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BY R. H. TYSON.

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#### IRON PAPER-How a Yankee Inventor Sets England Agog.

[From the Taylorsville (Ill.) Republican.] We mentioned the other day the fact that a letter had been written upon a thin sheet of rolled iron and transmitted from the Sligo Iron works, Pittsburg, Pa., to Manchester, England. In an exchange, we have since found the following very interesting rehearsal of facts in connection with that circumstance:

The maker challenged all England to surpass it for strength and tenacity. This is no novelty; for at the Exhibition in 1851, a book of this iron paper was shown. A lively competition in iron rolling ensued among British iron manufacturers, excited by the above challenge from America as to the thinness to which steel could be rolled cold. Mr. Gillott rolled sheets the average thickness of which was the 1.800th part of an inch. In other words, 1.800 sheets piled upon each other would measure an inch in thickness, while the thinnest tissue paper to be purchased in the stationers' shops measures the 1,200th part of an inch. These very thin iron sheets are perfeetly smooth and easy to write on. although porous when held up to a good light. It may not be out of place, considering the great interest that is taken by those connected with that great branch of industry, the iron trade, to give a few curious particulars relative to the extent that iron can be welded, and the thin sheets that can be rolled out. Brother Jonathan little thought what a hubbub would be created in the old country when from Pittsburgh he sent that wonderful letter, written on a sheet made from iron, which took no less than 1,000 sheets to make 1 inch in thickness, the dimensions being 8 inches by 5½ inches, or a surface of 41 inches, and weighing 69 grains. The fact had no sooner made its appearance in print than Britannia's sons began to work, and soon we heard of a sheet containing the same number of surface inches, but weighing only 46 grains, had been made at the Marsh field Iron Works. Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, being exactly one-third less in weight. But soon the Welsh leek fishermen at the Soquel beach, while gave way to the rose of England, for hauling their seine, caught a very Staffordshire was auxious to take its strange fish. A gentleman who saw it wonted lead. The Hope Iron Works succeeded in making a sheet of 118 surface inches, weighing but 89 grains, which, reduced to the American and Welsh standard of 44 inches, gives about 33 grains; Messrs. R. Williams & Co., 69 inches, 49 grains; reduced to the same standard, about 31 grains. For a time Staffordshire wears the belt; but Wales becomes very restless, and is four web feet, the legs being stout and anxious for the honor of St. David, so short. Just below the two hind feet further attempts must yet be made. the body separated in two tails, and on Marshfield comes again into the field. the end of each were two bunches of They succeeded in making one sheet, tassels, somewhat resembling scaweed or 8 inches by 5½ inches, or a surface of 44 inches, of the astounding weight of ly, and the men were at first atraid to 311 grains only, which required no less touch it, but finally one of the men than 5.863 sheets to make 1 inch in thickness; another sheet, 8 inches by head with an oar and killed it." 6 inches, or 48 surface inches, weighed 25 grains; but brought to the standard of 44 inches, gives but 23 grains, and Wood's Magazine for \$2 50 per year laughter without being able to tell why." | plied I think it would be appropriate." near Waymire's Mill, Dallas.

requires 2 950 sheets to make one inch in thickness. The Pontardawe Tin Works next come into the field with a sheet of 14% inches by 7 5-16ths, or a surface of 115 17 inches, weighing 60 grains; but being reduced to 44 inches, is 241 grains-a trifle heavier than the Marshfield; but Pontardawe claims 3,799 sheets to make I inch in thickness. We now come to the climax. The mill manager of Messrs. W. Hallum & Co., of the Upper Forest Tin Works, near Swansea, has succeeded in making a sheet of the finest appearance and thinnest that has ever yet been

seen. The iron from which the sheet

was rolled was made on the premises. It was worked in a finery with charcoal A liberal deduction will be made to quar- and the usual blast; it was afterwards taken to the hammer to be formed into a regular flat bottom; from thence conveyed to the balling furnace, and when sufficiently heated taken to the rolls, lengthened, and cut by shears into proper lengths, piled up, and trans ferred to the balling furnace again; when heated it was passed through the rolls, back again into the balling furnace, and when duly brought to the proper pitch, was taken to the rolls and made into a thorough good bar. Such is its history in connection with the forge department. It was then taken to the tin mills and rolled till it was supposed to be thinner than 23 grains, and superior Music, its large amount of valuable afterwards passed through the cold rolls Information on miscellaneous subjects, its to give it the necessary polish, and now it stands on record as the thinnest sheet of iron ever rolled. The sheet in question is 10 inches by 51 inches, or 55 inches in surface, and weighs but 20

