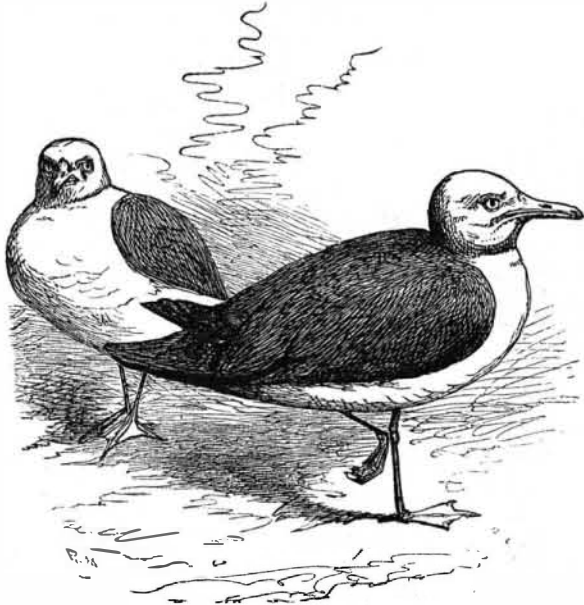


**AN AUSTRALIAN GULL.**

Our illustration shows the Jameson's gull, a bird of New South Wales, and one of the few new species which the fauna of Australia has added to the collections of the Old World. The duck-like form of the head and neck and the rotundity of the body are among its chief characteristics.

The gulls are noted for their great wing power and their voracity; they breast the fiercest gales, and swim well, but



slowly. They prey upon fish eggs, young birds, and carrion. Their eggs are edible, and are good food; and the young ones are killed and eaten by the fishermen of Labrador and Newfoundland. The plumage is soft and thick, and is much used in some northern countries as material for pillows, etc.

**An English Village of Nail Makers.**

It is always dingy and depressing in these villages, which, in a manufacturing sense, "feed" the large Black Country towns. Sulphurous fumes taint the air, and impart to it strange flavors that may be tasted on the lips as the salt of the sea may be tasted miles distant from the coastline. The roads, which in dry weather resemble nothing so much as caked boot blacking, yield puddles and rivulets of ink when it rains—which hereabouts it does with charitable frequency. There is "grit" everywhere.

The operatives, with a few exceptions, are women and children. Nor are these daughters of Vulcan mere make-believe workers. There are matrons—the mothers of the boys and girls that swarm about the hearth and forge (the youngest disporting with "clinkers" for playthings amongst the warm ashes)—and women old enough to be grandmothers, with hair stunted and gray. Young women, too—unmarried lasses, with colored handkerchiefs bound round their heads, to keep their cherished tresses from smoke and singeing,

and with another kerchief in lieu of a bodice, bare-armed to the muscular shoulder; and one and all are cheerfully "hard at it," tugging the bellows, attending the forge fire, or facing each other at the anvil, hammer in hand, and with the glowing metal between. Some of these sooty Amazons, by a curious mechanical contrivance, work with two hammers at one and the same time: the one, the heavier, being set going by means of a treadle, and the lighter implement in the hand. They are making nails of all sizes, from the smallest brad to the 6 inch bolt-headed "spike."

It is terribly hard work and very badly paid. For instance, for making what are called "No. 6 clasp," which weigh two hundred to the pound, the pay is twopence a pound—a shilling for six pounds; and if found to be as much as an ounce overweight the work is "tailed," as it is called, to the extent of a penny in the shilling. A woman must work twelve or fourteen hours a day at the forge to earn about \$1.75 a week; and not one in a hundred earns as much as \$2.25 by her own unaided labor. But the inducement is that a child old enough to crack cherry stones with a hammer can assist at nail making, and "every little helps towards the mickle." Mere babies can earn 50 cents a week; and where there are six or eight children of various ages, the total earnings amount to something considerable. The houses are built for the purpose. To each one is attached a "stall" or "hearth," the separate rent of which is fourpence a week, a mite of a place, occupied chiefly with the hearth and the bellows, and affording so little elbow-room for the half dozen workers within that it appears a marvel they are not seared all over the exposed part of their bodies by the flying sparks and red-hot chips. They are what are called free workers, being paid according to results.

Nails of every shape and form appear to be an article of commerce for which the demand seldom slackens, and it is impossible to produce too many of them. The merchant of whom the nailer buys his "rod"—the more or less substantial iron wire from which the goods are manufactured—is always willing to receive nails at the fixed price; and in the case of industrious families, once a week may be seen the edifying spectacle of father and mother and a troop of youngsters, ranging in age from 5 to 15, walking in Indian file, and each the bearer of a load of rod iron, thin and thick, to be made up during the ensuing week.—*Ironmonger.*

**THE FOUNTAINS AT ARANJUEZ.**

On page 343 of our volume XXXVI. we illustrated and described the celebrated Triton fountain in the royal domain at Aranjuez, Spain; and we now present to our readers a view of another, situate in the same beautiful park. The water display is, as will be seen in the engraving, very elaborate and tasteful; and the fountain is decorated with sculpture, and backed by a massive cluster of fine trees.

The palace and park at Aranjuez were built and laid out under the direction of Philip II., and immense sums of money were expended on the work. It is one of the most renowned country palaces of Europe, and a visit to it is generally part of a foreigner's travels in Spain.

**THE PENGUINS.**

Of the numerous family of web-footed, imperfectly winged birds, the king penguin (*aptenodytes Pennantii*) may be taken as a specimen. The whole genus is characterized by the slender bill, with an acute tip, by the close-set plumes on the upper mandible of the bill, and by the fin-like wings, which are utterly useless for purposes of flight, having only short imbricated plumes with flattened shafts. The numbers of



these birds found in different parts of the world are incredible; round Cape Horn, the Falkland Islands, the Straits of Magellan, and the South Pacific they are to be found in crowds that defy computation. The immense deposits of guano in the islands of Peru show how numerous these birds become, being strong, vigorous, tenacious of life, and prolific.

**Novel Joint Stock Company.**

Signor Parnetti has been engaged for the last four years in analyzing the dust and *débris* of the streets of Florence and Paris. His investigations of the *débris* of the horse paths proves that the dust contains 35 per cent of iron given by the shoes of the horses to the stones. In the dust from the causeways this eminent chemist finds from 30 to 40 per cent of good glue. Signor Parnetti selected and treated separately the dust from the causeways of the Boulevard des Italiens over a period of two months, which uniformly gave 30 per cent of good transparent glue, it is said, quite equal to Belfast glue. He contemplates placing his discoveries at the disposal of a limited company, with the view of establishing blast furnaces on the banks of the Thames, to recover the iron thus lost, and a large glue works, which, it is thought, will produce more glue from the wasted material than will supply all London for every purpose.—*Iron Trade Exchange.*



**FOUNTAIN IN THE PARK AT ARANJUEZ.**