

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.

DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Extract of a letter from William Edwards, of Northampton, to the Postmaster at that place, dated November 29th, 1809.

Having been regularly bred to the business of Tanning, and this having been my sole occupation for twenty-five years, I have been led to reflect with much regret the general inferiority of American leather, compared with most European, and particularly English manufactured. A want of capital has been the great cause of the depressed state of this manufacture. The hide, in its natural state, is a mass of fibres; the interstices between the fibres is filled with a fleshy substance; to expel these without injuring the fibres, and then to fill the vacuum completely and entirely with what the chymists call Tannin, contained in bark, is the whole art of Tanning. To do this effectually years of time is necessary, and repeated applications of fresh bark to the hide at proper periods. The establishment which I have made in this county will receive sixteen thousand full grown hides, and requires a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. We have three Tanneries, for the convenience of collecting bark, rather than do all our business at one place, which would necessarily soon produce a scarcity of bark; we use such a quantity—say one cord to six hides; we have six hundred and seventy-two vats, three bark mills, which grind our bark by water, between two stones, as corn is ground. We have the same number of hide mills, which go by water, for softening foreign hides, taking off the hair, and working the hides. Also, three rolling machines, which also go by water. These produce a very advantageous effect in perfectly extending and consolidating the seal leather after it is tanned, and superseding the necessity of the shoemaker's hammering the leather; saves entirely the labour and waste attending that part of the shoemaker's business, and gives the leather a closeness of texture by far beyond hammering or any other plan now practised.—Also I have found much advantage by applying heat, by means of a copper cylinder, adapted to the purpose, passing through rats, we call leeches, in which we make the last effort to extract the Tannin from the bark, after the bark with a decoction, has been for from thirty to ninety days applied to the hide. Most of the above methods I have originated, and from long experience find the success attending them has abundantly equalled my expectations.

Extract of a letter from William Whittemore, of West Cambridge, to the Collector of Boston, dated 24th November, 1809.

The machinery with which we now manufacture all kinds of Wool and Cotton Cards that have been called for, were invented by Amos Whittemore, in the year 1797; he then obtained the exclusive privilege of using said machines, by letters patent, for fourteen years. Amos Whittemore and myself were jointly concerned in the first machines that were built, and are still the sole proprietors of the patent. Congress, at their last winter session, extended the patent fourteen years, by a special act. We have fifty-five of those patent machines, thirty-seven of which are now in use; these machines, with the other apparatus necessary to carry on the business to its present extent, have cost us about forty thousand dollars. We have now employed in the factory upwards of forty hands—we manufacture weekly one hundred and eighty dozen pair of hand cards, and two hundred square feet of cards for the woollen and cotton factories, which together amount to about two thousand dollars.

Worcester, Nov. 29, 1809.

Hon. Henry Dearborn, Esq.

Sir—Having invented a cheap and simple method of manufacturing wood screws from iron wire, I obtained a patent for the same from the United States in July last; and finding it extremely difficult by any means within my power to obtain wire of suitable size; I was induced to attempt the manufacturing of it; and, as a necessary appendage, to connect this business with that of screw making, the process being so easy and simple that two men of common capacity can manufacture from rods, about the size of common nail rods, three hundred weight of assorted screw wire per day; in the same time a man with two boys can make from the wire twenty gross of screws of a quality very much superior to those usually imported. The expense of constructing screw machines upon the principles of my patent is small, and the capital now employed (the business being yet in its infancy) but in one year, with the capital I can command, it would be in my power to erect as many machines as would enable me to supply the United States with that article, and of a quality much superior to any ever imported, and at as low a rate as are now paid for those imported of an inferior quality.

Boston, Sept. 25, 1809.

