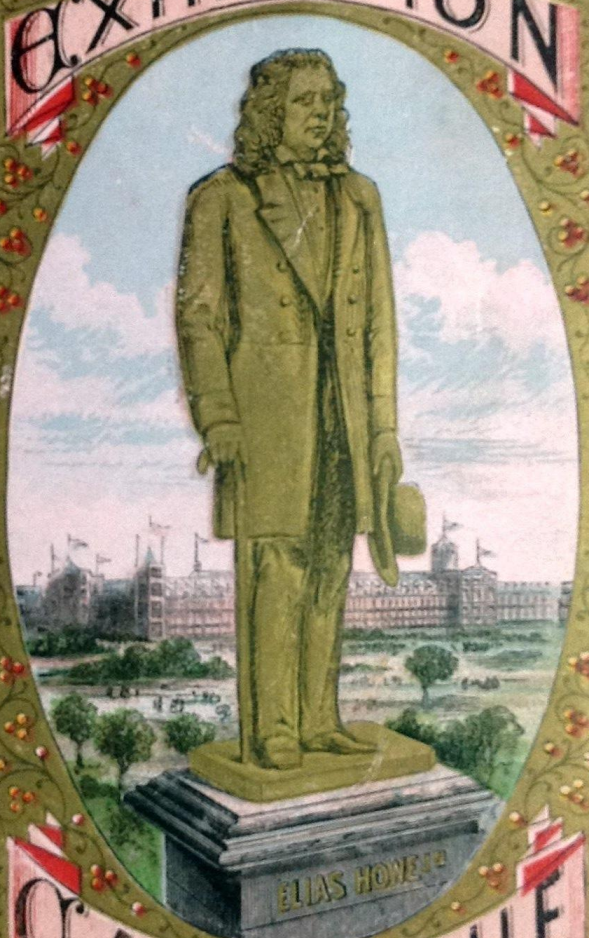
THE Howe

EXHIBITION



CATALOGUE

SEWING MACHINE

Kronheim & Co., 9 Dey Street, New York.

The Howe

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

OF

Sewing Machines & Cases.

PUTTLE - N.Y.

A BRIEF HISTORY

OF THE

SEWING MACHINE,

AND ITS INVENTOR,

ELIAS HOWE, JR.

In the foremost rank of the men who have reared their own monuments by the creation of great labor-saving inventions, the name of Elias Howe, Jr., must ever hold an honored place. Born at Spencer, Mass., in 1819, his early years were spent in toil as the son of an humble farmer and miller, and at the age of 19 years we find him learning the trade of a machinist at a shop in Boston, where he overheard a conversation in which the remark was made: "Invent a Sewing Machine, and I will insure you an independent fortune." The idea of sewing by machinery had never before occurred to him, but the suggestion impressed itself indelibly upon his mind. He commenced to reflect upon the art of sewing, to watch the process, as performed by hand, and to wonder whether it could be accomplished by machinery; but made no serious attempt at that time to construct a machine for the purpose. At the age of 21 he married, and in 1843 found himself a journeyman mechanic, earning nine dollars per week, from which to feed and clothe himself, his wife, and three children. The pressure of this extreme poverty caused him to turn his atten-

tion seriously to the work of inventing the machine which was to secure to its inventor an independent fortune.

He wasted many months in an endeavor to construct a machine which would imitate the operation of sewing by hand, and his first device was a needle, pointed at both ends and having an eye in the middle, which should work back and forth through the cloth, carrying the thread with it. Hour after hour, by day and by night, he endeavored to carry out this conception, and cut many a basket of chips in the effort to make something that would produce the common stitch, but failed.

One day in 1844 the thought flashed upon him that there might be another stitch. The idea of using a needle with the eye near the point, and a shuttle carrying a second thread, soon occurred to him, and in the month of October of that year he proved to his own satisfaction, by a rough model of wood and wire, that he had invented a sewing machine. Such a model, however, would not test the invention. He had not been able to sew, but had only convinced himself of his ability to make a machine which would sew. He had not the means to purchase the raw material necessary for such a model as was required, and was barely able to provide for his family the actual necessaries of life. His friends had no faith in his invention, but he finally succeeded in convincing George Fisher, an old schoolmate, of the feasibility of a Sewing Machine, and was by him furnished with the means to complete his invention. All the winter of 1844-45 he worked steadily and certainly on toward success, his conception of what he wished to produce being so clear that he was little delayed by failures. In April, 1845, he succeeded in sewing a seam, and by the middle of May he had completed his first machine. (This machine, which is one of the most wonderful mechanical curiosities of our time, is now on exhibition in the Pavilion of The Howe Machine Company in the Machinery Building of the International Exhibition of 1876.) It is a marvel of com-

pleteness, and though every contrivance in it has been improved, and new devices added, no successful sewing machine has ever been made which does not embody some of its essential features.

Like all other great inventors, Mr. Howe found that the completion of his invention was but the beginning of his troubles. At first he could not induce tailors to even look at it. Some objected that it would not make the whole garment; others that, if adopted, it would beggar the whole fraternity of hand-sewers. The great cost of the machines was also a serious obstacle to their introduction, as they could not have been furnished at that time for less than three hundred dollars each. He was unable to secure an order for a single machine.

