\*\* All letters on business dressed to H. G. SMITH & Co.

should be ad

## Poetru.

CONTENTMENT. BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES. "Man wants but little here below." Idtle I ask; my wants are few;
I only wish a hut of stone,
(A very pich brown stone will do,)
That I may call my own;
And close at hand is such a one,
Inyonder street that fronts the sun. Piain food is quite enough for me; Three courses are as good as ten; If nature can subsist on three, Thank Heaven for three. Amen! I alwa's thought cold victuals nice,— My choice would be vanilla-lee. I care not much for gold or land;— Gave me a m.-rigage here and there, Some good bank stock, some note of hand, Or trifling railroad share,— I only ask that Fortune send A little more than I shall spend.

Honors are stilly toys, I know, and titles are but empty names; I would, perhaps be Plenipo-But only near St. James; I'm very sure I should not care To fill our Gubernator's chair. Jewels are baubles; 'tis a sin
To care for such unfrultful shings
one good sized diamond in a pin,
Some, not so large, in rings,
A ruby, and a pearl, or so,
Will do for me;—I laugh at show. My dame should dress in cheap attire, (Good, heavy silks are never dear.) I own perhaps I might desire some shawls of true Cashmere—Some shawls of true Cashmere—Some narrowy crapes of China silk, I like wrinkled sking on scaded milk.

Wealth's wasteful tricks I will not learn, Nor age the glittering upstart fool; Shair not carved tables serve my turn, But all mus be of built? Give grasping poon its double care,—I lisk but one recumbent chair.

Thus humble b t me live and die, Nor tong for Midas' gold-n touch If Heaven more generous gifts de I mait not miss them much,— Too grateful for the blessing lent Of stimple bastes and mild conten

## Biterary.

From the Atlantic Monthly. History of the Sewing Machine.

In Cornhill, Boston, thirty years ago, there was a shop for the manufacture and repair of nautical instruments and philosophical apparatus, kept by Ari Davis, Mr. Davis was a very Ingenious mechanic, who had invented a success ful dovetailing machine, much spoken of at the time, when inventions were not as numerous as they are now. Being thus a noted man in his calling, he gave way to the foible of affecting an oddity of dress and deportment. It pleased him to say extravagant and honsensi-cal things, and to go about singing, and to attract attention by unusual garments. Nevertheless, being a really skilful mechanic, he was frequently consulted by the inventors and improvers of machinery, to whom he sometimes gave a valuable suggestion. In the year 1839, two nren in Boston—one a mechanic, and the other a capitalist—were striving to produce a knit-ting-machine, which proved to be a task beyond their strength. When the incentor was at his wit's end, his capitalventor was at his wit's end, his capitalist brought the machine to the shop of Ari Davis, to see if that eccentric genius could suggest the solution of the difficulty, and make the machine work. The shop, resolving itself into a committee of the whole, gathered about the knitting machine and its proprietor, and the listenies of the whole and its proprietor. and were listening to an explanation of its principle, when Davis, in his wild, extravagant way, broke in with these words: "What are you bothering yourselves with a knitting-machine for? Why don't you make a sewing-machine." 'I wish I could," said the capitalist; "I wish technic said the capitalist," but it can't be done."
"O, yes, it can," said Davis; "I can make a sewing-machine myself."
"Well," said the other, "you do it, Davis, and I'll insure you an independent fortune."
There the conversation dropped, and

it was never resumed. The boastful remark of the master of the shop was considered merely one of his sallies of affected extravagance, as it really was; and the response of the capitalist to it was uttered without a thought of producing an effect. Nor did it proof producing an effect. For the person to whom it was addressed. Davis never attempted to construct a sewing-ma-

Among the workmen who stood by and listened to this conversation was a young man from the country, a new hand, named Elias Howe, then twenty years old. The person whom we have named the capitalist, a well-dressed and fine-looking man somewhat con-sequential in his manners, was an im-posing figure in the eyes of this youth, new to city ways; and he was much impressed with the emphatic assurance that a fortune was in store for the man who should invent a sewing machine He was the more struck with it, because he had already amused himself with in venting some slight improvements, and recently he had caught from Davis the habit of meditating new devices. The spirit of invention, as all mechanics know, is exceedingly contagious. One man in a shop who invents something that proves successful will give the mania to half his companious, and the very apprentices will be tinkering over a device after their day's work is done. There were other reasons, also, why conversation so trifling and accidenta a conversation so trilling and accidental should have strongly impressed itself upon the mind of this particular youth. Before that day, the idea of sewing by the aid of a machine had never occurred

to him.
Elias Howe, the inventor of the sewing-machine, was born in 1819, at Spencer, in Massachusetts, where his father was a farmer and miller. was a grist-mill, a saw-mill, and a shin-gle-machine on the place; but all of them together, with the aid of the farm, yielded but a slender revenue for a man blessed with eight children. It was a blessed with eight children. It was a custom in that neighborhood, as in New England generally, forty years ago, for families to carry on some kind of manu-facture at which children could assist. At six years of age, Elias Howe worked with his brothers and sisters at sticking the wire teeth into strips of leather for cards," used in the manufacture of cotton. As soon as he was old enough he assisted upon the farm and in the mills, attending the district school in the winter months. He is now of opinon, that it was the rude and simple mill belonging to his father which gave his mind its bent toward machinery; but he cannot remember that this bent was very decided, nor that he watched the operation of the mills with much attention to the mechanical principles in volved. He was a careless, play-lovin boy, and the first eleven years of his life sed without an event worth record tending to remain until he was twenty A kind of inherited lameness re dered the hard work of a farmer's boy distressing to him, and, after trying i for a year, he returned to his father? house, and resumed his place in the mills, where he continued until he wa One of his young friends, returnin from Lowell about this time, gave hir

such a pleasing description of that famous town, that he was on fire to go thither. In 1835, with his parents' reluctant consent, he went to Lowell, and of tained a learner's place in a large manu-factory of cotton machinery, where he remained until the crash of 1837. closed the mills of Lowell, and sent him adrift. a seeker after work. He went to Cam-bridge, under the shadow of venerable Harvard. He found employment there in a large machine-shop, and was set at work upon the new hemp-carding ma-chinery invented by Professor Tread-well. His cousin, Nathaniel P. Banks, since Speaker of the House of Representatives and Major General, worked in the same shop and boarded in the same house with him. After working months at Cambridge, Elias Howe found employment more congenial in Boston, at the shop of Ari Davis, where the conversation occurred which we

Judging merely by appearances, no one would have pitched upon him as the person likely to make one of the revolutionizing inventions of the age.