With two brothers I am interested in the manufacture of cut nails. We have an establishment at Malden, five miles from Boston, where we have in operation twenty-two patent machines upon J. Reed's plan of cutting and heading with the same operation. We are also interested in two establishments upon the same plan in the vicinity of Philadelphia. One situated on Chester creek, where we have ten machines, the other situated on French creek, where we are preparing to erect twenty machines. The three manufactures, with the mill streams, buildings and machinery necessary for that purpose, when the French creek establishment is completed, with two rolling and slitting mills already built, will cost ninety thousand dollars. The active capital employed, seventy-five thousand dollars. With the fifty-two machines, sixty men and boys are rendered capable of manufacturing, from the nail plates, fifteen hundred tons of nails per year; and by multiplying the number of machines, a quantity could be manufactured more than adequate to the consumption of the United States.

The fact is, that American iron, although the ore is excellent, is brought to market, sold in an unfinished state; it is not sufficiently hammered to be sound, and it is hammered in a state so cold, that the seams and cracks, of which there are many, do not close and weld; the iron, therefore, to the worker or consumer is worth less, by ten dollars per ton, than iron finished in the style of Russia or Sweden;

and this is true all, for the ends of the bars of American iron are so unsound, that they are only fit for snap iron, and in fact are cut off and sold as such by the manufacturer; who pays full price for them, losing thereby \$ 25, besides loss sustained by transportation and frequent handling. This being the case, and the manufacturer not being disposed to a reform, I should be sorry to be left in their hands, or be subject to their pleasure, so much as I would be, if our government would adopt any effectual measures to prevent the importation of iron, under the mistaken impression that our country is at present capable of producing a sufficient quantity for its own consumption. Any thing that would tend permanently to advance the price of iron, by increasing the demand, would tend to increase its inferiority in point of intrinsic value, for when any article in our markets of home manufacture produces the highest price, and is in demand, it is frequently hurried off hand in a very unfinished and slovenly manner, even in such an imperfect state as would not, in common times, sell at any price; it is therefore necessary, that our country should be protected from impositions of this kind, and that instead of prohibiting the importation of iron, as some would have it, it should continue to be encouraged until we can be supplied at home with less hazard—these occasional remarks you can think of, and, if proper, use them to advantage.

Boston, August 18, 1809.

The importance in Massachusetts of Nail machinery, and of all that relates to rolling and slitting mills, with which said machinery is immediately connected, requires that a particular account should be given of them.

In old countries nails are forged; here they are cut, and it is curious to trace the progress of American genius, through the various steps of this invention. Twenty years ago some men, now unknown and then obscure, began by cutting slices out of old hoops, and by a common vice gripping those pieces, headed them with several strokes of the hammer. Gradually slitting mills were built and the shears and the heading tools were perfected; yet much labour and expense were requisite to make nails. In a little while Jacob Perkins, Jonathan Ellis and a few others put into execution the thought of cutting and of heading nails by water; but more intent upon their machinery than upon their pecuniary affairs, they were unable to prosecute the business. At different times different men have spent fortunes in improvements, and it may be said with truth, more than a million of dollars; but at last these joint efforts are crowned with complete success, and we are now able to manufacture at about one third of the expense that wrought nails can be manufactured for, nails which are superior to them for at least three fourths of the purposes to which nails are applied, and which, for seven eighths of those purposes, are as good. The machine made use of by Odiorne, that lately invented by Jonathan Ellis, and a few others, present very fine specimens of American genius.

To northern carpenters it is well known, that in almost all instances it is not necessary to bore the wood before driving a cut nail. All that is required is to place the cutting edge of the nail across the grain of the wood. It is also true that cut nails will hold better in the wood. These qualifications are, in some instances, worth twenty per cent. of the value of the article, which is equal to the whole expense of manufacturing it. For sheathing and drawing, cut nails are full as good as wrought nails. Only in one respect are the best wrought nails a little superior to cut nails, and that is where it is necessary that they should be clinched. The manufacture of cut nails was born in our own country, and has, within its bosom, advanced through all the various stages of infancy to manhood, and no doubt we shall soon be able, by receiving proper encouragement, to render them superior to wrought nails in every particular.

