

worked up either by the Lochgelly or by the Forth Company's furnaces. The projected furnaces will melt the ore of their own extensive field, and that obtained from several other estates as yet untouched.

In France, a fall has taken place in the price of cast-iron. The project ascribed to the Government of lowering the tariffs on imports of foreign iron is said to be the cause of this downward tendency. Perhaps the threatened increase of the tariff on Belgian coal may have had something to do with it also. The price has been fixed at 165*l.* the 100 kilogrammes on fine cast-iron of the first quality taken at the works, which makes 10*l.* decline on the prices of the fair at Beaunçon, and 5*l.* only on that of Chalons.

An experiment in the manufacture of pig-iron, by the use of cannel coal in the furnace, has been recently tried in the State of Cincinnati, U.S. at the Buckeye Furnace, Jackson County. Commencing the blast entirely with charcoal, they gradually introduced first one-quarter, then one-half, and finally three-fourths of cannel coal. An improvement in the working and yield of the furnace, it is said, was noticed at each successive addition to the charges of cannel coal.

#### "TRIPLING SUGGESTIONS THE ORIGIN OF GREAT INVENTIONS."

The brightest achievements of science which arrest the attention of the most careless and uncultivated, are the offspring of slight observations recorded in the course of centuries. Such, indeed, is the condition of the human mind, that even the most absurd views and opinions have frequently led to the discovery of highly important truths; and those pursuits which often appear to have no connection with science or literature frequently bear essentially upon the point. Trace back the origin and progress of our modern inventions, now far advanced towards perfection, and remark the multitude of small and gradual accessions; and the trivial occasions of many of them would confound the most reflecting. Witness the labours of the alchemists in search (?) of the philosopher's stone,—labours insane in themselves(?), but which, through the incidental, though at the time disregarded, discovery of many truths relating to the nature and properties of substances, have become the parents of modern chemistry, with all its wonderful power; on the other hand, a neglect of observation of humble things, which would give rise to suggestion, has been the great impeding cause of the progress of science.

The great characteristic of modern philosophy, which at the present time has made such progress, is a zeal in collecting facts, and a determination to deduce theories, instead of adapting facts to ready-framed theories, which every one can now appreciate, because the great results are before the world, and have had a marked influence in the destinies of mankind.

To elucidate the above, we may take the stupendous results of the steam-engine, which may all be traced to a trifling suggestion, arising from plunging an inverted bottle into water; yet many admirers of the invention would ridicule the observer of any similar fact. Every one can now feel both surprise and admiration at witnessing the progress of a steam-vessel advancing rapidly against the opposing forces both of wind and tide, which has led to the whole system of modern navigation and maritime discovery. From such a view only of the subject can we justly estimate the importance of suggestions, so extraordinary is the course of human events.

In England the application of coal for smelting and of steam for blast furnaces, form the grand epochs in our mining history. Yet from what slight circumstances did both originate? The art of printing likewise, probably the parent of more good than all others, owes its origin to rude impressions taken from letters carved on the bark of a beech tree: this was a slight matter, which thousands would have passed over with neglect.

Astronomy, again, so essential to navigation, and consequently to commerce, on the importance of which it is needless to dwell.

To the formation of enlightened legislators, the improvement of the mind through observation of minute circumstances is essential; and it is almost needless to observe that wise laws, in the absence or repeal of foolish ones, are indispensable to the profitable exercise of industry; and, in conclusion, it must be added that since such great discoveries have been made from the due observation of trifling accidents, we should encourage instead of despise those who notice the phenomena of nature under all circumstances, however unimportant some of them may appear. Remember the inscription formerly placed in the workshop of Peter the Great, in Holland,—"Nothing is too little for the attention of a great man." G. J. RHODES.

#### HOUSE AGENTS' CHARGES.

BLOOMSBURY COUNTY COURT.—GRAY AND ANOTHER V. THOMAS.

THIS case had been previously heard during the unavoidable absence from town of the defendant, when judgment was given against him. The defendant, however, subsequently, through his solicitor, Mr. Charlton, applied for a new trial which, under the circumstances then stated, the Judge, Mr. Heath, granted.

The plaintiffs are auctioneers and house agents in Camden Town, the defendant being a timber merchant and builder, carrying on business near the Camden Railway Station, and the amount sought to be recovered from him was 16*l.* 17*s.* as commission for selling three houses, built by and belonging to defendant in Harmwood-street, Hampstead-road. On the part of the plaintiff, it was stated that the houses had been sold by him to a friend of his, to whom he had mentioned his authority from defendant for their disposal. The defendant entered his office in the beginning of 1851, but the precise date he could not recollect, and in the presence of his clerk (since dead) deposed him to sell on commission any property he had to dispose of. The defendant repudiated the plaintiff's demand on his oath, stating that the only interview he had had at the plaintiff's office was with Mr. Gray some months prior to his building the houses in question, and then the conversation was about some houses he had for sale at Highgate. The claim of plaintiffs was for disposing of the houses in March last, when he had witnesses to prove that the sale of the same was effected between the buyer and Mr. Brown, the defendant's agent, in the previous August.