Steady labor was always irksome to him, and frequently, owing to the constitutional weakness to which we have alluded, it was painful. He was not the person to selze an idea with avidity, and work it out with the passionate devotion of a Watt or a Goodyear. The only immediate effect upon him of the conversation in the shop of Mr. Davis was to induce a habit of reflecting upon the art of sewing, watching the process as performed by hand, and wondering whether it was within the of the mechanic arts to do it by machinery. His uppermost thought, in those years, was, What a waste of power to employ the ponderous human arm, and all the intricate machinery of arm, and all the intricate machinery of the fingers, in performing an operation so simple, and for which a robin's strength would suffice! Why not draw twelve threads through at once, or fifty? And sometimes, while visiting a shop where army and navy clothing was made, he would look at the heaps of unsewed garments, all cut alike, all requiring the same stitch, the same number of stitches, and the same kind of seam, and say to himself, "What a nity this cannot be done by machinery

VOLUME 68

It is the very work for a machine to do." Such thoughts, however, only flitted through his mind now and then: he was still far from any serious attempt to construct a machine for sewing up the blue trousers.

At twenty-one, being still a journey-man machinist, earning nine dollars a week, he married; and, in time, chilling the serious in the convenient frequent dren came with inconvenient frequen cy. Nine dollars is a fixed quantity, or, rather, it was then, and the addition of three little mouths to be fed from it. and three little mouths to be led from its and three little backs to be clothed by it, converted the vivacious father into a thoughtful and plodding citizen. His day's labor at this time, when he was upon heavy work, was so fatiguing to him, that, on reaching his home, he upon neavy work, was so latiguing to him, that, on reaching his home, he would sometimes be too exhausted to eat, and he would go to bed, longing, as we have heard him say, "to lie in bed for ever and ever." It was the pressure of poverty and this extreme fatigue that caused him, about the year 1843. to set about the work of invent-1843, to set about the work of invent-ing the machine which, he had heard four years before, would be "an independent fortune" to the inventor. Ther it was that he caught the inventor's mania, which gives its victims no rest and no peace till they have accomplished the work to which they have abandoned

hemselves.

He wasted many months on a false cent. When he began to experiment, scent. When he began to experiment, his only thought was to invent a machine which should do what he saw his wife doing when she sewed. He took it for granted that sewing must be that, and his first device was a needle pointed at both ends, with the eye in the middle, that should work up and down middle, that should work up and down through the cloth, and carry the thread through it at each thrust. Hundreds of hours, by night and day, he brooded over this conception, and cut many a basket of chips in the endeavor to make something that would work such make something that would work such a needle so as to form the common stitch. He could not do it. One day, in 1844, the thought flashed upon him. Is it necessary that a machine should imitate the performance of the hand? May there not be another stitch? This was the crisis of the invention. The idea of using two threads and forming a of using two threads, and forming a stitch by the aid of a shuttle and a curved needle with the eye near the point, soon occurred to him, and he felt that he had invented a sewing-machine. It was in the mouth of Cotachine. It was in the month of Octo per, 1844, that he was able to convince himself, by a rough model of wood and wire, that such a machine as he had

wire, that such a machine as he had projected would sew.

At this time he had ceased to be a journeyman mechanic. His father had removed to Cambridge to establish a machine for cutting palm-leaf into strips for hats,—a machine invented by a brother of the elder Howe. Father and con were living in the same house. brother of the elder Howe. Father and son were living in the same house, into the garret of which the son had put a lathe and a few machinist's tools, and was doing a little work on his own account. His ardor in the work of invention robbed him, however, of many hours that might have been employed, his friends thought, to better advantage by the father of a family. He was extremely poor, and his father had lost his palm-leaf machine by a fire. With an invention in his by a fire. With an invention in his head that has since given him more than two hundred thousand dollars in than two nundred thousand dollars in a single year, and which is now yielding a profit to more than one firm of a thousand dollars a day, he could scarcely provide for has little family the necessaries of life. Nor could his invention be tested, except by making a machine of steel and iron, with the exactness and finish of a clock. At the present time, with a machine before im for a model, a good mechanic coul not, with his ordinary tools, construct a sewing machine in less than two a sewing machine in less than two months, nor at a less expense than three hundred dollars. Elias Howe had only his model in his head, and he had not money enough to pay for the raw maerial requisite for one machine.
There was living then at Cambridg
young friend and schoolmate of the

nventor, named George Fisher, a coand wood merchant, who had recently inherited some property, and was no disinclined to speculate with some of it The two friends had been in the habi of the sewing-machine. When the in of the sewing-machine. When the inventor had reached his final conception ventor had reached his final conception, in the fall of 1844, he succeeded in convincing George Fisher of its feasibility, which led to partnership between them for bringing the invention into use. The terms of this partnership were these: George Fisher was to receive into his house Elias Howe and his family, board them while Elias was making the machine, give up his garret making the machine, give up his garret for a workshop, and provide money for material and tools to the extent of five nundred dollars; in return for which he was to become the proprietor of one-half the patent, if the machine one-half the patent, if the machine proved to be worth patenting. Early in December, 1844, Elias Howe moved into the house of George Fisher, set up his shop in the garret, gathered materials about him, and went to work. It was a very small, low garret, but it sufficed for one zealous, brooding workman, who did not wish for gossining

man, who did not wish for gossiping It is strange how the great things come about in this world. This George Fisher, by whose timely aid such an inestimable boon was conferred upon womankind, was led into the enterprise as much by good nature as by expec-tation of profit, and it was his easy acquisition of his money that made it easy for him to risk it. So far as we know, neither of the partners indulged in any dream of benevolence. Howe wanted to invent a sewing-machine to deliver himself from that painful daily tail and Fisher was inclined to each are toil, and Fisher was inclined to aid an old friend, and not disinclined to own a share in a valuable patent. The greatest doers of good have usually proceed-ed in the same homely spirit. Thus Shakespeare wrote, thus Columbus sailed, thus Watt invented, thus Newsailed, thus watt invented, thus New-ton discovered. It seems, too, that George Fisher was Elias Howe's only convert. "I believe," testified Fisher in one of the great sewing-machine suits, "I was the only one of his neigh-bors and friends in Cambridge that had any confidence in the success of the invention. He was generally looked upon as very visionary in undertaking anything of the kind, and I was thought very foolish in assisting him." It is the old story.

