

the old lady's apples, you may take it and put it up in one of your two dollar cases; so, when I come back, I'll see how I look. Fix it up, I'm in a *deuce* of a hurry."

By this time he had got near the door to leave. "Sir," said Mr. S., "you had better sit now, then I shall be enabled to have it." "I sit—what for? its against my rules to sit down in day-time; I'm one of your up and doing men; no, no, can't stop." "But," says Mr. S., "It will be impossible for me to take your likeness, unless you sit; come, my plate is ready, and it will take but a second."

At last the old gentleman became convinced of the necessity of sitting, and accordingly took a chair and prepared himself for, to him, some hocuspocus operation, taking the precaution, however, to inquire if there was any danger of the "things bustin'." Mr. S. assured him there was not the least danger, and proceeded to arrange the camera, at the same time warning his customer of the importance of having a *free* and *easy* expression; then exposing the plate for a few seconds, after which, saying, "that will do, sir, I have you now," the old gentleman arose and stood for a moment, speechless and amazed, at the strange operation; at last, regaining his self-possession, he exclaimed: "Mr. Smith, you'll find that, in the first part of that likeness, I looked rather sober, but in the last part I kinder smiled."

THE GUTTA PERCHA TRADE.

Previous to 1844, the very name of gutta percha was unknown to European commerce. In that year two cwt. of it were shipped experimentally from Singapore. The exportation of gutta percha from that port rose in 1845 to 169 piculs; (the picul is 133 1-2 lbs.;) in 1846, to 5,354; in 1847, to 9,296; in the first seven months of 1848, to 6,678 piculs. In the first four and a half years of the trade, 21,598 piculs of gutta percha, valued at 274,190 dollars, were shipped at Singapore; the whole of which was sent to England, with the exception of

15 piculs to Mauritius, 470 to the continent of Europe, and 922 to the United States.

But this rapid growth of the new trade conveys only a faint idea of the commotion it created, among the native inhabitants of the Indian Archipelago. The jungles of the Johore were the scene of the earliest gatherings, and they were soon ransacked in every direction by parties of Malays and Chinese, while the indigenous population gave themselves up to the search with a unanimity and zeal, only to be equalled by that which made railway jobbers of every man, woman, and child in England, about the same time.

The Tamungong, with the usual policy of oriental governors, declared the precious gum a government monopoly. He appropriated the greater part of the profits, and still left the Malays enough to stimulate them to pursue the quest, and to gain from 100 to 400 per cent. for themselves, on what they procured from the aborigines. The Tamungong, not satisfied with buying at his own price all that was collected by private enterprise, sent out numerous parties of from 10 to 100 persons, and employed whole tribes of hereditary serfs in the quest of gutta percha.

The organized body of gum-hunters spread itself like a cloud of locusts over the whole of Johore, peninsular and insular. They crossed the frontier into Ligna, but there the sultan was not long in discovering the new value that had been conferred upon his jungles. He confiscated the greater part of what had been collected by the interlopers, and, in emulation of the Tamungong, declared gutta percha a royalty.

The knowledge of the article, stirring the avidity of gatherers, gradually spread from Singapore, northward as far as Pinang, southward along the east coast of Sumatra to Java, eastward to Borneo, where it was found at Brunê, Sarawak, and Pontianak on the west coast, at Keti and Passir on the east. The imports of gutta percha into Singapore, from the 1st of January to the 12th of July, 1848, according to their