

# Scientific American.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

MUNN &amp; CO., Editors and Proprietors.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

No. 261 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

O. D. MUNN.

A. E. BEACH.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1883.

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## THE BRIDGE OPENED.

The great bridge that connects the two cities of New York and Brooklyn, and practically unites the island of Long Island to the main land, was formally opened to public travel by significant and appropriate ceremonies on Thursday, May 24. The President of the United States, the Governor of New York, the Mayors of the two cities in interest took part in the ceremonies. On the New York side was a procession of the famous Seventh Regiment of fourteen companies, preceded by a military band of ninety pieces, policemen mounted and on foot, acting as escort to the President, members of his cabinet, Governor Cleveland, and other notables, occupying twenty-five carriages. The President and guests walked across the bridge and were met by the Mayor of Brooklyn and other officials, and were escorted to the Sands Street bridge station by the Twenty-third Regiment. In the station addresses were made by Wm. C. Kingsley, Abram S. Hewitt, and Rev. Dr. Storrs.

The salutes from the five naval vessels in the harbor and from Governor's Island were an impressive feature in the "pomp and circumstance" of the occasion. But the culmination of the display was reserved for the evening. It is doubtful if ever, in this country, at least, was there so magnificent an exhibition of pyrotechnics as that from the bridge. It was absolutely indescribable, and was as gratifying in its profuseness as superior in its beauty. A levee held by the President and the Governor later in the evening at the Brooklyn Academy closed the public ceremonies, after which the bridge was thrown open to the public, and thousands passed over from one city to the other, making a continuous procession during the entire night.

Our full-page engraving gives a view of the engine room and the engine which is to propel the steel-wire rope that draws the passenger cars across the bridge railway.

## DEATH OF WILLIAM MASON.

Mr. William Mason, builder of locomotives and cotton machinery, died at his home in Taunton, Mass., on Monday, May 21, of pneumonia, at the age of seventy-six.

Mr. Mason's life was a signal illustration of the power of genius and perseverance in overcoming obstacles. The disadvantages of poverty in youth and a limited education were to him to be only incentives to more strenuous efforts. By his inventive talent he rose gradually from the position of day workman as a machinist to the superintendency of a large establishment. The perfection of his self-acting mule for cotton spinning first brought him into prominence among manufacturers. By this invention he has been better known for the last forty-five years than by all his other inventions and improvements, and they were many, and not confined to machinery for textile manufactures; his locomotives are probably unsurpassed in all the requisites of use by those of any other builder.

At the time of his death Mr. Mason was carrying forward extensive improvements and additions to his large establishment at Taunton, which would nearly double the area of the buildings and vastly increase the productive capacity of the establishment.

Mr. Mason was a fine specimen of manhood in physique. He was reticent in habit, but not morose; unbending from apparent thoughtfulness when in the presence of friends. He was much liked by his employes; some of whom, starting with him when he first went into business, still remain.

## CONSIDERATION FOR OLD EMPLOYES.

Physical vigor and mental activity are necessary in all kinds of employment and all sorts of business. Lacking either, the man is, in some degree, incompetent. The cases are exceptional where profitable employment is fitted to the infirm, whether physically weak or mentally slow. And yet there are cases where employment and occupation should be given to such persons, not alone as a matter of policy—to prevent mental and bodily injury—but as a duty. An employe who has spent the vigor of his best years in the service of an employer deserves something more in his last years than cold neglect. Even the turning out of an old horse to die is a subject for attention by the officers of humane societies.

If an employe is of any value whatever, he ought to earn for his employer something above his stipend; in fact, the labor of employes, combined with the judicious use of capital, should accumulate for the employer a competency, if not actual wealth. The wealth thus gathered represents, in part, the excess of the value of the labor performed above the amount that has been paid to the laborers. Although the employe has no legal right to demand more than the agreed sum as wages, or salary, which he receives, the fact remains that the wages, or salary, may not represent the proceeds of his work in full.