All these discouragements, however, did not dishearten the inventor. He again shut himself up for three or four months, and constructed a model for deposit in the Patent Office, the Patent being issued Sept. 10th, 1846. (This model is one of those selected by the United States Government to illustrate the notable inventions of the age, and forms a part of the exhibit in the U. S. Government Building at the International Exhibition). Failing to secure any results in America from his invention, Mr. Howe resolved to offer it to England, and in October, 1846, his brother, Amasa B. Howe, conveyed one of the machines to London, where he sold it, with the right to use as many others as he desired in his business, to a Mr. Wm. Thomas, for two hundred and fifty pounds sterling. That investment yielded Mr. Thomas a profit of over one million of dollars. Mr. Thomas also made a proposition to employ Elias Howe to adapt his machine to the making of stays, and, there being no prospect of success in America, the offer was accepted, and Mr. Howe set sail for London, Feb. 5th, 1847. After he had accomplished the purpose of the stay-maker, he was dismissed from his employment, and commenced the construction of his fourth machine. While occupied in this task he was again reduced

to extreme poverty, and upon its completion was obliged to sell the machine for five pounds. He pawned his first machine and letters patent, and with the means thus obtained returned to New York, where he landed in April, 1849, with half a crown in his pocket. Nearly four years had elapsed since the completion of his invention, and this was the net result of his labors. He was again forced to seek employment as a journeyman machinist.

Meantime the sewing machine had become celebrated. Several ingenious mechanics who had either seen or heard of the Howe Machine, had turned their attention to inventing in the same direction, or to improving upon Mr. Howe's devices, and machines had been made in Boston and elsewhere, some of which had been sold to manufacturers, and were in daily operation. Upon inspecting these machines, Mr. Howe saw that they all contained the devices which he had first combined and patented. Poor as he was, he was not disposed to submit tamely to these infringements, and began at once to prepare for war upon the infringers. He first warned them all to desist, at the same time offering to sell them licenses to continue. All but one were disposed to acknowledge his rights, and accede to his terms. That one (I. M. Singer) induced the others to resist, and the only remedy was a resort to the courts. Mr. Howe entered the contest a journeyman machinist; his machine and letters patent were in pawn three thousand miles away, and the patience, if not the purses, of his friends was exhausted; when he emerged from it, one of the most important branches of the national industry was under tribute to him. The necessary means for carrying on the suits was secured by a mortgage upon the farm of the inventor's father. The infringers threw all their energies into the conflict, and no effort was spared by them to overthrow Mr. Howe's claims; but after several years of litigation, a final decision was rendered in his favor by Judge Sprague, of Mass., in which he remarked: "There is no evidence in this case that leaves a shadow of doubt that for all the benefits conferred by the introduction of the sewing

machine, the public are indebted to Elias Howe, Jr." This decision was made in 1854, after a lapse of nine years from the completion of the invention, and when eight years of the term of the first patent had expired. Almost immediately upon the rendering of this decision, which made all other manufacturers of sewing machines licensees of Mr. Howe, a violent legal warfare broke out among the leading manufacturers, each accusing the other of infringement; but in 1856 a compromise was made, and what was known as the "Combination" was formed for the protection of its members against infringements of their patents. Mr. Howe had the complaisance to join this confederation (stipulating, however, that at least twenty-four licenses should be issued by it, to prevent the business from degenerating into a monopoly), and an arrangement was made whereby he received a royalty upon every machine manufactured. This arrangement prevented Mr. Howe from entering the field as a competing manufacturer until the year 1865, when he organized The Howe Machine Co. The greater part of the first two years of its existence, and a large amount of capital, were devoted to the perfecting of the Howe Machine. This purpose having been accomplished, Mr. Howe exhibited it at the Paris Exposition of 1867, where, for its evident superiority over all others, it was awarded the highest premium (a gold medal), and Elias Howe, Jr., its inventor and manufacturer, was decorated by the Emperor of France with the "Cross of the Legion of Honor," thus receiving the highest award ever given to any exhibitor at any exhibition for any articles whatever exhibited.

After the close of the French Exhibition, Mr. Howe returned to his native land, where a few months subsequently he died, passing away at the zenith of his triumph, as one of the most remarkable and successful inventors of the age. He, however, could never have fully realized the magnitude of the work which he had accomplished, nor could he have foreseen the enormous proportions to which the company he organized was destined to attain. No

adequate estimate can be made of the vast importance of the Sewing Machine to the world as a labor-saving invention, though some idea of the magnitude of the business may be gained from the fact that there are engaged in the manufacture of sewing machines no less than thirty-two different companies, having an aggregate capital invested of not less than $30,000,000, and producing over 400,000 machines per annum. More than twelve thousand men are employed in their factories, not to mention the immense army engaged in the sale of machines

Among all these, none is more prominent than The Howe Machine Company. Since its organization in 1865 it has manufactured and sold nearly one million sewing machines, a number which required more than twenty years for the next largest company to produce. Taking the number of machines manufactured by the different companies since their organization, the annual average of The Howe Machine Co. is nearly double that of any other. So great has been the demand for its machines, that it has been obliged to increase its facilities from time to time, until its works now cover the enormous area of 513,298 square feet, and are capable of producing 1,000 machines per day, giving employment to nearly 4,000 men. It has branch offices in all the principal cities of the civilized world, and sub-agencies for the sale of its machines are to be found in nearly every village.

These results have been attained in spite of the most bitter and determined opposition from those companies which were fully established in business before its organization, and which had grown rich from the use of Mr. Howe's invention. The success of this company is largely due to the scrupulous care which is taken to insure absolute mechanical perfection in every detail of its manufactures, and the unswerving fidelity with which it fulfills every promise made to the public.

The infinite variety of work to which their machines are adapted, would have been deemed incredible even ten years ago. It embraces the sewing of every variety of fabric. Various styles of machines are manufactured, as will

be seen by the accompanying illustrations, and they range in value from $60 to $250, according to the amount of ornamentation, the working parts being exactly similar in each.

