

AN INTERESTING SKETCH.

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

OF THE

WHEELER & WILSON

SEWING MACHINE.

The following sketch, which we have prepared from the most reliable data, will be read with interest by thousands whose families have been made happier, healthier and wealthier by the most beneficent of modern inventions...

WHEELER & WILSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Feeling that the increasing popularity and extensive sale of their celebrated Sewing Machines demanded a large Repository for the accommodation of their numerous patrons and friends, have lately opened one of the most elegant and tastefully arranged establishments in this city...

THE SEWING MACHINE.

ITS ORIGIN, INTRODUCTION INTO GENERAL USE, PROGRESS, AND EXTENT OF ITS MANUFACTURE. The first patent granted in this country for a machine to sew, as a substitute for hand labor, was made on February 21st, 1842, to John J. Greenough, of Washington city...

THE ORIGIN OF THE INVENTION.

It is a well known fact that the sewing machine, as we understand it, was first invented by a man named Thomas Saint, who lived in the year 1790. He was a Scotchman, and his invention was first used in the year 1800.

THE INFANCY OF SEWING MACHINES.

Important as the invention has proved, the public was slow to see it, and like many others, it did not bring that "independent fortune" until after years of hard deferred. The infancy of sewing machines needed much nursing, and the invention came near perishing before it was appreciated.

WONDERFUL ACCURACY OF THESE MACHINES.

We may here state that one of the secrets of the success of the Wheeler & Wilson machines over all others found in the fact of their superior manufacture, in point of absolute accuracy. It is this that renders them more simple and easy to operate than any others, and that makes them so durable that they will bear use for almost a life-time without needing to be repaired.

THE WOOD WORK FOR CASES, &c.

This branch of the establishment is very extensive, occupying hundreds of workmen. In making tables, all are formed of layers of wood crossing the course of the grain, five layers deep, firmly glued and pressed together, so they can neither split nor warp.

IMPROVEMENTS ON HOWE'S MACHINE, AND INNOVATING PATENTS.

Howe's patent was dated September 10, 1847. The next issue was dated November 28, 1848, to John A. Bradshaw, Lowell, Mass., for a contrivance to give a continuous tension to the thread as it unwound from the bobbin, and passed through the eye of the needle.

WILSON'S SEWING-MACHINE PATENTS.

The most important of all the sewing-machine patents ever granted, are those made to A. B. Wilson, of Pittsfield, Mass., the first, November 13th, 1850. This was for a two-fold improvement of the Howe Machine. He recognized the "lock-stitch," as the sine qua non, but as it was obtained in Howe's Machine, by moving a shuttle along a slide, which must be kept well lubricated, and required some power, and had to go returns at every stitch, Wilson undertook to produce the same result at each more of the shuttle.

and circumstances brought them together, and their joint production were called the "Wheeler & Wilson Machines." In 1852 they turned out from a small shop in Waterbury, Conn., eight or ten machines per week, mostly hand-made, and coarse compared to those made for less than half the cost in 1862.

THE ROTATING HOOK—ITS OPERATION. The ingenuity of this contrivance is wonderful from its remarkable simplicity; it dispenses with the dirt of lubrication, and requires no addition to the power needed to drive the machine, while the stitches are made more rapidly. A good deal of time is also saved in winding the bobbins to form the lock-stitch.

THE MANUFACTURE OF SEWING MACHINES. Very few persons have an idea of the magnitude which the manufacture of sewing machines has attained in this country. The following persons and companies pay a royalty to Mr. Howe for the use of his patent...

SAVING OF MONEY AND LABOR IN THE USE OF SEWING MACHINES—VALUABLE STATISTICS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. The following calculation only approximates the saving of time, which is money, by the use of sewing machines. The writer has calculated upon the basis of forty articles for which the machine is used, yet look at the sum total! Look, too, at the time saved in every family, and think of the aggregate.

LATE REDUCTION IN THE PRICES OF WHEELER & WILSON'S MACHINES. The curtailment of litigation expenses, consequent upon the recent decision of the Supreme Court, which confirmed the validity of Mr. Howe's patents, has enabled them to benefit the public by important reductions in the prices of their machines.