Wrentham, Oct. 1, 1809.

STRAW BONNETS.

This business commenced in this town in the year 1801; at that time the English straw bonnet had become the fashionable out-door head-dress of the ladies in large towns, who are allowed always to take the lead in the fashions. The prices demanded for them were so great as to prevent the farmer's daughters purchasing them. A young lady, stimulated with a desire to appear not less fashionable than those who were better able, or more willing to pay an extravagant price for a bonnet, conceived that she might, with her own ingenuity and industry, fabricate one for herself, equal in quality and less in expense than an English bonnet would cost. The bonnet was soon completed, and was thought to be no way inferior to the English. This first successful effort of the young lady soon commanded customers, who were furnished with bonnets at about half the price which were paid for those imported.

The demands for these bonnets increasing, others were induced to try their ingenuity. These small attempts were generally crowned with success. In a few months the manufacture of bonnets exceeded the domestic demand for them. The surplus were entrusted to the care of a man who frequented the market at Boston with the common productions of the country, who made such returns as to not only encourage the first adventurers to continue the business, but to induce others also to become adventurers; so that at the end of one year the bonnet business had become an important article of traffic in this vicinity. Since which the business has annually increased, and the demands for hats and bonnets becomes more and more extensive. The principal part of this business is done in the towns of Wrentham, Franklin, Medway, Medfield, Billingham, Walpole, Sharon and Foxborough. Some towns in the counties of Bristol and Worcester have likewise entered into this business. This concise history of a manufactory, which owes its commencement to mere accident, may not be uninteresting to you; in which I have been a little particular, to shew from what small beginnings an important article of merchandize may be produced.—Could you have believed that the annual amount of straw hats and bonnets made in the town of Wrentham alone, is equal to 100,000 dollars? This I suppose to be within bounds; for the amount in the other towns in the county of Norfolk above mentioned, I add \$ 100,000 more; this sum is, perhaps, much too small. Bristol and Worcester manufac-

* This town contains 2061 inhabitants.

ture to a considerable amount, and the business has commenced, I have been informed, in the other parts of the state.

It is to be understood that the above sum of 200,000 dollars is exclusive of hats and bonnets made and worn by those who manufacture them.—These bonnets and hats are exported, not only to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Virginia, North Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah and New Orleans, but to several of the West India Islands.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

Governor Trumbull's life was eminently useful, amiable and respectable, and his death will long be deplored by the people of the State, with sincere and unaffected sorrow. He was the son of a man who was also many years Governor of Connecticut, and whose name will ever be mentioned with honor, among the illustrious characters that will adorn the annals of the American nation. He received his education at Harvard College.

On the commencement of the war between this country and Great Britain in the year 1775, he entered the army, and continued in it until the peace of 1783: having been for a considerable time in the family of Gen. Washington, as his private Secretary, and one of his aid-de-camps. Gov. Trumbull ever possessed the friendship and confidence of the Commander in Chief, and he left the army with the reputation of a brave, active and faithful officer.

In civil life Governor Trumbull has been repeatedly a member, and Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Legislature of the State: a member of Congress, and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States: a Senator of the United States; Lieutenant Governor, and Governor of the State—to the last office, he has annually been elected since the year 1798.

BONAPARTE.—AN EXTRACT.

