

Affairs in and about the City.

HUNNEMANS' FIRE ENGINE MANUFACTORY.—

Among the very many branches of manufacturing industry carried on, in and around Boston, perhaps one of the most interesting is the fire engine manufactory of the Hunneman brothers, just across the Roxbury line. This business was first established there by the father of the present occupants, in the year 1805,—almost half a century ago. There were then no railroads or other great facilities for transportation, the ships were not large enough to stow one of their engines on board without taking it to pieces, and consequently, as the business was chiefly confined to this Commonwealth, not more than three or four were made annually; but at the present time, no machine is considered of any account unless it is one of Hunnemens', and they are turning them out at the rate of fifty per annum, and are not able even at that rate to supply the demand. The whole number delivered from the shop since its establishment, is 510, and they are so strongly and thoroughly made, that of these probably not more than a dozen are now out of use.

They have now in various stages of progress, engines intended for Eastport, Me., the Portsmouth Navy Yard, Ogdensburg, N. Y., Mansfield and Xerxes, Ohio, Logansport, Ia., Cheraw, S. C., Sacramento, Cal., two for Lowell, three for Boston, (which will be ready in about six weeks,) and two for Melbourne, Australia. The people of Melbourne at first proposed having four of Hunnemens', esteeming them the best engines made, but finally compromised with ten, six by loyalty by ordering two of Hunnemens', and the others one from England and one from Scotland.

A great amount of repairing is done at their shop, and every part of their engines is made by themselves, including iron, brass and wood work, painting, (some specimens of which are very beautiful), hose, fire buckets, &c. In this particular, as well as in the extent of their manufacture, this firm stands unrivalled on this side of the Atlantic. About fifty workmen are constantly employed, in the various branches, assisted by two small steam engines. The steam power is soon to be employed to blow the bellows for the ten or twelve forges in use. A new shop has recently been added, on the top of which is an outlook affording a fine view of the larger portion of Roxbury and a part of this city. Other improvements are also in contemplation for the increase of the manufacture.

The location would be very pleasant indeed, but for the overflow of water, which, as the place is on the borderland, between the two cities, neither Roxbury nor Boston, although both acknowledge the necessity, seem disposed to prevent by a judicious drainage, which would cost but little. This is the more to be regretted, since many strangers who visit Boston solely on business with this firm, seeing nothing of our neighborhood beyond a glimpse of Boston by gas-light, and these stagnant pools at Roxbury, are liable to return home with erroneous and unfavorable opinions in regard to the salubrity and neatness of Boston and its vicinity.