This fact may not constitute even a moral claim by the employe for anything beyond his regular compensation, under any circumstances. It may be that the compensation was sufficient to have placed the employe, in his old age of feebleness, in a condition of comparative independence, but he may have neglected to provide for the inevitable rainy day. Employers have no special supererogatory duties toward employes of this class. Nor is it, perhaps, incumbent on them to pension off old employes, as governments sometimes do public servants. The circumstances will alter the cases. It is not to be expected that employing establishments or individuals are to become insurers against the decrepitude of old age and its attendant incompetency. But the dictates of humanity and the demands of business policy

may so far go harmoniously together as to prevent the too common spectacle of an old, faithful employe deprived not only of a position of profit because of inability, but of occupation adapted to his failing powers. There are few sadder sights than this, and pity for the unfortunate man and detestation for his thoughtless or perhaps avaricious employer is felt by every spectator.

As men grow old in any particular service their business ways and work habits become fixed, and all the surroundings of their secular days' employments become more familiar to them than their home life. It is like casting them adrift without rudder, oars, or chart to turn out old employes under such circumstances. Who has not felt a pity for some superannuated employe thus set adrift, as he has noticed him returning occasionally to his old haunts, and looking about wistfully on scenes of which he once formed a necessary part, but in which he is now only an incumbrance and a disturbing element. Too old to start anew in another line, and possessing none of the hopefulness of youth and the ambition of mid-age, he becomes disheartened, melancholy, and perhaps imbecile, until death steps in to his relief.

There is a large manufactory in a New England State that for more than thirty years has been running with pecuniary success, employing young and old, male and female, in its various departments. When business has been dull, and the markets unstable, work has been reduced, and wages shortened, as was necessary to prevent financial disaster. But good employes were kept, if possible, even in the duller times. There never was a strike, nor a threat of one, in this establishment. Among other humane practices and considerate measures for the comfort and well being of their employes, this company keeps their hands even when old and unprofitable. There is one old man, now more than eighty, who has worked faithfully, for the best part of his vigorous manhood, for the company. He still works—not, however, full hours—and his employment is of so trifling a character that but for the circumstances it would be ludicrous. But the old man is proud of his employers and that he is still able to work, and is living a happy, contented life, believing that he is independent of charity and that he is still useful, if not necessary, to his employers. This is an example that might properly be followed by others.

## A REMARKABLE WIND STORM.

A storm, or a series of storms, of high wind, rain, thunder, and lightning swept over portions of northern Texas, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin, May 17 and 18, destroying property and lives, and making waste the country in its path. In some places the path was only 300 yards wide, in others it covered a width of one-fourth of a mile, and in other places extended to a width of two miles and more. No structure of man withstood the blast within its well defined limits; substantial buildings of brick and lighter buildings of wooden framework alike succumbed to the gale that accompanied the storm. In some localities the storm assumed a whirling motion, but in most places it appeared to be a straight-away gale. Unlike the popular idea of a tornado, which is that it comes suddenly after an apparent elemental slumber, this storm appeared to be the culmination of a severe rain and thunder storm. And yet there were indications of a peculiar electrical activity. Globes of fire were observed in the midst of dark clouds; a well defined hole was made in a roof as if cleanly cut; the top story of a brick dwelling was carried away, while the remaining portion of the house remained untouched.

The destruction of life and property that accompany these elemental disturbances renders desirable some accurate knowledge of their cause, with a view to their prediction, to enable those exposed to them to take such preventive and protective measures as are possible. To this end the United States Signal Service is making efforts to investigate these phenomena, and Sergeant John P. Finley, U. S. Signal Station, Detroit, Mich., who has charge of the investigation, asks for information from any person who, in this or previous years, has witnessed any remarkable wind storm.

We read now and then of cases in which burglars are supposed to have rendered their victims unconscious by holding cloths wet with chloroform to keyholes before entering an apartment. Of course the absurdity of such a fiction is sufficiently apparent. Whether sleepers can be made to pass from natural to chloroform sleep, if the chloroform is held near to the face, is still a question. Sometimes the experiment has succeeded, but in five experiments recently made to determine the fact, every one of the sleepers experimented upon woke at the expiration of three minutes, before they had come under the influence of the drug.

When nitrate of silver is used as a medicine for a length of time, the skin becomes of a peculiar bluish or slate color. Many may remember the familiar face of the blue man who formerly lived in this city, and whose face had assumed this singular hue. There is also a "blue man of Missouri," whose skin is discolored in the same manner and from the same cause. When about fifteen, he took five drops of a solution of nitrate of silver, containing twenty grains to the ounce, and continued this for five or six months. At the end of that time he observed that his face and hands were becoming dark. This color has become permanent, and hence his sobriquet. Nitrate of silver is sometimes used as a remedy in epilepsy.