Witnesses confirmatory of defendant's statement having been heard,

His Honour said that he felt bound to reverse his former decision, and expressed an opinion that the plaintiffs had no legal demand upon the defendant, in whose favour therefore his judgment would now be.

Judgment for defendant, with costs.

#### VALUATION OF PARISHES.

GREENFORD.

AT a recent sitting of the Brentford Petty Sessions an appeal was heard of a novel nature, the Rev. Mr. Middleton, rector of Greenford, county of Middlesex, being the appellant, against a poor-rate assessed by the respondents, the churchwardens, vestry, and board of guardians of his own parish.

The appellant stated that his assessment to the poor-rates had lately been increased, whilst several of his parishioners had had theirs reduced. He further objected to the *modus operandi* of the re-value of the parish, the board of guardians having taken that office upon themselves, instead of calling in the professional services of a surveyor, which had hitherto been the custom throughout the kingdom. The rev. appellant was understood to contend that a valuation made without a professional man, and by interested parties, was clearly an act of injustice and against the spirit of the law. He urged that his rate should be reduced to the former standard, 640*l.*

Mr. Rigge, who represented the board of guardians, as its deputy-chairman, said that the board thought with him, that the parish required a re-valuation; but as the board did not wish to go to the expense of employing a surveyor, their clerk was desired to write to the Poor-Law Commissioners upon the subject. The answer of the commissioners was to the effect, that they, the guardians, need not employ a surveyor, and that a rate could be legally levied upon their own valuation. Upon this he, Mr. Rigge, went through the valuation, and took for his data the result of free trade measures, viz. the average price of corn, straw, and hay for the last twenty years. He found by this, the farmers in the parish paid the same

rent, rates, taxes, and tithes now as they did twenty years ago, whilst the price of corn and their other agricultural products had sensibly decreased. Now, the rev. appellant received the same tithes, and had the benefit of cheap produce, and he therefore reduced the farmers' assessment and increased the rector's. He thought this a fair and business-like way of valuation.

Mr. Baillie, the chairman, condemned the respondents' conduct in going about the parish valuing their own property in connection with their fellow-parishioners. He would not pass an opinion as to the legality of a re-assessment made by interested parties, and without a professional person to value, for the bench were satisfied the appellant, according to the papers handed in, was assessed at too high an amount under the old assessment, but as that assessment was not appealed against, they could only adjudicate upon the present. They were of opinion that the appeal should be allowed with full costs, and recommended the officials of the parish to act more in harmony with their pastor, and not give him or any one in the parish such good grounds of appeal as the present, or the parish would find themselves in the hands of the lawyers.

Judgment for the appellant, and rate reduced to its former amount.

#### A BROADWAY HOTEL.

THE *New York Herald* gives an account of a new hotel named the Metropolitan, at the corner of Broadway and Prince-street, lately opened. The building forms an L, 300 feet fronting on Broadway, and 200 feet on Prince-street. It is six stories high, and presents a front of brown stone. The architecture is termed Roman, though the style is not pure in any order. The main entrance on Broadway leads to the public office of the house. On the first floor are ladies' reception-room, gentlemen's lounging-room, dressing-rooms, and apartments for the reception of guests, prior to assigning them rooms. The floors of the office and other public rooms are paved with marble slabs. The mantles in the reception-rooms are made of rare marble, and the furniture is all rich and inviting. There is a private staircase leading from the ladies reception-room to the second story, but the thoroughfare to the upper-part of the house is by the broad staircase, which is very wide, and protected on each side by heavy bannisters, surmounted with a massive oak rail, wrought and polished to the highest extent. The first landing is lighted by a window of stained glass, presenting, among other designs, the Arms of the United States, the Arms of the State of New York, and the Coat of Arms of the City of New York. The Capitol at Washington and the City Hall are also represented. This window, altogether, is a feature of the house.

A ladies' parlour is 24 by 30 feet, in which are three very large mirrors: the mantelpiece is of beautiful white marble, ornamented with great skill. The furniture is of rosewood, covered with rich brocatelle; and silk damask curtains are hung at the windows. The walls are painted in fresco, and the designs upon the ceiling are chaste and beautiful (we are but quoting), showing the unmistakable traces of the hand of art. The second parlour on this floor is called the reception parlour. It is in size 16 by 30 feet. The mantel is of pink Livbon marble, and the walls are painted in rich panel work. A door opens out upon the balcony on Broadway, where a view may be had of the great thoroughfare from Trinity to Grace Church. The third is called the vestibule parlour. The mantelpiece here is made of Brocatelle marble, and the panel work is very rich, the ceiling particularly. Into the details of silk damask, rich brocatelle, rosewood furniture, green and gold drapery, gold and silver goblets and pitchers, mirrors worth 10,000 dollars each, magnificent Wilton carpets, &c. &c. we cannot here enter. Suffice it to say, it is quite dazzling and confusing.

The whole number of rooms in the house, exclusive of the first floor and basements, is three hundred and fifty-three. In the sleeping apartments, there are over four hundred beds, all made upon spring mattresses, with hair mattresses over them. Accommodations for six hundred guests are always in readiness, and the house is capable of holding one thousand, if occasion should require. Two