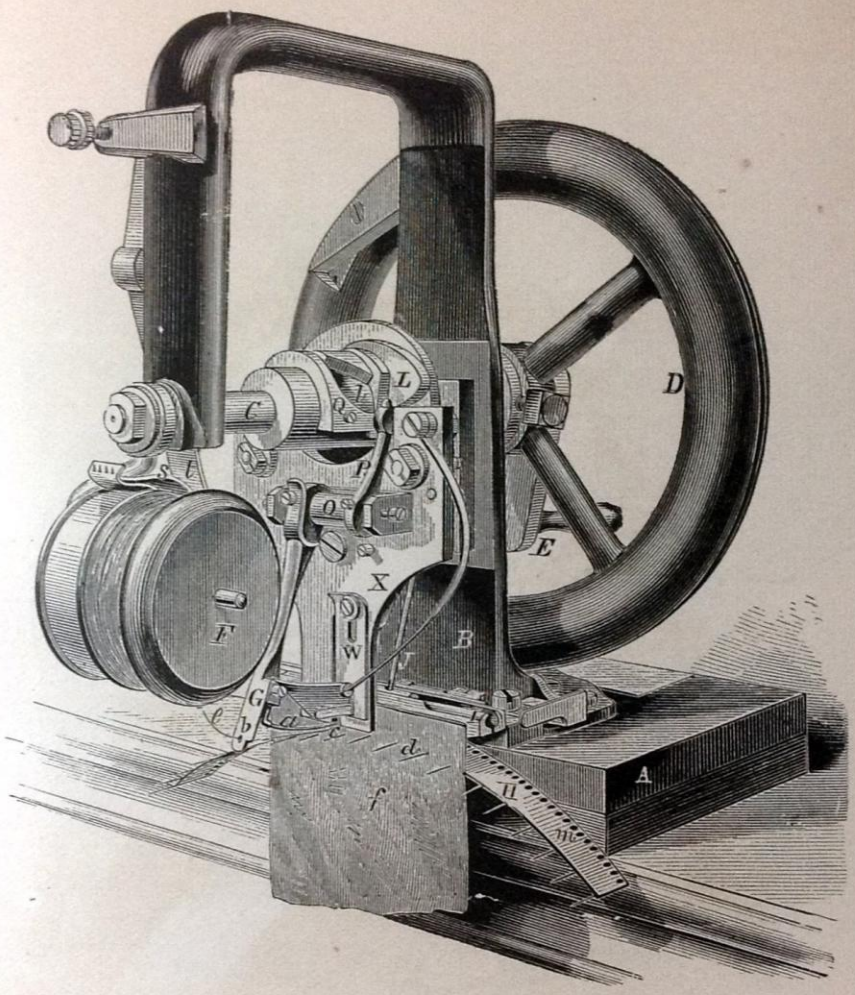
The statue of Elias Howe, Jr., illustrated on the front cover of this catalogue, is erected on the border of the lake in the Park, directly opposite the main entrance of Machinery Hall. It is of bronze, of heroic size, mounted upon a granite pedestal, 9 feet 6 inches in height. It was designed by S. Ellis and cast by Robert Wood & Co., and is intended to be erected in Central Park, New York, after the close of the Centennial Exhibition.

Our Pavilion, which is represented upon the back of the cover, is erected on South Avenue in Machinery Hall and is one of the most beautiful structures of its class connected with the Exhibition. It covers an area of six hundred and thirty square feet, and is enclosed with a black walnut railing, 3 feet 6 inches high, ornamented with jutties of French walnut. The roof, which is of illuminated glass of various tints, is supported by four elaborately carved and ornamented pillars, and is surmounted by a beautiful figure of Mercury, the messenger of the gods, to whom was attributed the authorship of various inventions indispensable to the weal of human society.

The cuts in this catalogue are all new, and were made expressly to illustrate the machines prepared by us for the Centennial Exhibition. The woodwork was constructed at our factory at Peru, Ind., and is of every variety of style and finish. In its construction care was taken to avoid the prevalent idea that handsome cabinet work must necessarily be of grotesque shape and composed of many pieces. The cases exhibited by us differ from our regular styles only in finish and ornamentation. The machines are of our latest improved pattern, and, like the cabinet work, are of every variety of style and finish, from plain black to the most elaborate ornamentation which can be produced with gold, silver and pearl.

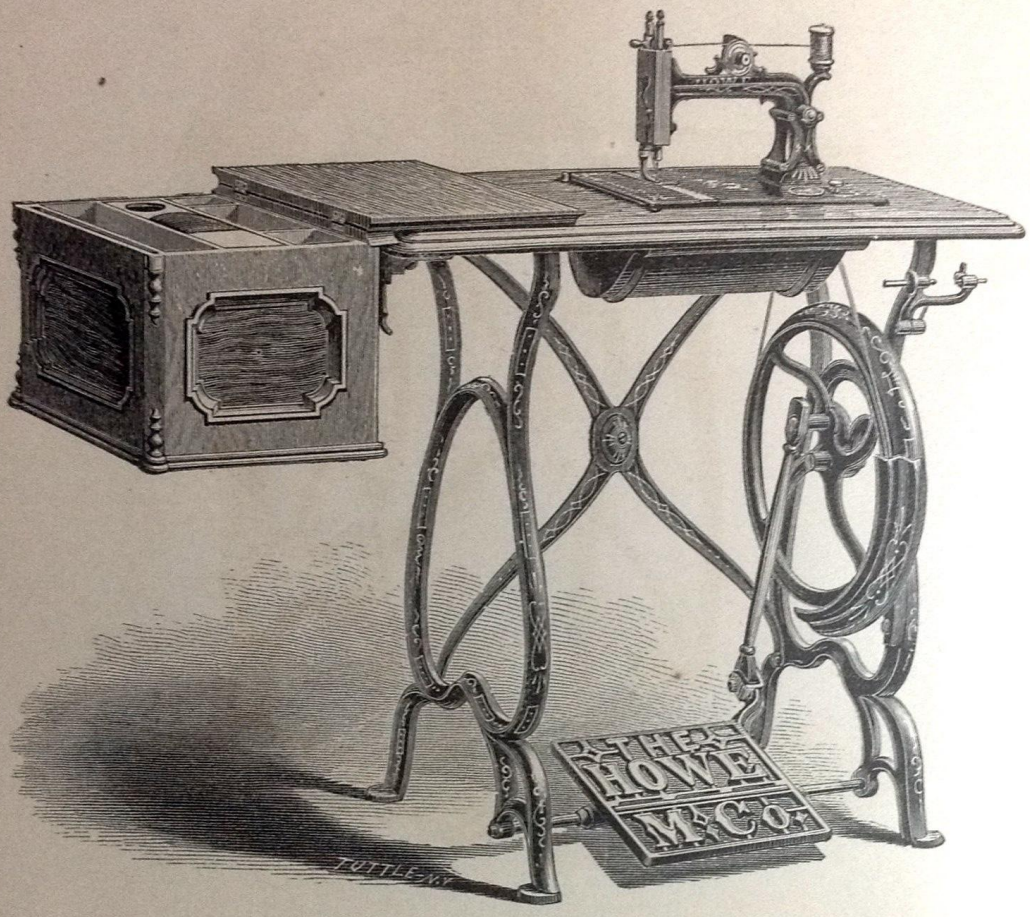
ELIAS HOWE, JR.