All the winter of 1844-45 Mr. Howe worked at his machine. His conception of what he intended to produce was so delayed by failures, but worked on with almost as much certainty and steadialmost as much certainty and steadiness as though he had a model before him. In April he sewed a seam by his machine. By the middle of May, 1845, he had completed his work. In July he sewed by his machine all the seams of two suits of woollen clothes, one suit for Mr. Fisher and the other for his collection.

this machine, that Elias Howe, in making it, carried the invention of the sewing machine farther on towards its complete and final utility, than any other inventor has ever brought a first-rate invention at the trial. It is a little thing, that first machine, which goes into a box of the capacity of about a cubic foot and a half. Every contrivance in it has been since improved, and new devices have been added; but no successful—sewing machine has ever been made, of all the seven hundred thousand now in existence, which does not contain some of the essential de-vices of this first attempt. We make this assertion without hesitation or reserve, because it is, we believe, the one point upon which all the great makers are agreed. Judicial decisions have repeatedly affirmed it. Like all the other great inventors Mr. Howe found that, when he had completed his machine, his difficulties

thad but begun. After he had brough the machine to the point of making the few stitches, he went to Boston one day to get a tailor to come to Cambridge and arrange some cloth for sewing, and give his opinion as to the quality of the give his opinion as to the quality of the work done by the machine. The comrades of the man to whom he first applied dissuaded him from going, alleging that a sewing-machine, if it worked well, must necessarily reduce the whole fraternity of tailors to beggary; and this proved to be the unchangeable conviction of the tailors for the next ten years. It is probable that the machines first made would have been destroyed by violence but for another fixed opinby violence, but for another fixed opinion of the tailors, which was, that no machine could be made that would really answer the purpose. It seems strange now, that the tailors of Boston could have persisted so long in such an pinion; for Mr. Howe, a few week opinion; for Mr. Howe, it is weekers after he had finished his first model, gave them an opportunity to see what it could do. He placed his little engine in one of the rooms of the Quincy Hall Clothing Manufactory, and scatting him. self before it, offered to sew up any sean that might bebrought to him. One un-believing tailor after another brought a garment, and saw its long seams sewed perfectly, at the rate of two hundred and lifty stitches a minute; which was about seven times as fast as the work could be done by hand. For two weeks h sat there daily, and sewed up seams for all who chose to bring them to him. He amused himself, at intervals, in executing rows of ornamental stitching, and he showed the strength of the machine by sewing the thick plaited skirts of frock coats to the bodies. At last, he challenged five of the swiftest seamstresses in the establishment sew a race with the machine. Ten seams of equal length were prepared for sewing, five of which were laid by the machine, and the other five given to the girls. The gentleman who held the watch, and who was to decide the wager, testified, upon oath, that the five girls were the fastest sewers that could be found, and that they sewed "as fast as they could, —much faster than they were in the habit of sewing,"—faster than they could have kept on for one hour. Nevertheless, Mr. Howe finished his five seams a little sooner than the girls finished their five; and the umpire, who was himself a tailor, has sworn, that the week does on the machine was

work done on the machine was the neatest and strongest."
Upon reading testimony like this, we wonder that manufacturers did not instantly set Mr. Howe at work making sewing machines. Notone was ordered. Not a tailor encouraged him by word or Some objected that the machine did not make the whole garment. Others dreaded to encounter the fierce opposition of the journeymen. Others really thought it would beggar all hand sewers, and refrained from using it on principle. Others admitted the utility of the machine and the excellence of the work done by it; but said they, it was a doing well as we are and We are doing well as we are, and fear to make such a change." The great cost of the machine was a most serious obstacle to its introduction. A year or two since, Mr. Howe caused a copy of his first machine to be made for exhioition in his window, and it cost him wo hundred and fifty dollars. In 1845 he could not have furnished his machine for less than three hundred dollars, and a large clothier or shirtmaker would have required thirty or forty of

them. The inventor was not disheartened by the result of the introduction of the achine. The next thing was to get the invention patented, and Mr. Howe again shut himself up in George Fish er's garret for three or four months, and made another machine for deposit in the Patent Office. In the spring of 1846, there being no prospect of reve nue from the invention, he engaged as "engineer" upon one of the railroads terminating at Boston, and "drove" a locomotive daily for some weeks; but the labor proved too much for his strength, and he was compelled to give it up. Late in the summer, the model and the documents being ready for the Patent-Office, the two associates treated

themselves to a journey to Washington, where the wonderful machine was exhibited at a fair, with no results except to amuse the crowd. September 10 1846, the patent was issued, and soo ifter the young men returned to Cam bridge.

George Fisher was now totally dis couraged. He had maintained the inventor and his family for many months he had provided the money for the tools and material for two machines; he had paid the expense of getting the patent, and of the journey to Washington; he had advanced in all about two thousand dollars; and he saw not the remotest probability of the invention becoming profitable. Elias Howe moved back to his father's house, and George Fisher considered his advances in the light of a dead loss. "I had lost confidence." he has since testified, "In the machine's ever paying anything." But mothers and inventors do not

give up their offspring so. America having rejected the invention, Mr. Howe resolved to offer it to England. In October, 1846, his brother, Amasa B. Howe, with the assistance of their father, took passage in the steerage of a sailing packet, and conveyed one of the machines to London. An Englishman was the first manufacturer who had faith enough in the American sewing machine to invest money in it. In Cheapside, Amasa Howe came upon the shop of William Thomas, who em-ployed, according to his own account, five thousand persons in the manufacture of corsets, umbrellas, valises, car-pet-bags, and shoes. William Thomas examined and approved the machine examined and approved the machine. Necessity, as Poor Richard remarks, cannot make a good bargain; but the bargain which it made on this occasion through the agency of Amasa B. Howe, was signally bad. He sold to Mr. Thomas, for two hundred and fifty pounds attribute the machine he had pounds sterling, the machine he had brought with him, and the right to use as many others in his own business as he desired. There was also a verbal understanding that Mr. Thomas was to patent the invention in England, and, f the machine came into use there, he If the machine came into use there, he was to pay the inventor three pounds on every machinesold. That was an excellent day's work for William Thomas of Cheapside. The verbal part of the bargain has never been carried out. He patented the invention; and ever since the machines began to be used, all sewing-machines made in England, or imported into England, have paid tribute to him at the rate of ten pounds or less for each machine. Elias Howe is of opinion that the investment of that two hundred and fifty pounds has that two hundred and fifty pounds has yielded a profit of one million dollars. Mr. Thomas further proposes to engage the inventor to adapt the machine to

London, February 5, 1847. They went in the steerage, and cooked their own provisions. William Thomas provided provisions. William Thomas provided a shop and its requisites, and even ada snop and its requisites, and even avanced money for the passage to England of the inventor's family, who joined him soon,—wife and three children. After eight months of labor, the inventor succeeded in adapting his mathematical theorems of the tot. chine to the purposes of the stay-maker; and when this was done, the stay-maker apparently desired to get rid of the inventor. He required him to do the miscellaneous repairs, and took the tone with him which the ignorant purse-holder, in all lands, is accustomed to hold in his dealings with those to whom he pays wages. The Yankee, of course, resented this behavior, and William Thomas discharged Elias Howes

from his employment.