The present sovereign of France, though he has lived only half the common age of man, is the most wonderful character that the world has produced. Immeasurably ambitious, indefatigably active, a consummate politician, a daring soldier, a splendid protector of the fine arts, he is greedy of every species of renown, and anxious to eclipse the splendour of ancient and modern times. His flatterers seldom talk now of his military exploits, but dwell upon his policy, his institutions, and his public works. To compare him with Alexander, Cæsar, or Charles XII. is viewing only parts of his character. He directs the movements of his veteran armies, and suggests the measures of his intriguing cabinet. The acts of every department of government emanate from him, and every proposition is submitted to his revision. His generals or his ministers perish at his nod, and his senate and noblesse hold their existence at his will. He has planted himself in the middle of Europe, while his numerous branches spreading over tributary kingdoms, like those of the sacred tree of India, take root, and are all connected with the parent stock. He knows that after the bloody proscriptions of Sylla, the monster died in his bed, and that the clemency of Cæsar cost him his life; he therefore never does a deed of mercy, but through policy, nor is ever turned by compunction; from an act of useful cruelty. He found the chariot of government drawn at random, with frantic, revolutionary vigour, while those who feebly held the reins, were buried from their places and trampled under foot: he vaulted into the seat, converted it into a car of Victory, which, with sounding lash, and steady impetuosity, he drives over prostrate Europe.

Some have supposed, judging him by other men, that conscience would haunt and distract him. Be not deceived.—Ambition is not impeded a moment; the hour of conscience has not yet arrived. He has no leisure for conscience. The new map of Europe is not yet completed; some plans of conquest are yet unexecuted; some nations, that have been overrun, are yet unsettled. If he be destined to sit in triumph on the conquered world; if the nations of Europe, accustomed to their chains, wear them without murmuring to reluctance; then, alas! too late for freedom, the mighty despot, with no other world to conquer, may find instead of the charms of repose, the horrors of conscience.

MARSHAL LASNES, LATE DUKE OF MONTEBELLO.

The curiosity which has been excited by the death of this gallant soldier, may perhaps receive some small satisfaction, by the following brief account of his life.—Marshal Lasnes, it is said, was the son of an innkeeper in the south of France; he entered the army as a private, a short time previous to the revolution, but was soon after promoted. The first official account we have of him, is, that he was appointed a General of Brigade in the army of Italy in 1793. At the battle of Lodi, in conjunction with Massena and others, he led the troops across the bridge, in face of a tremendous fire from the Austrian artillery; and at the action in the village of Arcole he was carried off the field covered with wounds. Marshal Lasnes followed the fortunes of Bonaparte, when he undertook his expedition to Egypt. In this campaign he displayed his usual intrepidity, and was severely wounded at the assault upon St. Jean de Acre. He was one of the favourite generals who accompanied Bonaparte when he returned to France. Soon after his arrival he was appointed to the command of the van-guard of the army in Italy, and greatly signalized himself in the actions which took place previous to the battle of Marengo, particularly at Montebello, from which he afterwards derived his title. At the conclusion of the war, he was sent by the first Consul as Ambassador to Portugal, where he continued several years. In the last war with Austria, Marshal Lasnes held a distinguished command, and gained considerable credit by his conduct, particularly at the celebrated battle of Austerlitz, where he commanded the left wing of the French army. His daring courage, in the late wars, and at the assault of Saragossa, are too well known to need a recital. After many victories gained by him in the present war, he received a mortal wound, at the late action on the Danube, of which he lingered till the 31st of May, when he expired. He had received 13 wounds during his life, and was supposed to be one of the bravest and most skillful generals that the world has produced.

The Star.

RALEIGH,

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1810.

John Grant Rencher, Esq. was appointed Sheriff of this county on Monday last.

His Excellency John Treadwell is elected Governor of Connecticut, and his Honour Roger Griswold Lieutenant Governor.

Roger Nelson, Esq. Representative in Congress from the state of Maryland, is appointed by the Governor and Council of that state Associate Justice of the 5th judicial district, vice William Clagett, deceased.

A late Nashville paper mentions that two cotton manufactories are about to be erected in the vicinity of that place.

Having received information that several vessels had been fitted and armed within the waters of the United States, with intent to cruise against the subjects of a foreign prince with whom the U. S. are at peace, government has issued instructions to institute prosecutions against all persons whatever who may have been or shall hereafter be concerned in the fitting out and arming of any such vessel, or the augmenting of the force of any such vessel.

National Intelligencer.

