

The introduction of even gas-lights into the navy is far from being impracticable. In large ships the galley could be so constructed that gas might be made throughout the whole night or day if required, so as to supply the burners as fast as it could be consumed. Refining and a gasometer would be unnecessary, and the flame might be protected by a cylindrical or globular lantern of tale or horn. I foresee neither difficulty, inconvenience, nor trouble, in the proposal, and only wish some good may arise from these loose hints, which others, I hope, will improve upon, and which, if feasible, the underwriters have every means of having carried into practice.

Your constant reader,

C. D. Y.

NEW MODE OF EMBOSSING DESIGNS ON WOOD; BY MR. JOHN STRAKER, OF REDCROSS-SQUARE, CRIPPLE-GATE.

Raised figures on wood, such as are employed in picture-frames and other articles of ornamental cabinet work, are produced by means of carving, or by casting the pattern in Paris plaster or other composition, and cementing or otherwise fixing it on the surface of the wood. The former mode is expensive; the latter is inapplicable on many occasions.

The invention of Mr. Straker may be used either by itself or in aid of carving, and depends on the fact, that if a depression be made by a blunt instrument on the surface of wood, such depressed part will again rise to its original level by subsequent immersion in water.

The wood to be ornamented having first been worked out to its proposed shape, is in a state to receive the drawing of the pattern: this being put in, a blunt steel tool, or bur-nisher, or die, is to be applied successively to all those parts of the pattern intended to be in relief, and at the same time is to be driven very cautiously, without breaking the grain of the wood, till the depth of the depression is equal to the subse-

quent prominence of the figures. The ground is then to be reduced, by planing or filing, to the level of the depressed part; after which, the piece of wood being placed in water, either hot or cold, the parts previously depressed will rise to their former height, and will thus form an embossed pattern, which may be finished by the usual operations of carving.

HOUSE ROOFS.

SIR,—“A Traveller” recommends (in Number 71) that Roofs of Houses should be made flat, and covered with Roman Cement. It will, perhaps, gratify him and many of your readers to know that an architect, who has distinguished himself by the erection of one of the most perfect Gothic or early English Churches of the present day, has been engaged in a series of experiments for the production of a metallic roofing. His attempts have been successful, and he has obtained a patent for an article which must, when known, supersede all others for the same purpose. It is strong, durable, handsome, and cheap. It may be laid to any pitch, requires fewer and less strength of timbers than any other roofing at present in use, and may be formed, as it is put up, into gutters and shoots. The invention is one of great importance, and will very shortly be brought before the public.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ABEL HANDY.

February 1st, 1825.

PEWTERER'S SOLDERING FURNACE.

The Pewterers have long been in the habit of employing a blast of hot air, for the purpose of heating and soldering the various parts of their articles together with soft solder, and with very great convenience indeed; the blast of air being quite clean, and not discolouring the parts with smoke, soot, &c.

The small furnace employed for this purpose is of a round or oval shape, and is formed of an exterior