To be a poor stranger with a sick wife and three children in America, is to be in a purgatory that is provided with a practicable door into paradise. To be such a person in London, is to be n a hell without visible outlet.
Since undertaking to write this little history of the sewing-machine, we have gone over about thirty thousand pages of printed testimony taken in the numerous suits to which sewing-machine patents have given rise. Of all these pages, the most interesting are those from which we can gather the history

of Elias Howe during the next few months. From a chance acquaintance, named Charles Inglis, a coachmaker, who proved to be a true friend, he hired a small room for a workshop, in which, after borrowing a few tools, he began to construct his fourth sewing machine. ong before it was finished, he saw that Long before it was finished, he saw that he must reduce his expenses or leave his machine unfinished. From three rooms he removed his family to one, and that a small one, in the cheapest quarter of Surrey. Nor did that economy suffice; and he resolved to send his family home while he could, and trust to the machine in hand for the means to follow them. means to follow them. "Before his wife left London," tes-"Before his wife left London," tes-tifies Mr. Inglis, "he had frequently borrowed money from me in sums of five pounds, and requested me to get him credit for provisions. On the eve-ning of Mrs. Howe's departure, the night, was very wet and stormy, and her health being delicate, she was unable to walk

to the ship. He had no money to pay the cab-hire, and he borrowed a few shillings from me to pay it, which he repaid by pledging some of his clothing. Some linen came home from his washerwoman for his wife and children ou the day of herdeparture. She could not take it with her on account of not having money to pay the woman." After the departure of his family, the soli-tary inventor was still more severely pinched. "He has borrowed a shilling from me," says Mr. Inglis, "for the purpose of buying beans, which I saw him cook and eat in his own room." After three or four months of labor After three of four months of active the machine was finished. It was worth fifty pounds. The only customer he could find for it was a workingman of his acquaintance, who offered five pounds for it, if he could have time to pay it in. The inventor was obliged to

accept this offer. The purchaser gave his note for the five pounds, which Charles Inglis succeeded in selling to Charles Inglis for four pounds. To another mechanic for four pounds. To pay his debts and his expenses home Mr. Mowe pawned his precious first machine and his letters-patent. "He drew a hand-cart, with his baggage on it, to the ship, to save the expense of cartage"; and again he took passage in the steerage, along with his English friend, Charles Inglis. His brother Amasa had long before returned to

America. In April, 1849, Elias Howe landed in In April, 1848, Elias Howe landed in New York, after an absence of two years from the country, with half a crown in his pocket. Four years had nearly elapsed since the completion of his first machine, and this small piece of silver was the net result of his labors upon that invention. He and his friend went to one of the cheapest emigrant boarding houses, and Elias Howe sought employment in the machine-shops, which, luckily, he found without The news reached him soon delay. The news reached nim soon that his wife was dying of consumption, but he had not the money for a journey to Cambridge. In a few days, however, he received ten dollars from his father, and he was thus enabled to reach his wife's bedside, and receive her, last

breath. He had no clothes except those he daily wore, and he was obliged to borrow a suit from his brother in-law in which to appear at the funeral. It was remarked by his old friends, that his natural gayety of disposition was quite quenched by the severity of his recent trials. He was extremely downcast and worn. He looked like a man just out after a long and agonizing sick ness. Soon came intelligence that the ship in which he had embarked all his household goods had been wrecked off Cape Cod, and was a total loss.

But now he was a total loss.

But now he was among friends, who hastened to relieve his immediate necessities, and who took care of his children. He was soon at work; not, indeed, at his beloved machine, but at work; which his friends considered. work which his friends considered much more rational. He was again a ourneyman machinist at weekly wage As nature never bestowed two eminent ifts upon the same individual, the man who makes a great invention is seldon the man who prevails upon the public to use it. Every Watt needs his Boulton. Neither George Fisher nor Elian Howe possessed the executive force requisite for so difficult a piece of work as the introduction of a machine which then cost two or three hundred dollars. o make, and upon which a purchaser had to take lessons as upon the piano, and which the whole body of tailors regarded with dread, aversion, or con-

tempt. It was reserved, therefore, for other men to educate the people into availing themselves of this exquisiteavailing themselves of this exquisite value or saving apparatus.

Upon his return home, after his residence in London, Elias Howe discovered, much to his surprise, that the sewing-machine had become celebrated, though its inventor appeared forgotten. Several ingenious mechanics, who had only heard or read of a machine for sewing, and others who had seen the Howe machine, had turned their atten-Howe machine, had turned their attention to inventing in the same direction, or to improving upon Mr. Howe's de-vices. We have before us three handbills, which show that in 1849 a sewing-machine was carried about in Western New York, and exhibited as a curiosity, at a charge of twelve and a half cents for admission. At Ithaca the following bill was about in May, 1849, a few weeks after the inventor's return from Europe:

A great curiosity! The Yankee Sewing-Machine is now exhibiting at this place from 8 A. M. to 5 P. M. The public were informed by other The public were informed by other bills, that this wonderful machine could make a pair of pantaloons in forty minutes, and do the work of six hands. The people of Ithaca, it appears, attended the exhibition in great numbers, and many ladies carried home specimens of the sewing, which they preserved as curiosities. But this was not all. Some machinists and others in Boston and elsewhere were making in Boston and elsewhere were making sewing-machines in a rude, imperfect manner, several of which had been sold to manufacturers, and were in daily peration.

The inventor, upon inspecting these The inventor, upon inspecting these crude products, saw that they all contained the devices which he had first combined and patented. Poor as he was, he was not disposed to submit to this infringement, and he began forthwith to prepare for war against the infringers. When he entered upon this litteration he was a currievamen machine. fringers. When he entered upon this litigation, he was a journeyman machinist; his machine and his letters patent the inventor to adapt the machine to the work upon corsets, offering him the munificent stipend of three pounds a of his friends was exhausted. When

Undersized, curly-headed, and exceedingly fond of his joke, he was at twenty more a boy than a man. Nor was he very proficient in his trade, nor inclined to put forth extra exertion. Steady labor was always irksome to him, and frequently, owing to the constitutional weakness to which we have alluded, it was painful. He was not alluded, it was painful. He was not the person to selze an idea with avidative, and work it out with the passionate devoction of a Watt or a Goodyear. The only immediate effect upon him sewing many accine farther on towards its.

Outlasted the cloth. This first of all sewing-machines, after crossing the crossing the ocean many times, and figuring the ocean many times and figuring the ocean many times, and figuring the ocean many times, and figuring the ocean many times, and figuring the The inventor wrote polite letters to the infringers, warning them to desist, and offering to sell them licenses to con-tinue. All but one of them, it appears were disposed to acknowledge his rights and to accept his proposal. That one induced the others to resist, and nothing remained but a resort to the courts. Assisted by his father, the invertor began a suit; but he was soon made aware that justice is a commodity much be-youd the means of a journeyman me hanid. He tried to reawaken the faith chanid. He tried to reawaken the faith of Gedrge Fisher, and induce him to furnish the sinews of war; but George Fisher had had enough of the sewingmachine: he would sell his half of the patent for what it had cost him; but he would advance no more money. Mr. Howe then looked about for some one who would buy George Fisher's share. He found three men who agreed to do the sain and tried to do it, but could not

Als—and tried to do it, but could not the the money.