New York Congressional Election.—The following gentlemen are elected members of the 12th Congress for the state of N. York.

Ebenezer Sage, Sam'l L. Mitchell, William Paulding, Pierre Van Cortlandt, jun. James Estlin, Thomas B. Cooke, Asa Fitch, R. L. Livingston, Harmanus Bleecker, Silas Stow, Thomas R. Gold, Arunah Metcalf, Uri Tracy, Daniel Avery, Peter B. Porter.

New York, May 10.—Gen. Moreau gave a very splendid ball, at his house in pearl-street, last Monday evening. Among the ladies and gentlemen of distinction present, were Mr. Jackson, (the British Ex-Minister), and his lady.

James River Canal.—There were brought down the Canal, from the upper country, to Richmond, for a period commencing the 1st of January and ending the 7th April, 1810 (little more than three months) 9784 hhds. Tobacco and 29,594 bbls. of Flour. It has emphatically been said, that "bridges, turnpikes and canals, were the veins and arteries of the republic," and every day's experience tends to prove the accuracy of the assertion.—Virg. Patriot.

The " Gordian Knot; or, Causes and effects," a Play, has been written by Mr. Hurby, of Charleston S. C. and is to be performed at the theatre in that City.

Humphry Marshall, Esq. a gentleman of very distinguished abilities, has issued proposals for publishing a Federal Republican paper in Kentucky.

Baltimore, May 10.—Schooner Fairy arrived at New York, reports that Cueta, opposite Gibraltar, was in possession of the British. The British sent several Americans into Malta, bound to Naples, for having certificates of origin, detained till they hear from England. An American brig bound to Naples, was also sent into Malta and immediately released without trial. [The Fairy left Gibraltar the 3d April.]

Norfolk May 16, 1810.—By the brig Samuel Capt. Covel, we have Cadiz papers to the 1st of April—we submitted them to the perusal of a gentleman versed in the Spanish language, who says that there is not an article worth translating, being principally filled with details of petty skirmishes in the interior of Spain; that the operations of the French are nearly nugatory; that the armies in and near Cadiz were inactive; and that Cadiz was well supplied with every thing necessary for a long siege, and vessels daily arrived with provisions and water.

Arrived here this morning in the ship Rolla, capt. Sanford, from Lisbon, which place he left the 6th of April. The British and Portuguese army of 100,000 men were on the frontiers, where they had been for some time: the French had not attempted to advance.—The day before captain S. sailed a fleet of transports, with troops and horses had arrived.—Fifteen thousand men, were daily expected from England to reinforce Lord Wellington's Army.

Markets for corn and flower were good, the former 2 dollars per bushel, and the latter \$ 13 per barrel and looking up.

Yesterday a number of vessels, nearly 70 sail, which had been detained for some time by a continuation of easterly winds, got under way from Hampton Roads, and proceeded to sea.

Extract of a letter from Antigua, dated the twenty-fourth day of April 1810, to a gentleman in New York.

I must beg leave to inform you, that the admiral has received orders to prevent the importation of American articles in any bottoms, via St. Bartholomews; consequently the trade of that island has ceased, and the Americans now in that port are placed in a very awkward situation.

The ship Hercules, which put into this port in distress, has been repaired, and will sail for N. York from the 1st to the 10th May.

Communicated for the Federal Republican.

Having received official information that the exportation of flour, biscuit or other provisions or lumber, from this island, to any of the British ports in the West Indies is prohibited by his Britannic majesty; every individual residing in this island is hereby warned not to expose any such articles to be captured, as all officers of British ships of war have received orders to seize on all vessels attempting the breach of such orders.

Given at Cistavia the 14th April, 1810. (Signed) H. ANKERHEIM. Copy SAMUEL FAHLBERG.

SHOCKING!!!—The following tale of woe should serve as a caution to parents not to permit their children to witness scenes of cruelty of any description whatever. Monday last Mr. Hall, a miller at King's Bridge, Devon, having employed