

with chains at each end of a wood beam, and having the steam cylinder 32 inches in diameter, with a stroke of 8 feet, and erected at the canal company's pumping station at Rolfe street, Smethwick. During the present year (1898) this remarkable old engine, which has been regularly at work from the time of its erection to the current year, a period of, say, 120 years, was removed to the canal company's station at Ocker Hill, Tipton, there to be re-erected and preserved as a relic of what can be done by good management when dealing with machinery of undoubted quality. It is worthy of note that the Birmingham Canal Navigations favoured Boulton and Watt in 1777 with the order for this engine, and in 1898, or 120 years afterwards, the company have entrusted the same firm, James Watt and Co., Soho, Smethwick, with the manufacture of two of their modern triple-expansion vertical engines, to be erected at the Walsall pumping station, having 240 horse power and a pumping capacity of 12,713,600 gallons per day."

THE CONSERVATIVE copies the foregoing from the January, 1899, number of a magazine called "The Irish Textile Journal," which is published at Belfast, Ireland. And while the remarkable durability and usefulness of a well-made and honestly constructed engine is felicitously set forth relative to the Boulton & Watt machinery and its one hundred and twenty years of work in England, the oldest employer of steam machinery, it affords us satisfaction to give a parallel from Nebraska City and from among the pioneer engines of this Trans-Missouri region, which has only been opened up to civilization since 1854. Here at one of the largest factories for the manufacture of cereal foods in the whole West, is an engine, made by the Coopers of Mount Vernon, Ohio, which has been constantly in use for more than thirty-three years. Thus in proportion to their years of experience in making engines the American builders prove equally efficient, skillful and honest. Even iron and steel are eloquent in behalf of faithful and good work. These engines of great age and service are perpetually puffing the workmanship and probity of their manufacturers.

THE POWER OF IGNORANCE.

The readers of THE CONSERVATIVE may find that the following reflections are part of a volume of fiction by a modern author.

"It is a common sentence that knowledge is power; but who hath duly considered or set forth the power of ignorance? Knowledge slowly builds up what ignorance in an hour pulls down. Knowledge, through patient and frugal centuries, enlarges discovery and makes record of it; ignorance wanting its day's dinner, lights a fire with the record, and gives a flavor to its one

roast with the burnt souls of many generations.

Knowledge, instructing the sense, refining and multiplying needs, transforms itself into skill, and makes life various with a new six days' work; comes ignorance drunk on the seventh, with a firkin of oil and a match and an easy 'Let there not be'—and the many-colored creation is shriveled up in blackness.

Of a truth, knowledge is power, but it is a power reined by scruple, having a conscience of what must be and what may be, whereas ignorance is a blind giant who, let him but wax unbound, would make it a sport to seize the pillars that hold up the long-wrought fabric of human good and turn all the places of joy dark as a buried Babylon.

And looking at life parcel-wise, in the growth of a single lot, who having a practised vision may not see that ignorance of the true bond between events, and false conceit of means whereby sequences may be compelled—like that falsity of eyesight which overlooks the gradations of distance, seeing that which is afar off as if it were within a step or a grasp—precipitate the mistaken soul on destruction?"

TREASURY AND TARIFF.

When President Cleveland retired from the executive mansion on March 4, 1889, he left an overflowing treasury. The receipts of the government were so large that Mr. McKinley and the republican congress and the republican administration immediately proceeded to pass a tariff bill which was entitled "An Act to Reduce Revenues" etc.

If the nomenclature of the above bill had been truthful, it would have read: "A Bill to reduce Revenues by raising the Taxes on Imports so as to Reduce all and Preclude some Importations."

The farmer was provided for by a tariff of three cents on foreign cabbage heads. The industry of kraut-making was neglected because sauerkraut was put on the free list. Beef cattle and swine were taxed and mules and horses were taxed upon coming from a foreign into this country; but bologna sausage, which may contain parts of either of the animals named, came in duty free, so that the infant industry of bologna-making was neglected and the pauper sausage sharps of Europe got the advantage of the American market.

In many other similar ways the McKinley bill attempted to gull the American farmer. Under the operations of that law and the law for purchasing silver and issuing treasury notes therefor, came the panic of 1893 with all its calamity, disaster and distress.

These gentlemen forget that a tariff purely for revenue affords no protection, and that a tariff purely for protection produces no revenue. They cannot re-

member even that the McKinley bill was to reduce and not to increase revenues.

The American Wool Growers' association declares that a prohibitive duty on foreign wools must be immediately enacted. Such prohibitive duty is to encourage the farmers of the United States to raise more sheep. At the present time 42 per cent of the population of the United States is living upon farms. And out of this number it is safe to assume that not to exceed one-half raise sheep at all, and not one-third of them are to any great extent engaged in wool-growing. But the 58 per cent of urban population in the cities, as well as all of the rural population of the United States, wear woolen goods year in and year out. All therefore consume wool but only a few produce it. The protectionists declare that the law should be made for the few producers and against the entire mass who buy garments made of wool.

Thus in economics the mathematical absurdity that a part is greater than the whole is asserted. The protectionist forgets that the power to tax was vested in government for the sole purpose of raising money to be expended in the protection of the lives, liberty and property of the citizens. The power was never intended to be used to take money from one class and bestow it upon another.

DEWEY'S ARTICLE. A story is current, to the effect that a New York newspaper offered Admiral Dewey the sum of \$5,000 for an article, and that the response which came back by cable was: "Thanks; I am too busy." If the story is true, it occurs to us that this saying amounts to an epigram, and has quite as much value, both as a literary effort for the edification of the men of today, and as a monument to mark to our aftercomers the pitch of some of our public employees at the end of this century, as anything Admiral Dewey would have been likely to express; if he had written ten columns. The newspaper too missed an opportunity for doing some good—it might have devoted a page to the admiral's "article," printing it in letters half a foot high; its readers might have learned something from it.

A German authority on forestry announces the discovery in India of a tree having leaves so highly electrical that whoever touches one of them receives a severe electrical shock. Even upon the magnetic needle this tree, which has been given the name of *philotcea electrica*, has a strong influence, causing magnetic variations at a distance of seventy feet. The electrical strength of the tree varies according to the time of the day, being most powerful at noon.