

DAILY JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY.

OUR people have reduced the work of getting ice to a scientific basis, converting it from a heavy, dreary, tedious job, to a comparatively easy and pleasant one. The cutting machine does away with the old method of sawing, which was slow and difficult. Two men with a horse will now in a short time cut a quarter of an acre into blocks suitable for handling. The ice-plow does not cut to the full depth of the ice, but all that is necessary to separate the blocks is a blow or two with an ice-chisel. Then the loading, on to the sled or wagon, which used to be the heaviest and most back-breaking work of all, is now easily accomplished, without any direct lifting. From the point where the ice is cut out a canal is cut about three feet and a half wide and forty or fifty feet long, extending towards the point where the teams come to load. At the end of this canal next to the teams, an inclined plane, or ice-way, is constructed, of about the same width as the canal. This ice-way is made of five strips of scantling, twenty five or thirty feet long, fastened equi-distant from each other to cross pieces underneath. Upon the upper edge of each scantling an iron rod, three-eighths of an inch

in diameter, is fastened, extending the whole length. At each side of the ice-way is a guard to prevent the ice blocks from sliding off. One end of the ice-way is placed in the canal and extends below the depth of the ice as it floats in the water. The other end is elevated to just the height of the wagon-box or sled which is to receive the load, and is firmly secured there.

In loading, one man floats along sections of ice-blocks into the canal and splits them apart with his ice-chisel. Then two men, one on each side of the canal, seize each block, as it floats past them, with their iron pointed handspikes, and shove it before them up the ice-way nearly to the wagon. Then two other men, with a wooden cross bar, shove it forward into the wagon-box. In this way a load of ice is quickly transferred from the water to the wagon. The unloading is accomplished with similar ease and expedition. Thus the whole work, under the prevalence of a good spirit, really becomes sport.

To an observer at a little distance, the operations of persons using the ice-plow are somewhat novel, considering the time of year—they seem so much like ordinary plowing. The old nursery rhyme of Mother Goose, runs—

“ There were three children a sliding went,
All on a summer's day ;
The ice grew thin, they all fell in,
And the rest they ran away.”

Some one suggests that this now might be altered to
There were some men went plowing ice
All on a winter's day ;
The ice grew thick, they plowed it quick,
And drew it all away.

In the evening meeting E. P. I. was criticised by request. The principal fault criticised was, a tendency to be somewhat self-complacent over his own achievements and suggestions. His self-will and high opinion of his own talents and judgment make it somewhat difficult for him to coalesce with others and give up his opinion to theirs. He also has a rather rude way of speaking to his associates, particularly as leader of the Brass Band. He was thought to be steadily improving. He has a good spirit about music and is obedient to Mr Noyes's suggestions in regard to the Band. He makes it very easy for persons to approach and ask a favor of him. What he most needs is to have his heart more thoroughly pervaded by the grace and spirit of Christ—to seek softness of spirit and depth of character.

At the machine-shop the temporary line-shaft has been removed, and the belting is being shifted to the permanent shaft, which extends the whole length of the shop.

A letter from Mrs. Deborah Knowles in answer to our letter of criticism was received to-day. It is as follows :

Rutland, N. Y., Jan. 21, 1866.

DEAR MR HAMILTON :—I heartily accept the criticism of the Community. I feel it a privilege to give myself

up unreservedly to them, to be helped in any way they see fit. I am thankful for help from any one. I am in the dark, and I want to be led to Christ. I desire to clear myself of my old life in *every* way, and take Christ as a whole savior. I confess my entire separation from a disobedient spirit in any form, and from superficiality and insincerity. I confess brokenness of heart and faith in Christ. I confess resurrection life, and a spirit that will separate me from my worldly relatives, and from any spirit will separate me from Christ. I feel like giving up everything for Christ.

Yours in sincerity, D. W. Knowles.

THURSDAY.

Treadwell & Co., Boston, in reply to our letter of inquiry, say they wish *only* 12 bear traps No 5, instead of 12 doz. This makes the amount of their order \$545.92.

We are having the luxury of a north-east snow-storm, accompanied by a strong wind. It bids fair to give us good sleighing before nightfall. We do not remember a snow-storm that was more welcomingly greeted than is *this*.