INVENTOR OF THE SEWING MACHINE.



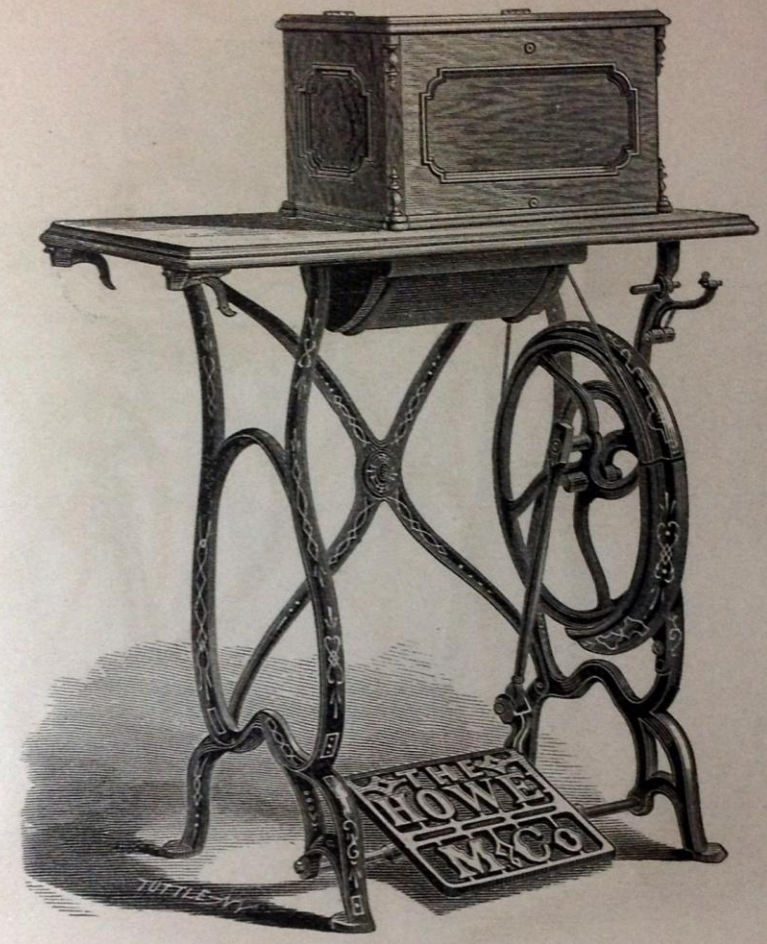
The above is a correct representation of the first Sewing Machine. It was constructed by Elias Howe, Jr., and in April, 1845, sewed the first seam ever made by machinery. This fact has been established beyond dispute, notwithstanding the musty archives of every nation on the face of the globe have been searched, and unscrupulous pretenders brought forward in the vain endeavor to prove a prior invention.

This Machine is a marvel of mechanism, and contains every radical element that goes to make up the first-class Sewing Machine of to-day, viz., the grooved and eye-pointed needle at the end of a vibrating arm, the reciprocating shuttle and bobbin, the tension upon the thread variable at will, the reaction of the needle to form a loop for the shuttle to pass through, the thread controller, the clamping of the shuttle thread, and the automatic feeding device. All these are embraced in this Machine, and were covered by Mr. Howe's first patent, and without them there would be no Sewing Machine to-day. At Mr. Howe's death this Machine passed into the possession of his eldest daughter, Mrs. Levi S Stockwell, and is now on exhibition at our Pavilion in Machinery Hall.



The above cut represents our New Extension Table. The cover, upon being removed from the Machine, is readily and securely attached to the end of the table, and forms a support for large and heavy garments while being sewed. It is constructed with a till in the top, so arranged as to serve as a convenient receptacle for the safe keeping of needles, attachments, etc., belonging to the machine, and is thus made to fulfill the threefold purpose of a cover for the Machine, an extension to the table, and a work-box. The till can be securely locked, thus affording complete protection for the articles which it contains.

This is a very neat and convenient arrangement, and is considered one of the most desirable styles upon our list.



EXTENSION TABLE WITH TILL TOP.

(The above cut represents the New Extension Table, illustrated upon the opposite page, as it appears when the Machine is not in use.) This ingenious device is secured by five distinct letters patent of the United States, and is one of the valuable improvements lately introduced by us.