The person to whom he was finally indebted for the means of securing his rights was George W. Bliss, of Massachusetts, who was prevailed upon to buy Mr. Fisher's share of the patent, but the means the more readily for and to advance the money needful for carrying on the suits. He did this only as a speculation. He thought there might be something in this new notion of severing by mechanisms and in the suits. of sewing by machinery, and, if there was, the machine must become universal, and yield large revenues. This might be; he even thought it probable; still, so weak was his faith, that he This consented to embark in the enterprise only on condition of his being secured against loss by a mortgage on the farm of the inventor's father. This gener ous parent—who is still living in Cambridge—came once more to the rescue, and thus secured his son's fortune. The suits went on; but, as they went on at the usual pace of patent cases, the inventor had abundant leisure to push is invention out of doors. Towards the close of 1850 we find him in New York, superintending the construction of fourteen sewing machines at a shop in Goldstreet, adjoining which he had a small office, furnished with a flored libraries and weakly contains

five-dollar desk and two fifty-cent chairs One of those machines was exhibited at the fair in Castle Garden in October 1851, where, for the space of two weeks, it sewed galters, pantaloons, and other work. Several of them were sold to a pootmaker in Worcester, who use them for sewing boot-legs with perfect success. Two or three others were daily operated in Broadway, to the satisfaction of the purchasers. We can say, therefore, of Elias Howe, that besides inventing the sewing-machine, and besides are the sewing-machine, and besides inventing the first machine with his sides making the first machine with his own hands, he brought his invention to the point of its successful employment

manufacture. In manufacture.

While he was thus engaged events occurred which seriously threatened to rob him of all the benefit of his invenrob. him of all the belefit of his laver-tion. The infringers of his patent were not men of large means nor of extraor-dinary energy, and they had no "case" whatever. There was the machine which Elias Howe had made in 1845, there were his letters patent, and all the sewing-machines then known to be in existence were essentially the same as his. But in August, 18 came involved with the infringers who was of very different mettle from those steady-going Yankees, and capable of carrying on a much more vigorous war-fare than they. This was that Isaac Merritt Singer who has since so often astonished the Fith Avenue, and is astonished the Fitth Avenue, and is now amusing Paris, by the oddity and splendor of his equipage. He was then a poor and baffled adventurer. He had been an actor and manager of a theatre, and had tried his hand at various enterprises, none of which had been very successful. In 1850, he invented

(as he has since sworn) a carving-machine, and, having obtained an order for one from Boston, he made it, and took it himself to Boston. In the shop in which he placed his carving-machine he saw, for the first time, sevmachine he saw, for the first time, several sewing machines, brought there for repairs. Orson C. Phelps, the proprietor of the shop (Mr. Singer says), showed him one of these machines, and showed him one of these machines, and said to him that, if it could be improved so as to render it capable of doing a greater variety of work, "it would be a good thing;" and if Mr. Singer could accomplish this, he could get more money from sewing than from carving machines. Whereupon Mr. Singer contemplated the apparatus, and a right meditated upon it, with so much success, that he was able in the morning to exhibit a drawing of an improved machine. This sketch (so he swears) contained three original deswears) contained three original devices, which to this day form part of the sewing-machine made by the Singer Company. The sketch being approved, the next thing was to construct a model. Mr. Singer having no money, the purchaser of his carving-machine agreed to advance fifty dollars for the purpose; upon which Mr. Singer flew at the work like a tiger.

"I worked," he says, "day and night, sleeping but three or four hours out of sleeping but three or four hours out of the twenty-four, and eating generally but once a day, as I knew I must get a machine made for forty dollars, or not get it at all. The machine was com-pleted the night of the eleventh day from the day it was commenced. About nine o'clock that evening we got the parts of the machine together, and com-menced trying it. The first attempt to menced trying it. The first attempt to sew was unsuccessful, and the workmen, who were tired out with almost unremitting work, left me one by one, intimating that it was a failure. I continued trying the machine, with Zieber" (who, furnished the forty dollars) "to who furnished the forty dollars) "to hold the lamp for me, but, in the nervous condition to which I had been reduced by incessant work and anxiety, was un

by incessant work and anxiety, was unsuccessful in getting the machine to sew tight stitches. About midnight I started with Zieber to the hotel where I boarded. Upon the way we sat down on a pile of boards, and Zieber asked me if I had noticed that the loose loops of thread on the upper side of the cloth came from the needle. It then flashed upon me that I had forgotten to adjust the tension upon the needle thread. the tension upon the needle thread. Zieber and I went back to the shop. I adjusted the tension, tried the machine, and sewed five stitches perfectly, when and sewed not stitches perfectly, when the thread broke. The perfection of those stitches satisfied me that the machine was a success, and I stopped work, went to the hotel, and had a sound sleep. By three o'clock the next day I had the machine finished, and started with it to New York where I employwith it to New York, where I employ-ed Mr. Charles M. Keller to get out a

patent for it." Such was the introduction to th sewing-machine of the man whose enand audacity forced the machine ergy à upon an unbelieving public. He bor rowed a little money, and, forming a partnership with his Boston patron and the machinist in whose shop he had made his model, began the manufacture of the machines. Great and numerous were the difficulties which arose in his seth but one by one heavergement have path, but one by one he overcame them all. He advertised, he travelled, he sent out agents, he procured the inser-tion of articles in the newspapers, he exhibited the machine at fairs in town and country. Several times he was upon the point of failure, but in the nick of time something always happened to save him, and year after year ne advanced toward an assured suc cess. We well remember his early efforts, when he had only the back part of a small store in Broadway, and a lit-

gence, drawn by five horses, paid for by the sewing-machine. Still less did

Messrs. Grover and Baker were early in the field. William O. Grover was a Boston tailor, whose attention was ditie shop over a railroad depot; and we remember also the general incredulity with regard to the value of the machine with which his name was identified. Even after hearing him explain it a great length, we were very far from expecting to see him, one day, riding to the Central Park in a French dill-

we anticipate that, within twelve years, the Singer Company would be selling a thousand sewing-machines a week, at a profit of seahousand dollars a day, the was the true pioneer of the machines, and made it easier for all his subsequent

competitors.