SCHEDULE OF PRICES. NO. 1 MACHINE, SEWER PLATED, WITH Plain Table. Half Case, Painted, Black Walnut. 72 00 Half Case, Polished, Black Walnut or Mahogany. 80 00

NO. 2 MACHINE, WITH Plain Table. Half Case Painted. 62 00 Half Case Polished, Black Walnut or Mahogany. 68 00

NO. 3 MACHINE WITH Plain Table. Half Case Painted. 52 00 Half Case Polished, Black Walnut or Mahogany. 58 00

THE FAMOUS "LOCK-STITCH." The "lock-stitch" made by the Wheeler & Wilson Machine is formed with two threads, one upon each side of the fabric sewed, and interlocked with each other in the centre of it. It forms an elastic seam, that cannot be unravelled, and presents the same appearance upon each surface. Its excellence is palpable and practical.

WHAT THE WHEELER & WILSON MACHINES ARE CELEBRATED FOR. 1. Beauty and elegance of stitch alike upon both sides of the fabric sewed. 2. Strength, firmness and durability of seam, that will not rip or break, and made with a needle and thread, and made with a needle and thread.

THE QUESTION OF "TENSION." Besides the feed and the machinery for making the stitch, the tension of the thread has commanded more attention than anything else. No matter what the stitch made, this difficulty has to be met. The trouble has been to adjust the tension on the two threads, that the point of interlocking shall be in the proper position. This is a matter of great difficulty when the thread is used from the original spool, on account of the irregularity with which these spools are made.

HIGHEST PREMIUMS. The highest premiums were awarded to Wheeler & Wilson at the International Exhibition, London, 1862; Industrial Exposition, Paris, in 1855, and at the Centennial Exhibition, New York, 1853. They were also awarded at the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876.

SOME ADDITIONAL FACTS ABOUT THE WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE. It would be folly to attempt any higher eulogy upon the world-renowned Sewing Machine of Wheeler & Wilson (sold in this city at their elegant warehouse, No. 704 Chestnut St.) than the statement of the fact, that wherever the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine has been exhibited for competition, either on this or the other side of the Atlantic, it has, without a single exception, taken the highest prize.

NUMBER OF STITCHES MADE PER MINUTE. By Hand. With Machine. Radio. Stitching fine Linen. 2 62 28 Stitching Satin. 2 50 22 Stitching Silk. 2 40 18

THE "NAME" OF THE WHEELER & WILSON MACHINE. The name is accidental. A. B. Wilson was an inventor. Nathaniel Wheeler was a manufacturer, and we also find that by the recent attachment to the Wheeler & Wilson machine, the company had to supply the great demand for their machines in this country and Europe.

and, with the most improved machinery, the company had to supply the great demand for their machines in this country and Europe.

WHO BUYS AND USES THESE MACHINES? It is estimated that there are now in use in the city of New York and vicinity not less than 25,000 Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines, and there, wherever they are used, is where they still will be.

THE PECUNIARY ADVANTAGES OF THESE MACHINES. Now are the pecuniary advantages less. Instead of the half dollar paid for a day, lengthened far into the night, she receives from three to five times that amount for a day's employment of reasonable hours.

SOME OF THE GRAND RESULTS OF THE WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE. From what has been already said it will be seen that the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine, sold in this city at No. 704 Chestnut street, is not an experiment to be tried, but a success achieved, with benefits far exceeding the most sanguine expectation.

EMINENT OPINIONS OF THE WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINES. We conclude our sketch with the following quotations from the hundreds of commendatory letters, &c., that the Wheeler & Wilson Company are constantly receiving from all parts of the world:

What the steam engine proved, compared to horse-power, this beautiful machine is when set in opposition to the slow, patient progress of the ordinary needle.

Of it we can speak with entire confidence and confidence, after the use of one four years or more in our family. We look upon it as one of the benefactors of the age, and one which will constitute an era in the history of woman.

Click! click! click! While the coolers loud and free, And click! click! click! Is a merry sound to me, With bodice trim and neat, I seam, and gusset, and band, With my dainty slippered feet, And a small white fingered hand.