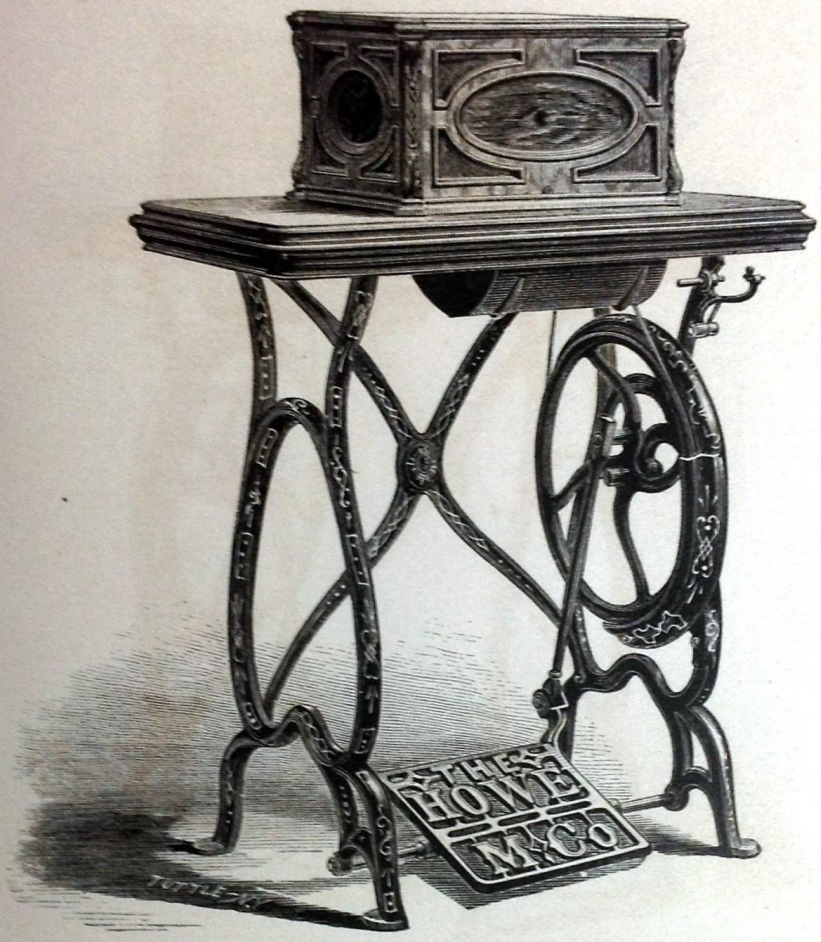
The table above represented is composed of American mottled walnut, with cover of plain American walnut, the tills being of white holly and mahogany.

☞ Price lists of our regular styles of Machines will be furnished upon application by mail or otherwise. Our terms of sale will always be found as liberal as those of any other company.

BOX TOP AND TABLE.

Table of American walnut, border trimmed with ebony; cover of French mottled walnut, with sunken panels of thea; mouldings of American walnut.

The cover represented above is one of our ordinary covers (having no till in the top), but is so arranged that upon being removed from the Machine it can be attached to the end of the table so as to form an extension, as shown on page 12. The extension thus formed is stronger and more durable than the drop leaf, and has the additional advantage of making a useful and convenient disposition of the cover when the Machine is in use.

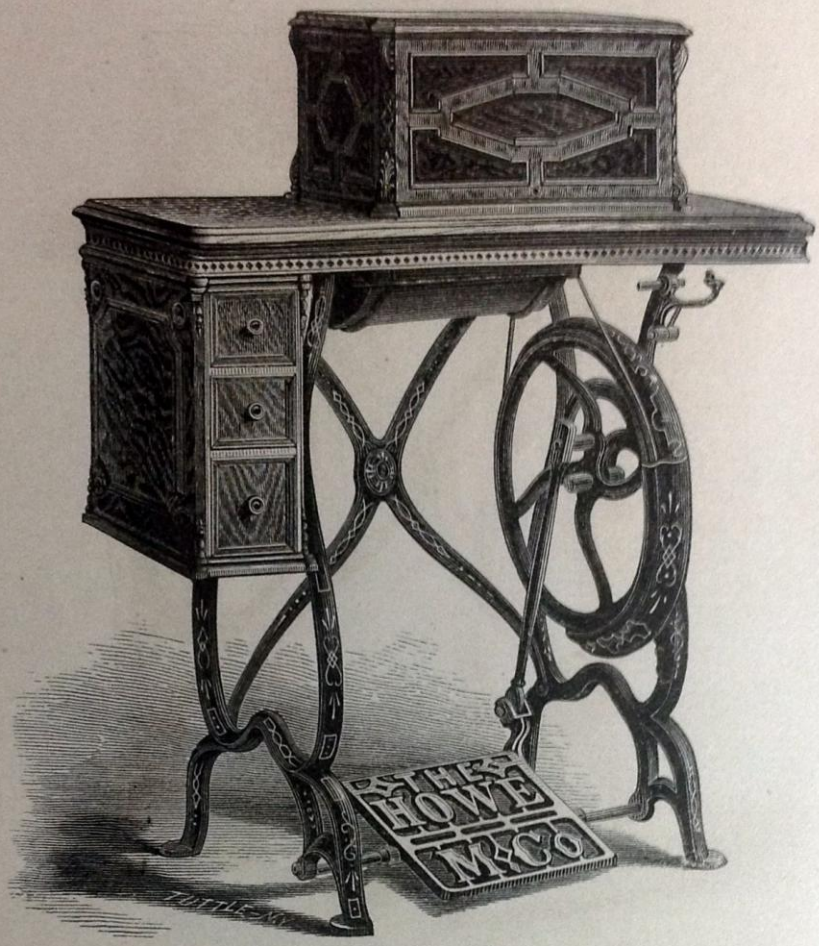


BOX TOP AND TABLE.