Mr. Singer had not been long in the business before he was reminded by Ellas Howe that he was infringing his patent of 1846. The adventurer threw all his energy and his growing means into the contest against the original inventor. The great object of the infring-ing interest was to discover an earlier inventor than Elias Howe. For this purpose, the patent records of England, France, and the United States were purpose, the patent records of England, France, and the United States were most diligently searched; encyclopædias were examined, and an attempt was even made to show that the Chinese had possessed a sewing-machine for agas. Nothing, however, was discovered that would have made a plausible defence, until Mr. Singer joined the infringers. He ascertained that a New York mechanic, named Walter Hunt, who had a small machine-shop up a narrow alley in Abingdon Square, had made, or tried to make, a sewing-machine as early as to make, a sewing-machine as early as 1832. Walter Hunt was found. He had attempted to invent a sewing-machine in 1832; and, what was more important, he had hit upon the shuttle as the means of forming the stitch. He said, too, that he had made a machine said, too, that he had made a machine which did sew a little, but very imperfectly, and, afer wearying himself with fruitless experiments, he had thrown it aside. Parts of this machine, after a state of the machine, after a state of the machine, after a side. great deal of trouble, were actually found among a quantity of rubbish in the garret of a house in Gold Street. Here was a discovery! Could Mr. Hunt take these parts, all rusty and broken, into his shop, and complete the machine as originally made, so that it would sew? as originally made, so that it would sew? He thought he could. Urged on by the indefatigable Singer, supplied by him with money, and stimulated by the prospect of fortune, Walter Hunt tried hard and long to put his machine together; and when he found that he could not, he employed an ingenious inventor to aid him in the work. But their united ingenuity was unequal to the performance of an impossibility: the machine could not be got to sew a the machine could not be got to sew a seam. The fragments found in the garret did, indeed, demonstrate that in 1832 Walter Hunt had been upon the track of the invention; but they also proved that he had given up the chase in despair, long before coming up with

the game.
And this the courts have uniformly held. In the year 1854, after a long trial, Judge Sprague, of Massachusetts, decided that "the plaintiff"s patent is valid, and the defendant's machine is an infinite machine. nfringement." The plaintiff was Elias Howe; the real infringer, I. M. Singer. Judge Sprague further observed, that "there is no evidence in this case, that leaves a shadow of doubt that, for all the benefit conferred upon the public by the introduction of a sewing-machine, the public are indebted to Mr. Howe." This decision was made when nine years had elapsed since the completion of the first machine, and when eight of the first machine, and when eight years of the term of the first patent had expired. The patent, however, even then, was so little productive that the inventor, embarrassed as he was, was able upon the death of his partner. Mr. Bliss, to buy his share of it. He thus became, for the first time, the sole proprietor of his patent; and this occured just when it was about to yield a princely revenue. From a few hundreds a year, his income rapidly increased, until it went beyond two hundred thou-sand dollars. He has received in all up to dred thousand dollars. the extension of the patent expires, Sep-tember 10, 1867, the amount will not fall far short of the round two millions. As Mr. Howe has devoted twenty-sever years of his life to the invention and development of the sewing-machine, the public have compensated him at the rate of seventy-five thousand dollars a year. It has cost him, however, immense sums to defend his rights, and he is now very far from being the rich est of the sewing-machine kings. He has the inconvenient reputation of being worth four millions, which is exactly ten times the value of his present

estate.

ing of the *improvers* of the sewing machine, we know not how to be cautious enough; for scarcely anything car be said on that branch of the subject which some one has not an interest to deny. We the other day looked over the testimony taken in one of the suits which Messrs. Grover and Baker have had to sustain in defence of their well-troum "stitch". The testimony in that known "stitch." The testimony in that single case fills two immense volume containing three thousand five hu ired and seventy-five pages. At th Wheeler and Wilson establishment in Broadway, there is a library of similar volumes, resembling in appearance a quantity of London and Paris Directo ties. The Singer Company are equally blessed with sewing machine literatur and Mr. Howe has chests full of it. W learn from these volumes, that there is no useful device connected with the ap paratus, the invention of which is not claimed by more than one person. And no wonder. If to day the ingenious reader could invent the slightest real improvement to the sewing-machine so real that a machine having it wou possess an obvious advantage over al machines that had it not, and he should sell the right to use that improvement at so low a rate as fifty cents for each machine, he would find himself in the enjoyment of an income of one hundred housand dollars per annum. The conequence is, that the number of patents already issued in the United States for sewing-machines, and improvements i ewing-machines, is about nine hun red! Perhaps thirty of these patent are valuable, but the great improve ments are not more than ten in number and most of those were made in the in fancy of the machine.

So much for the inventor. In speak-

By general consent of the able me who are now conducting the sewing-machine business (including Elias Howe), the highest place in the list Howe), the highest place in the list of improvers is assigned to Allen B. Wilson. This most ingenious gentleman completed a practical sewing-machine early in 1849, without ever having seen one, and without having any knowledge of the devices of Elias Howe, who was then buried alive in London. Mr. Wilson, at the time, was very young journeyman cabinet-maker, living in Pittsfield, Massachusetts After that desperate contest with diffi-culty which inventors usually experi-ence, he procured a patent for his mahine, improved it, and formed a con nection with a young carriage-maker of his acquaintance, Nathaniel Wheeler, who had some capital; and thus was founded the great and famous house of Wheeler and Wilson, who are now wheeler and whisel, who are now making sewing-machines at the rate of about fifty-three thousands year. These gentlemen were honest enough in opposing the claim of Elias Howe, since Mr. Wilson knew himself to be an original inventor, and he employed devices not to be found in Mr. Howe's reaching in the claim of the sex of the control machine. Instead of a shuttle, he used a "rotating hook,"—a device as ingenious as any in mechanism. The "fourmotion feed," too, was another of Mr. Wilson's masterly inventions, sufficient of itself to stamp him an inventor of genius. Nothing, therefore, was more natural than that Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson should regard Mr. Howe's charge of infringement with astonishment and indignation, and join in the contest against him.

most tailor, whose attention was directed to the sewing machine soon after Mr. Howe's return from Europe. It was he who, after numberless trials, invented the exquisite devices by which the famous "Grover and Baker stitch" is formed,—a stitch which for some purposes is of unequalled utility. poses is of unequalled utility.

