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INFERNAL MACHINES.

Full Description of Their Composition and Mission.

The words "infernal machine" have been buzzing in the popular ear for several years past, and sanguinary demagogues, Communistic and Nihilistic, have rolled the lugubrious term like a sweet morsel upon their wagging tongues; but the public has been kept in utter ignorance as to the exact nature of these explosive compounds, which are beginning to play such an important part in the every day political history of Great Britain and the Continent. The nefarious business has developed to an unsuspected extent, but its growth has been silent. It was not until within the last twelve months, when this country was made the principal basis of operations, that the English detectives, able to see from afar those things which had flourished unobserved under their very noses, grasped the full importance of the movement and published it to the world. Even all the blatant utterances of O'Donovan Rossa, mild-mannered man that he is, pregnant with prophecies of huge and terrible machines of destruction, have not, quiveringly enough, directed the attention of the public to a proper appreciation of the secret work of which he is the open apostle. In New York city to-day, and in Philadelphia, infernal machines of every conceivable pattern are being manufactured, in many instances within a stone's throw of the headquarters of the law. Every day there go out from the ports of these two cities not less than two dozen of these machines, any one of them of the power of that which caused the recent explosion in London. Once in a while a machine is discovered on a ship about to sail. The officers seize it, but the other eleven machines on the same ship they fail to find for good and sufficient reasons. One machine was so placed that the custom house officials could not reasonably overlook it. It was carelessly packed, thereby giving the impression that all such machines are carelessly packed, or that they can be easily discovered. In this way the law is thrown off the scent. How easy is such an undertaking will most clearly appear from a description of a few of the machines, such as are in great demand among the Fenians, and Nihilists of Russia. The most common form of infernal machine is that known as

sunk in water, or secreted in any fluid or compound—in a box of oranges, a keg of nails, or a loaf of bread. The force of the explosion would be sufficient to tear the largest building in the world to atoms. If placed in the basement of the Capitol at Washington and set off, not one stone would be left standing upon another. A most peculiarly constructed machine is the "Little Exterminator." It is two inches high and four inches square, of thin sheet brass, nicked on the inside and outside, and has no lid—only a minute hole in one corner. The machine is filled with a volatile oil, the fumes of which cause instantaneous death. The principle is the same as that of the ancient Chinese "stinkpot." A thin brass tube runs in through the small hole in one corner, having upon its outer end a screw cap. Upon this cap is a delicate watch movement. A spring falls into a slot and releases a minute steel spring saw, which is operated by the movement, and saws off the delicate tube. This establishes direct communication with the oxygen of the air, which ignites the volatile. The most sickening perfumes pour out from the box, killing every person within a radius of 100 feet. The sensation of this volatile is like that caused by Cayenne pepper. There is an intense burning in the mouth, ears and eyes and around the heart. Respiration is snatched away as it by a puff of hot air. Experiments have been made upon cats. They die in less than three seconds. There is a class of infernal machines known as

"BOTTLE MACHINES." The most ordinary forms are inclosed in pin beer-bottles, which can be conveniently carried in the coat-pocket. The neck of the bottle is hermetically sealed with a rubber cork, through which runs a brass tube divided into two parts by a thin metallic disk, usually made of brass. The top compartment of the tube is shut off from the air by means of a screw tap, through which, in turn, runs a key. Also contained in this upper compartment is a small vial of powerful acid. By turning the key the vial is broken, and the acid, falling upon the disk, eats into the powder, which is packed closely. The time of explosion depends upon the thickness of the disk. The acid, the instant it comes in contact with the powder, explodes it. A large number of these machines were made for the Nihilists, to be used at the coronation of the czar. The newest invention and one which has met with much favor in St. Petersburg, is what is called the "Hat Exploder." Two exceedingly thin circular disks of sheet brass, having a layer of powder an inch thick, are soldered and riveted hermetically together, and sewn in the top of an ordinary hat. The entire weight of the machine, although it contains the equivalent of eighty pounds of powder, is only sixteen ounces. The hat is waved or thrown up in the air. Falling it explodes. The device looks for all the world like two pancakes stuck together. A great many hand-grenades are made in New York. They are hollow balls of iron, through which runs a tube, surmounted by a brass button. The button is lead. The grenade falls by force of gravity upon the side on which is the heavy lead button. The button is pressed, breaks a vial of acid, and the acid causes the explosion. A grenade three and one-half inches in diameter contains the equivalent of 100 pounds of powder. The eight-day machine has been made in Greece, fire, which is set off by the clock work, burning down the building in which it is placed. In this instance there is no explosion. It is wonderful to what extremes of ingenuity the inventors of infernal machines have gone. Machines have been and are being made in the shape of chunks of coal. They explode when thrown on the fire. Holgate has made a novel machine in the shape of a satchel. The handle connects with a vial inside, or with a spring falling into a slot. Lifting the satchel, or touching the handle explodes it. Not long ago in New York a machine of the pancake pattern was so constructed as to be made into

Walking on the soles for a certain length of time causes them to explode, and woe be unto the unfortunate possessor. The demand for infernal machines increases constantly, and from the most unexpected sources. There are living in New York and Philadelphia representatives of all the revolutionary societies in the world. They are not confined to Europe, but extend through Mexico and South America. A considerable number of eight-day and thirty-hour machines have been made in Philadelphia, and sent to San Domingo and Hayti. A large order is now awaiting shipment into Mexico. Born alone of the South American countries has used them. There were sent at one time into that kingdom a dozen of the eight-day machines, and this within six months. Italy, Germany, and Austria buy plentifully. From certain indications it would appear that some sort of a movement is speedily contemplated in Italy. An unusually large number of machines have been bought in Philadelphia to be sent to that country, and orders are coming in constantly. Holgate was asked the other day what would be the effect of the explosive act now before the Pennsylvania legislature. He said: "It will be ineffectual. My machines are not infernal machines until they are made so. Anything can be made into an infernal machine—an orange, a hat, a boot, a coat, a shovel, a pound of sugar—anything, in fact. To crush the business in this way is impossible."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Col. Fred Grant has settled down in Morristown, N. J., with the intention, it is asserted, of running for congress in that district next fall. The district is now represented by Hon. Wm. Walter Phelps, who is said to be aspirant for the Republican nomination for vice-president.

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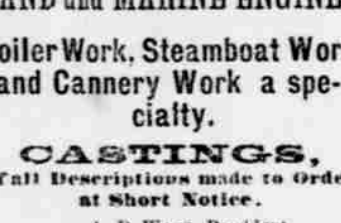
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LEAVE PORTLAND: 5:30 P. M. McMinnville 8:30 P. M. McMinnville 5:45 A. M. Portland 8:30 A. M. Close connections made at Grant's Pass with the Stages of the Oregon and California Stage Company.

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