Table of American walnut, border trimmed with ebony; cover with large panels of French walnut and small panels of butternut. (This cover may be arranged so as to form an extension to the table, as shown on page 12.)

Many of the Sewing Machine Companies offer a Machine poorly finished, at a lower price than any on our list.

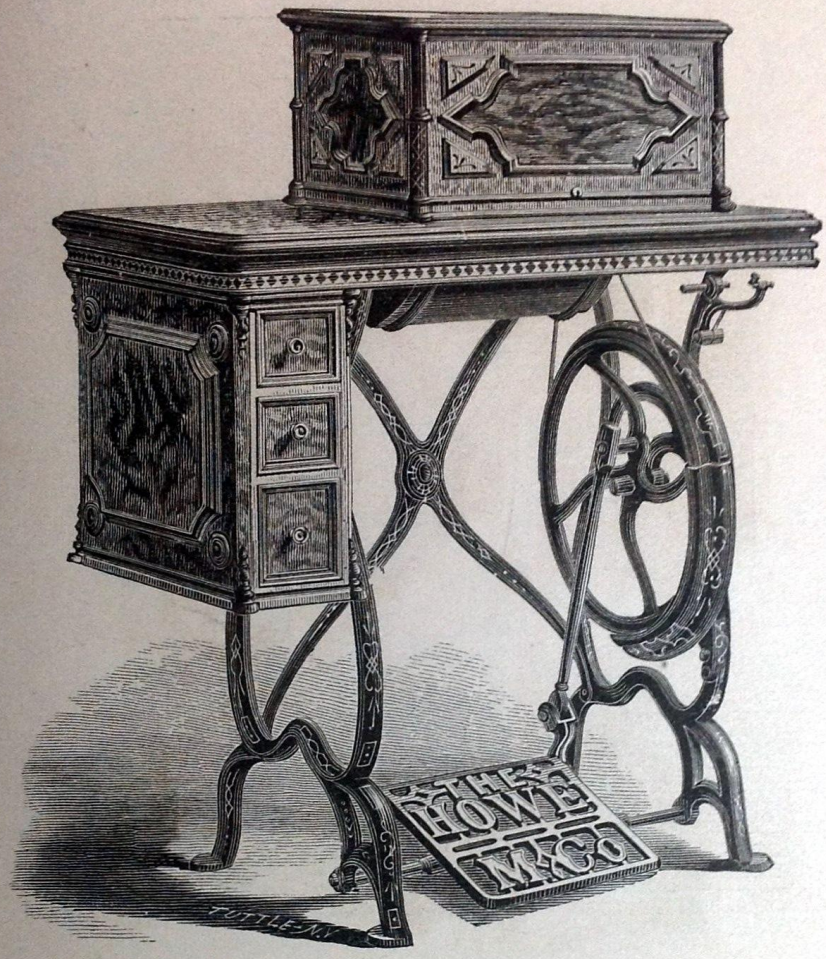
The Howe Machine Company aims to have every Machine perfect. They are made of the best material, with more exactness and precision and greater durability than is generally considered necessary; it is essential, however, that a Machine should be well made if expected to be of good service, and those wishing to introduce the Sewing Machine into their families will find it a great saving in time, labor and expense, to at once purchase a "Howe."



BORDERED TABLE WITH BOX TOP AND SIDE DRAWERS.

Table of French striped walnut with border inlaid with marquetra; cover of plain American walnut, mouldings and carvings of ebony; centre panels of thea, corner panels of French root walnut.

The liberality of the Howe Machine Company toward inventors has enabled it to control a large number of valuable improvements, prominent among the more recent of which are a new feeding device; isolated hinges; adjustable slides in the cams, so constructed that lost motion may be taken up; a stitch regulator, which enables the operator to change the length of the stitch while the machine is in motion, by simply turning a thumb screw, and the New Extension Table already described.



BORDERED TABLE WITH BOX TOP AND SIDE DRAWERS.

Table of French mottled walnut with border inlaid with marquetra; cover of French mottled walnut with panels of American root walnut; columns of ebony and base moulding inlaid with thea.

No one can fail to be interested in an examination of the samples on exhibition at our Pavilion on South Avenue in Machinery Hall. They were made for the purpose of illustrating the capacity of the Howe Machine, and embrace every kind of material and every variety of stitching, from the plain seam to the most elaborate designs in applique and embroidery. Many of the latter bear more the appearance of being the production of an artist's brush than the work of a sewing machine. We do not think these samples have been equaled by any other sewing machine work ever exhibited.

FOLDING COVER WITH SIDE DRAWERS.

The cut upon the opposite page represents this cover as it appears when open.