When, by the decision of the courts, When, by the decision of the courts, all the makers had become tributary to Elias Howe, paying him a certain sum for each machine made, then a most violent warfare broke out among the leading houses,—Singer and Company, Wheeler and Wilson, Grover and

Baker, each accusing the other of in-

Baker,—each accusing the other of infringement. At Albany, in 1856, these causes were to be tried, and parties concerned saw before them a good three months work in court. By a lucky chance, one member of this happy family had not entirely lost his temper, and was still a some degree capable of using his intellect. It occurred to this wise head, that, no matter who invented first, or who second, there were then assembled at Albany the men who, among them. It all naters which controlled the them, sheld patents which controlled the whole business of making sewing-machines; and that it would be infinitely better for them to combine and control, than to contend with and devour one another. They all came into this opinion: and thus were formed the "Combine or and thus were formed the "Combine". on: and thus was formed the "Comb ion; and thus was formed the "Combination," of which such terrible things are uttered by the surreptitious makers of sewing-machines. Elias Howe, who is the best-tempered man in the world, and only too easy in matters pecuniary, had the complaisance to join this confederation, only insisting that at least federation, only insisting that at least twenty-four licenses should be issued twenty-four licenses should be issued by it, so as to prevent the manufacture from sinking into a monopoly. By the terms of this agreement, Mr. Howe was to receive five dollars upon every ma-chine sold in the United States, and one dollar upon each exported. The other parties agreed to sell licenses to use their various devices, or any of them, at the rate of fifteen dollars for each machine; but no license was to each machine: but no license was to e granted without the consent of all the parties. It was further agreed, that par or the license fees received should be reserved as a fund for the prosecution of infringers. This agreement remained unchanged until the renewal of Mr. Howe's patent in 1880, when his fee was reduced from five dollars to one dollar, and that of the Combination from fifteen dollars to seven. That i to say, every sewing-machine made, which includes any device or devices the patent for which is held by any other member of the Combination, pays seven dollars to the Combination. Of this seven dollars, Mr. Howe receive his one, and the other six goes into the fund for the defence of the patents against infringers.
For example, take the Wilcox and
Gibbs machine, the only one, as far as
we know, which was not invented by a

Yankee, or in Yankee land. Twelv years ago, Mr. James E. A. Gibbs, Virginia farmer, saw in the Scientifi American a picture of a sewing-ma-chine. Being a man of a decided turn for mechanics, he examined the draw-ing with great attention; but, as it exhibited only the upper part of the machine, he could form no idea of the contrivance underneath by which the stite was formed. The working of the appa ratus was, however, very plain, down the moment when the needle perforate the cloth; and he fell into the habit musing upon the course of events after the point of the needle was lost to view The result of his cogitations, aided b nfinite whittling, was the ingenious lit-le revolving hook which constitute tle revolving hook which constitute the peculiarity of the Wilcox and Gibb machine. But that machine, beside machine. But that machine, besides employing Mr. Gibbs's invention, uses the feeding apparatus of Allen B. Wilson, and the eye-pointed needle of Elias Howe. It is therefore tributary to the Combination, and pays its seven dollars for each machine. A similar history could be related of the "Florence," the "Weed," the "Elliptic," the "Empire," and others. All these machine are worth examination by those who are curious in mechanical devices. The "Florence," for example, (so called because it is made in Florence, Massachusetts,) has a beautiful contribution by made and method the contribution of the contributio trivance, by means of which the operavards. The shuttle of this machine is so constructed as to make its own the sound its is to the mords, the shuttle holds the thread as tightly or as loosely as the seam requires. Without presuming to give an opinion with regard to the comparative utility of the various machines, we may say that we were exceedingly struck with the legance and ingenuity of the "Flor-

ence."
The business of making and selling sewing-machines, which was not fairly started before 1857, has attained a truly wonderful development. Twenty-seven firms or companies have been engaged in it at one time, a few of which have lately withdrawn, leaving about twenty still in the business. . One of these has twenty-four stores of its own, in the large cities of the world, besides a much larger number of local agents. Another boasts that there are thirty-nine cities on this planet where its machines can oe bought at all times. We can ourselves bear witness, that, in such cities as Cincinnatti, St. Louis, and Chicago, each of the well-known makers has spacious and elegant establishment, with all the appurtenances to which we are accustomed in New York. In Australia, one of our New York companies at least, has an establishment of its own

Gentlemen best acquainted with the business compute that the whole number of sewing-machines made in the United States up to the close of the year 1866 was about seven hundred and fifty thousand. During the quarter ending December 10, 1866, the number of machines made by licensed companies, as reported by them to Elias Howe, was 52,219! This is above the rate of two hundred thousand per annum. Mr. Howe is of opinion that about half as many more are produced by unlicensed makers, including the Yankees who, driven from the United States by the Combination, have set up their factories on the other side of the Canada line. If his conjecture is correct, we are now producing the astounding and almost incredible number of one thousand sew-ing-machines every working-day, at an average cost to the purchaser of sixty dollars each. The world however, is a very large place, and America still suplies it with most of its sewing-ma-

chines. When we visit single establishments in New England which employ five hundred machines, when we learn that the shirt-makers of one city, Troy, are now running more than three thousand of them, and when we consider that there are in the United States six millions of families, most of whom mean to have a sewing-machine when they can afford it, we can believe that even so many as a thousand a day may be absorbed. About one fifth of all the machines made in the United States are exported to foreign countries. Wheeler and Wilson, Grover and Baker, Singer and Company, Wilcox and Gibbs, the Florence, and others, are familiar names in St. Petersburg. Paris. London. Bernean to have a sewing-machine when in St. Petersburg, Paris, London, Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, Melbourne, Mexico, Rio Janeiro, Havana, Valparaiso Vancouver's Island, and wherever else the world many stitches are taken Foreigners can no more make a Yan-kee sewing-machine than they can maka a Yankee clock. They have not the machinery—as curious as the machine itself—by which each part of the chine itself—by which each part of the apparatus is made at the minimum of expense, and with perfect certainty of excellence. To found a sewing-machine manufactory in Europe which could compete with those of America would involve an expendature of two millions of dellars and the extentions. millions of dollars, and the expatriation of several of our American foremen. It is only upon a great scale that the machines can be made well or profitably. By means of the various improve

ments and attachments, the sewing-machine now performs nearly all that the needle ever did. It seams, hems, tucks, binds, stitches, quilts, gathers, fells, braids, embroiders, and makes button-holes. It is used in the manubutton-holes. It is used in the manufacture of every garment worn by man, woman, or child. Firemen's caps, the engine-hose which firemen use, soleleather trunks, harness, carriage curtains and linings, buffalo-robes, horseblankets, horse-collars, powder-flasks, mail-bags, sails, awnings, whips, saddles, corsets, hats, caps, valises, pocketbooks, trusses, suspenders, are among the articles made by its assistance; but it is employed, quite as usefully, in making kid gloves, parasols, and the most delicate articles of ladies' attire. Some of our readers, perhaps, witnessed the of our readers, perhaps, witnessed the show, the other day in New York, of the shoes, gaiters, and laidies' boots-made for the Paris Exhibition. They were of all degrees of delicacy,

one year.
Business Cards, ave lines or less, one
year.
LEGAL AND OTHER NOTICES— Executors' oblices.
Administrators' notices,
Assignees' notices,
Auditors' notices,
Other "Notices," ten lines, or less
three times,

