red two parts, and black one part. These are well rubbed together. Then three parts of zinc white are separately mixed with a little milk to paste. All the ingredients are then combined in a mortar with eight or ten parts of milk, and the resulting mixture is passed through a fine sieve to remove any particles of the white. A soft brush is then used to spread the stain over the object, care being taken to lay it on evenly. After 24 hours' drying a second coat is applied. When the article is completely dry, rubbing with the fingers will eliminate brush marks.

coal the second. A judicious mixture of these two kinds of coal, in a proportion of one-third West Hartley to two-thirds Scotch, would probably, they consider, give excellent results. No direct experiments were carried out upon the railway, as it has long been known by one of the members of the trade committee, that Australian (Lambton) and South Yorkshire are the most suitable and economical for the engines upon this railway. Cardiff is unsuitable from its intense heat and quantity of ash formed. Scotch is not mechanically strong enough to resist the intense blast.

HEATING A CITY BY STEAM.—The experiment of heating the city of Lockport, N. Y., by steam has proved highly successful. Three miles of pipe, properly covered with non-conducting material, laid underground through some principal streets, radiates from a central boiler house, and 50 different dwellings and other edifices, including one large public school building, have been thoroughly warmed all winter. Dwellings more than a mile distant from the steam generator are heated as readily as those next door. Steam meters are provided, so that each customer need pay only for what he consumes. It is claimed that the system can be so developed as to furnish steam at 50 pounds pressure transmitted through 20 miles of pipe, thus supplying power for engines and manufactories, and steam for cooking and laundry purposes, for extinguishing conflagrations, for clearing streets of ice or snow, or protecting hydrants from frost.