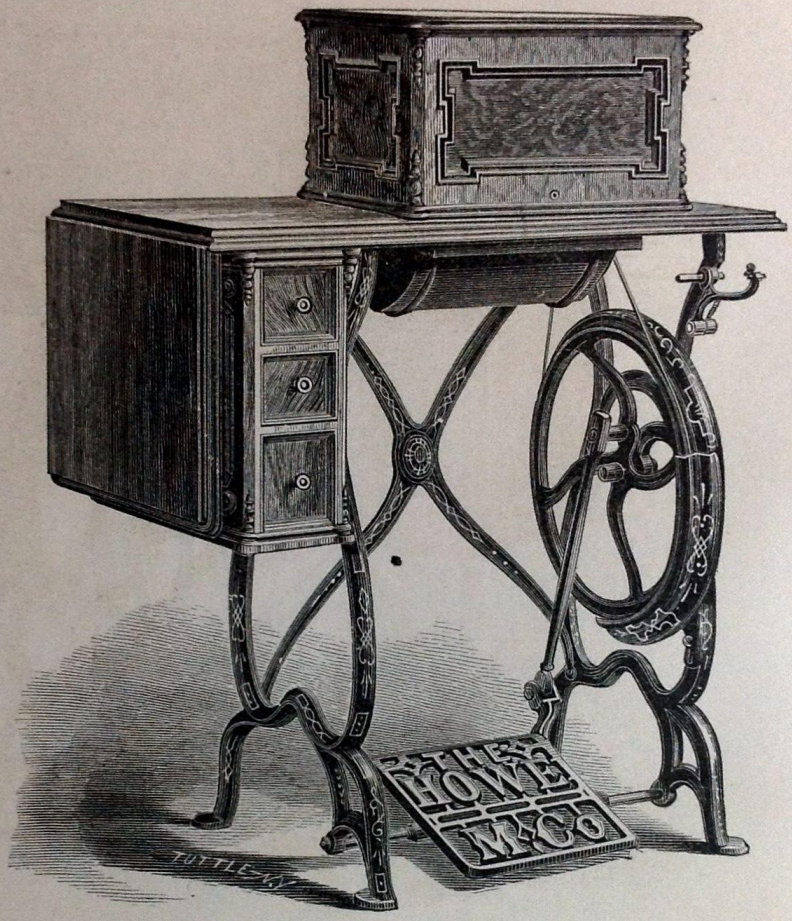
Table of American mottled walnut, border trimmed with ebony; cover and side drawers of walnut trimmed to match.

One of the most annoying things connected with the operation of Sewing Machines is the missing of stitches when using a fine needle. The Howe Machine is so constructed that the distance of the needle from the shuttle can be readily regulated, and this annoyance, so common in the use of other Machines, entirely avoided.

The above cut represents the Folding Cover as it appears when open. When closed it presents the appearance shown upon the opposite page.

The Howe Machine is provided with Patent Detachable Hinges, which allow it to be turned back to be cleaned and oiled, and when desired, it can be instantly taken from the table without removing a single screw.

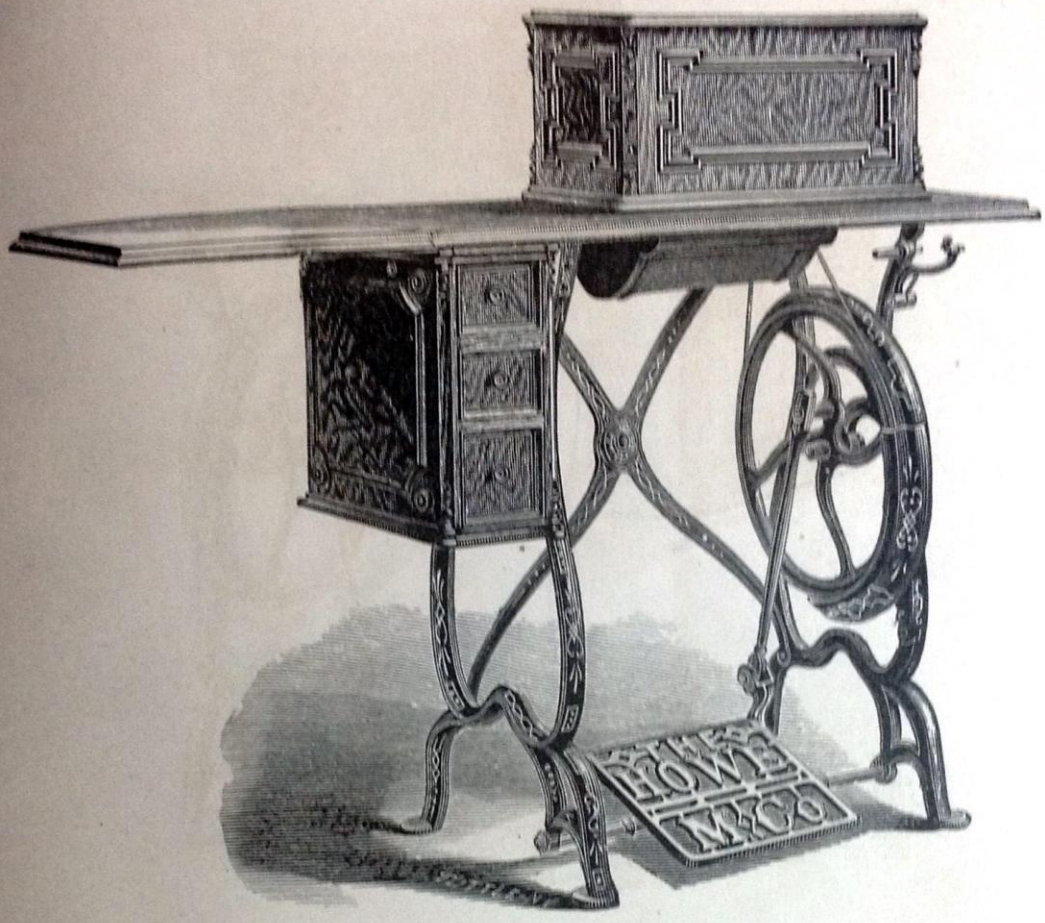
These hinges are provided with rubber sockets, so arranged as to completely isolate them from the table, thus avoiding the noise which results from screwing the hinges fast to the table, as is done upon other Sewing Machines. They are a very decided improvement, and are controlled solely by the Howe Machine Company.



DROP LEAF TABLE WITH BOX TOP AND SIDE DRAWERS.

(The drop leaf is represented as extended in the cut upon the opposite page.)
Table of French striped walnut; cover of American walnut with panels of butternut burl.