PATES OF ADVERTISES.

the stout Balmoral to the boot of kid, the stout Balmoral to the boot of kid, satin, or velvet; and every kind of stitch had been employed in their manufacture. Some of the stitches were so fine that they could not be distinctly seen without a magnifying-glass, and some were as coarse and strong as those of men's boots. The special wonder of this display was that every stitch in every one of those beautiful shoes was executed by the machine. Mr. E. C. Burt, who made this splendid contribution to the Exhibition, as-Mr. E. C. Burt, who made this splendid contribution to the Exhibition, assured us, and will assure the universe in general at Paris, that all this variety of elegant and durable work was performed on the "Howe Sewing-machine." Upon ordinary boots and shoes, the machine has long been employed; but it is only recently that any one has attempted to apply it to the manufacture of those dainty things which ladies wear upon their feet when they go forth, armed cap-a-pie, for conquest. A similar change has occurred in other branches of manufacture. As operators have increased in skill, and operators have increased in skill, and as the special capabilities of the differ-ent machines have been better under-stood, finer kinds of work have been done upon them than used to be thought possible. Some young ladies have developed a kind of genius for the sewing machine. The apparatus has fascinated them; they execute marvels upon it, as Gottschalk does upon the plano. One of the most recent applications of the machine is to the sewing of straw hats and bonnets. A Yankee in Con-necticut has invented attachments by which the finest braids are sewn into connets of any form. Attempts have been made to estimate

the value, in money, of the sewing-ma-chine to the people of the United States. Professor Renwick, who has made the nachine a particular study, expressed the opinion seven years ago, on oath that the saving in labor then amounted to nineteen millions of dollars per annum. Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson have published an estimate which indicates that the total value of the labor performed by the sewing-machine, in 1863, was three hundred and forty-two millions of dollars. A good hand-sewer averages thirty-five stitches per minute; the fastest machines on some hand requires fifteen minutes; by machine, one minute. One girl can do the sewing by machine of as many boys' caps us ten can do by hand. In fine clothing for men, the saving is, of course, not so great. Messrs. Brooks Brothers of New York say that the making of a first-rate average by hand. making of a first-rate overcoat by hand requires six days' steady sewing; by machine, three days. In the general work of a tailor, the machine saves a journeyman about four hours in twelve. Carriage-trimmers testify that one ma-chine and three hands are equivalent to eleven hands. In the truss and bandage business, which is one of very great extent and importance, one machine is equal to ten women. In the manufacture of bags for flour, salt and meal, of which the city of New York produces two millions of dollars' worth per annum, a machine does the work of nine girls. In mere hemming, on a machine fitted expressly for the purpose one machine does the work of fifty girls.
Yet where is the woman who can say that her sewing is less a tax upon he time and strength than it was before the sewing-machine came in? But this is not the machine's fault; it is the fault of human nature. As soon as lovely stitches in the time that one used to require, a fury seizes her to put ten times as many stitches in every garment as she formerly did. Tallors and seamstresses, not content with sewing the seams of garments, must needs cover them with figures executed by "stitch-ing." And thus it is that man never ing." And thus it is that man never is, but always to be, blest. If with one part of his brain he invents a laborpart of his brain he invents a habor-saving apparatus, the other lobes immediately create as much new habor as the apparatussaves. But it is this chase of Desire after Ability which keeps the world moving, and tends always to equalize the lot of men. The sewing-machine is one of the means by which the industrious laborer is as well also the industrious laborer is as the industrials laborer is as well char as any millionnaire need be, and by which working-girls are enabled safely to gratify their woman's instinct of

lecoration. In the early days of the sewing-machine, it was not supposed that it would ever come into general use in families. The great cost of the machine, and the supposed difficulty of learning to use it, were considered fatal obstacles to its general introduction into households. The price has now been reduced to fifty-five dollars for the cheapest good machines, and it has been found that an intelligent woman can learn to sew with it in an hour. An average seam-stress becomes proficient in the use of it in a month. For some time past, therefore, the great object of the celebra-ted makers is to produce the best family machine. This is the point of rivalry among them. A lady who leaves her home, after a

breakfast consultation with her hus-band, and goes forth to select a family sewing-machine, has undertaken an expedition which promises nothing but pleasure; but it does not perform its promise. The sewing-machine establishments in Broadway are numerous and splendid. She pauses before a magnificent marble store, with windows formed of single panes of plate glass; in one of which are sewing machines, brilliant with polished steel, silver plate and rosewood, and in the other are beautiful garments covered with miraculous stitching, executed by those pretty parlor ornaments. Yielding to these allurements, she enters a grand saloon, a hundred feet long, extending back to another street, and covered with Wilton carpet, of better quality, probably, than that which she treads in her own parthat which she treads in her own par-lor. Perhaps the walls and ceilings are frescoed; and, if they are not, they are richly papered and painted. Sewing-machines in long rows, not too close together for convenient moving about, agreeably dot the whole surface of the agreeably dot the whole surface apartment, as far as the eye can pene-trate the gloom of the distance. Along trate the gloom of the distance. Along the wall, at the farther end of the room she will discover, by and by, a row of euclosed desks, like those of a bank, each desk being a small apartment, as elegant and commodious as taste and money can make it. These are for the dignitaries of the Company,—the president, the treasurer, the cashier, the general agent, the advertising clerk. Here and there a young lady may be seen "operating" one of the machines in a graceful attitude, and with such perfect ease as to dispel the fears of a purchaser most distrustful of her powers. The rapid and yet not noisy click of the machines is cheering, and seems the appropriate music of the place. And this grand hall is only one of many apartments. The basement, and the cellar below the basement, each as large as the store, are occupied as depositories, president, the treasurer, the cashier, as the store, are occupied as depositories, repairing-shops, packing-rooms; while in the story above the store may be found superb rooms, wherein ladies who found superbrooms, wherein ladies who have bought a machine receive instruction in the art of using it, attending daily, if they choose, until they have become proficients in hemming, sewing, braiding, making button-holes, and lall the other varieties of needle-work. The clerk who advances to wait upon the lady soon learns her errand, and the lady soon learns her errand, and discovers her ignorance. Indeed, she frankly avows her ignorance. She has come out, she artlessly says, in pursuit of knowledge. She desires to ascertain which is the best sewing machine in existence for family use. Long practice has taught an intelligent and ambitious young man how to deal with cases of this kind. He does, in his inmost soul, believe that the sewing-machines made by the company he serves are the very best in the world, especially for family use. But he feels the delicacy of his situation. "Of course, madam, we are interested parties, and it would be no more than natural that we should represent our machines to be the best in the market. Continued on fourth, page.

Continued on fourth page.