## EDITING A NEWSPAPER.

to make one inch in thickness.

standard of 8 inches by 51 inches, or

44 surface inches, is but 16 grains, or

30 per cent less than any previous

fort, and requires at least 4,800 sheets

S. W. Swiggett, formerly editor of he Sioux City Eagle, now the editor of following sensible words in a recent ssue of his journal:

"Many people estimate the ability f a newspaper, and the industry and talents of its editor, by the quantity of editorial matter which it contains. It is comparatively an easy task for a frothy writer to pour out daily columns of words-words upon any and all subwashy, everlasting flood, and his command of language may enable him to string them together, like bunches of onions, and yet his paper be a meagre, poor concern. But what is the labor and toil of such a man, who displays his leaded matter ever so largely, as that imposed on the judicious, well informed editor, who exercises his vocation with an hourly consciousness of responsibilities, and devotes himself to the conduct of his paper with the same care and assiduity that a sensible physician on a patient, without regard suspended on it twenty days during to show or display? Indeed, the mere writing part of editing a paper is but a small portion of the work. The core is the time employed in selecting far more important matter; and the fact of a good editor is better shown by his selection than anything else, and that we know is half the battle. But, as we have said, an editor ought to be estimated, and his labors understood and appreciated, by the general conduct of his paper-its tone-its temper-its uniform, consistent course-its principles-its aims-manliness--its dignity - its propriety. To preserve these as they should be preserved, is enough to occupy fully the attention of any one

A STRANGE FISH.—She Santa Cruz (Cal.) Times of a late date relates the following :- "On Saturday last, the informs us that it was 4 or 5 feet long, with a head somewhat resembling an al ligator. The mouth would open very wide, and a sort of hissing noise would proceed from it. It had two fiery-like eyes of a green-yellowish color, with two horns of a hard bony substance protruding from each side of the head The body was slim and long, and it had coarse hair. It was very spry and liveapproached it, and struck it over the

Bridge Across the Mississippi Rives.

The great Bridge across the Mississippi River at St. Louis promises to be, when complete I, one of the grandest monuments of engineering skill and genius in the world. Between the abutments it will consist of three steel arches, each of about 500 feet span, resting upon massive piers of solid masonry. Mr. James B. Eads, the chief engineer, has issued a very interesting report of the progress which has been made on this great undertaking. Among those which most forcibly illas trate the power of science to overcome difficulties which would seem almost insurmountable, are some relating to the construction of the west abutment, which at the date of the report had been completed from the bedrock of the river to a point 31 feet above low water mark, a height of 44 feet altogether. Although the bedrock of the site of this abutment is 781 feet higher than at the east pier, the difficulties encountered in building its foundation were more serious than at either of the others. Its site has been for over sixty years a part of the steamboat landing of the city, and as such had received every kind of useless material thrown overboard from the various steamers lying over it during that time. The old sheet-iron enveloping their furnaces, worn-out grate bars, old fire bricks, parts of smoke stacks, with coal, cinders, clinker, and a mass of hetero geneous substances, formed a deposit averaging 12 feet in depth over the rock. Not only were those miscellaneous obstructions in the way, but the grains, which, being brought to the coffer dam constructed to enclose the site had to be put down through the wreeks of no less than three steamboats which were embedded in the sand, the bulk of either of which was not probably of less than 400 tons measurament. From the enclosure within the dam were taken parts of several old and burnt steamboat engines, the iron parts of some of which had to be cut off; the Munc (Ind.) Telegraph, prints the four wrecks of barges, some of them probably in use before the era of steam; likewise several oak saw logs, some anchors, chains, and a variety of smaller inspection of the Marabout. Satisfied articles. This incongruous deposit made it exceedingly difficult to maintain the integrity of the dam, and frequent floodings occurred which delayed and increased the cost of the work; but all difficulties were surmounted, and the jects. His ideas may flow in one weak, bedrock within was finally exposed to view. The piers were sunk by means of eaissons, compressed air, and sand pumps, similar in many respects to those in use for the East River bridge. The east pier of the St. Louis bridge had on the 1st of October been carried pistol, "you cannot use your own up to the height of I17 feet above the bedrock on which it rests, about 20 feet above the level of the water at that time. It measures at its base, in the direction of the current, 82 feet, and transversely, 60 feet. This pier was placed on the rock in 126 days after lawyer bestows on a suit, or a humane the laying of the first stone, work being

## Truth in Opera.

this time on account of bad weather.

The west abutment of the bridge when

completed to the carriage way will be

115 feet high above the bedrock of the

river, and will contain 11,800 cubic

yards of masonry .- New York Sun.