WHEELER & WILSON'S DIRECTIONS TO PERCHASERS. Messrs. Wheeler & Wilson have printed circulars, for gratuitous distribution, containing the woodcut illustrations of all their different priced machines, and all their individual parts, together with the most explicit directions for their use, printed in English, German, Spanish, French, and other languages, for the convenience of their customers in all parts of the world.

THE WHEELER & WILSON MACHINE IN THE FAMILY. By none has the Sewing Machine been more gratefully welcomed than by the Housewife, who is no longer equal to the burdens imposed upon her by necessity, fashion, and taste. A comfortably provided wardrobe for a family, consisting of husband, wife, and five children would be about as follows:

For the husband.—One dozen shirts, with bosoms and collars; four night shirts; two pairs of under-shirts and drawers; one dozen of pocket and neckerchiefs; one dozen pairs of stockings; one morning gown; one overcoat and two dress coats; three pairs of thick pantaloons and three thick vests; for winter, three coats, three pairs of pantaloons, three vests and one over coat for spring and fall; and for summer, three coats, six pairs of pantaloons and five vests. The wife would require one dozen dresses, of different materials; an equal number of skirts; and as many under-garments; one winter cloak and various other outer garments, according to fashion; one dozen pairs of hose and gloves, besides numerous cuffs, collars, under-steeves, aprons, handkerchiefs, &c.

For the children.—One dozen shirts, with bosoms and collars, for each of the parents, because they sell them more readily, wear them more rapidly, and also outgrow some. Bed-linen for five beds might consist of, ten pairs of sheets and blankets, ten pairs of pillow-cases, and ten pairs of bolster-cases, besides covers, counterpane, quilts, ticks, &c. Table and toilet linens might be set down at half a dozen table-cloths, four dozen napkins, and four dozen towels. In addition to the above, there are Bonnets, hoods, caps, curtains, carpets, covers, &c., that require the use of the needle in preparing them. Some of the articles above specified do not require renewing annually, but they all need more or less repair. The scantiness of the purse must be aided out by careful stitching and darning, which renders the amount of work about equal to making the garments anew.

Many articles of clothing are indeed purchased ready-made, but in many cases they are so poorly made, and in all cases so bad as to be a purchase is a choice of evils, and not of taste.

It is evident, however, from the above inventory of the family wardrobe, that no one pair of hands will do it, and that the Sewing Machine is a necessity. The Sewing Machine furnishes relief from these evils, and restores to woman time for the charities and amusements of life, the proper care of her children, and her own culture. Length of days, health, and happiness, are cheaply purchased for her at the price of a Sewing Machine.

THE SAVING MACHINES FOR THE WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE. For PRESENTS. The beauty and efficiency of the Wheeler & Wilson machines have always made them a great favorite for presenting purposes. We trust that this hint will be acted upon, especially as purchasing gifts is now particularly in season. Certainly, for Christmas presents, holiday gifts, bridal presents, presents to any lady, there could be nothing more exquisite, appropriate, and acceptable than one of these invaluable machines; and we advise our readers, therefore, to visit the elegant Drown Stone establishment No. 704 Chestnut street, without delay, and make their selections.

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THE TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PATENT COMMISSIONER IS PERTINENT TO THIS POINT: Rev. Dr. Trussard, in substance, that in view of the beneficial effect of Sewing Machines, he has taken much interest in endeavoring to have poor women supplied with them; and, as a result of his observation, that their condition was much improved by them, and that "intelligent sewing women are now generally satisfied of the importance and value of these machines."

THE PECUNIARY ADVANTAGES OF THESE MACHINES.

Now are the pecuniary advantages less. Instead of the half dollar paid for a day, lengthened far into the night, she receives from three to five times that amount for a day's employment of reasonable hours. In fact, in thousands of cases has the presentation of a sewing machine converted an object of charity self-supporting, and converted her into a thrifty and willing almoner. Mothers support families, and young women become co-pilgrims. It is not unusual to find the owner of a sewing machine earning from \$50 to \$100 per month.

EMINENT OPINIONS OF THE WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINES.

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I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the value of your Sewing Machine. It is the realization of all our imaginings of household fairies and good hard-working brooks that we get no payment.

What the steam engine proved, compared to horse-power, this beautiful machine is when set in opposition to the slow, patient progress of the ordinary needle.

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