One night when Carlotta Patti was n Brooklyn she sang with Ferranti. Just as the buffo singer was leading her out through the door to the platand the two singers advanced to the condition, and glorifies him at every ranti, and the duet (which was sung in on earth. It makes a man free and following words to it in Italian:

"What is the matter with you tonight? I don't understand your nervousness. Nobody laughs at you."

barritone and Italian, responded: coat. Everybody will laugh at me when human nature. I am going off

personal feelings, Max Maretzek and his notions of propriety. At weddings his orchestra began to laugh immedi- and funerals he was quite officious, and ately. Then the people in the front very particular that everything should seats, seeing the orchestra and the be done decently and in order. In due artists laughing. joined in themselves, time he was taken ill-fatally so-and

in applauses all over the house.

TRICKS OF CONJURORS-The Risks They Run.

Robert Houdin used to say that if the public knew what passes through the mind of a conjurer when he sees the barrel of a pistol turned towards him in the course of a "fire arm trick," they would perhaps give him credit for as much nerve and courage as the bravest soldier shows in battle. An omission in some trifling point, the breaking off of a small part of the false ramrod, or of the real bullet as it is being withdrawn, may make the dis-

charge fatal. Often, teo, the trick is a new one, and some miscalculation may make the plan a failure, where failure may mean death. An unfortunate event which took place at the Cirque Napoleon, at Paris, strikingly illustrates Houdin's words. Dr. Upstein, the conjurer, had offered a gan to a spectator, with directions to take good aim at the Doctor, who was to receive the discharge on the point of a sword. The man refused: but another fired off the gun as directed. The moment after, the Doctor fell to the ground seriously wounded. It was found that a piece of the ramrod had broken off in the barrel, and this, fired off at so close a range, had penetrated

the conjurer's right lung. A circumstance in Houdin's life shows how daringly the conjurers who amuse us will often play with danger, depending on their ready fingers to secure their safety. He had performed some startling fire-arm tricks before a party of Arabiaus, making use, of course, of the Attorney and Counsellor-at-Law, ordinary form of conjuring pistol which is so contrived that the ramfod withdraws the bullet. While the rest of the party were expressing their admiration, a crafty old Marabout, who had some suspicion of the true nature of the trick, said, "The stranger is, doubtless, a strong magician; will he suffer me to fire at him with my own pistols?" "Yes," said Houdin, unhesitatingly, "but first I must make invo-

cation to those who assist me." The next day he met the same party, and offered a saucerful of bullets to the that they were lead-as indeed they were-the Arab handed his pistols to-Houdin, who load d them, using the Arab's ramrod. His own friends were in terror, and even his wife, well as she knew his skill, was in perplexity when she saw him hand back to the Arab one of the loaded pistols.

" Now fire," he said. The Arab did so, and Houdin was seen with the bullet between his teeth. "Bah." he said, seizing the other weapons! See here. You have been quable to draw blood from my flesh, and I will draw blood from yonder

He aimed at the wall, fired, and im mediately a stain of blood was seen The Marquis went up to the wall, and when he had dipped his finger in the blood which was trickling down, his awe and amazement were so great that his features assumed a ghastly hueprepared bullets having been skillfully substituted by Houdin for the leaden bullets he took from the saucer .. But the experiment was quite new, and Houdin tells us that he trembled and could scarcely control his terror as he saw the Marabout drawing the trigger of the pistol .- Exchange.

There is nothing which adds so much form, some one in the room behind him to the beauty and power of man as a cried out that his coat had burst at the good moral character. It is his wealth, seam of the back. It was too late to his influence, his life. It dignifies him recede, for the audience had seen him, in every station, exalts him in every footlights. But the knowledge of this period of life. Such a character is mishap took all the humor out of Fer- more to be desired than everything else Italian) was so dolefully devoid of the independent; no servile tool; no usual humor that Patti noticed it be- crouching sycophant; no treacherous fore they were half through, and drop- honor-seeker ever bore such a characping the text of the song, she fitted the ter The pure joys of truth and righteousness never spring in such a person. If young men only knew how much a good character would dignify Whereupon Ferranti, in mellifluous make their prospects, even in this life L "By the virgin, I have bursted my the groveling and base born purposes of

At this unexpected interchange of | Squire W-was very fastidious in and the merriment presently broke out relatives and friends were gathered around his bed, sad and weeping. One All of the Best Material and Manufacture "Ah," said one of the Brooklyn of these, more thoughful than the rest, papers, "there is always something asked the department squire if he majestic in Ferranti's singing of that would like to have the clergyman called We furnish the REPUBLICAN and song. People burst into sympathetic in to pray with him to which he re-

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