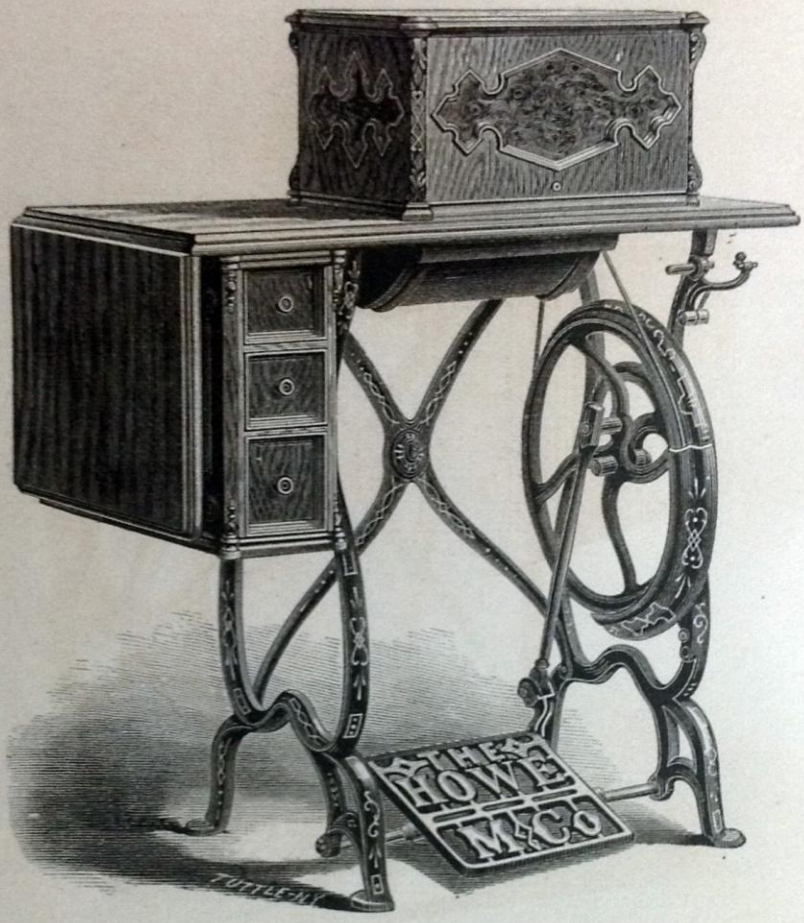
If it be inconvenient for any one wishing to purchase a Machine to visit one of our offices an order may be forwarded by mail, and will be as faithfully filled as if the selection had been made personally. Cash or draft must accompany the order. Machines will be forwarded to any part of the country accompanied by an Instruction Book so perfect in every respect that an examination of the illustrations alone will enable the most inexperienced person to operate successfully. Our interest in the successful operation of machines not being second to that of purchasers, we hold ourselves in readiness to render them any necessary and practicable assistance.



The above cut represents the drop leaf as it appears when extended, forming a support for large and heavy garments while being sewed. When not in use it presents the appearance shown upon the opposite page.

The beauty and uniformity of stitch for which the Howe Machine is celebrated is due in a great measure to the superiority of its tensions. The upper thread passes around a revolving wheel, the motion of which is controlled by a screw, and a perfectly uniform tension is secured, without regard to the size or quality of the thread.

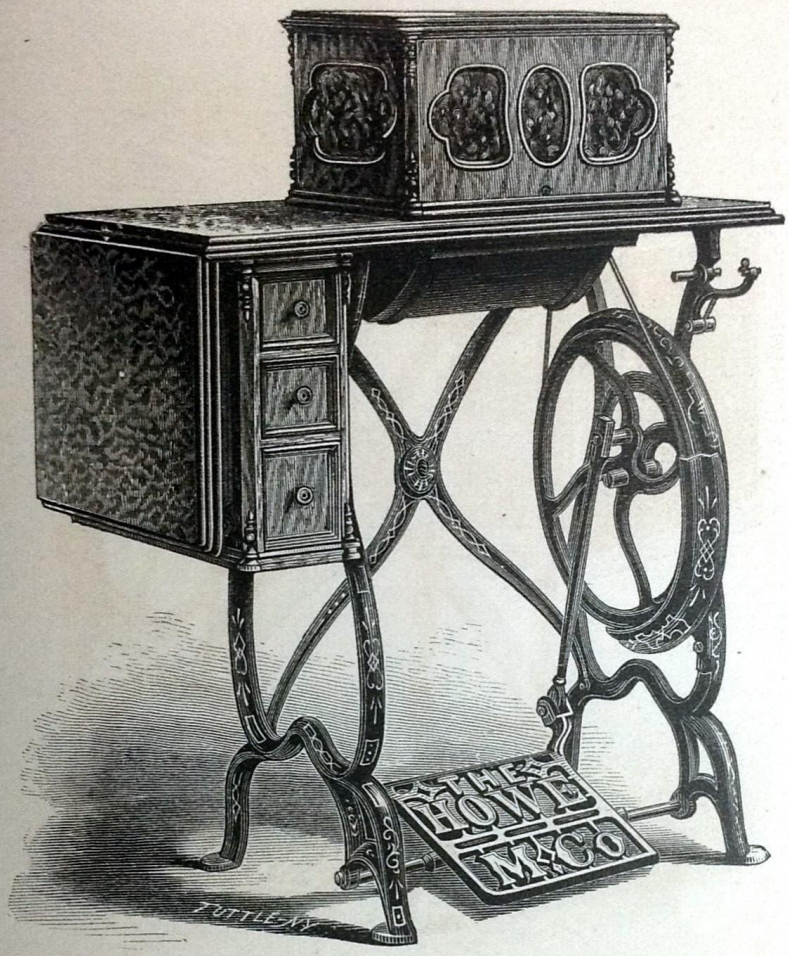
The shuttle tension is perfectly uniform, and can be regulated by simply turning a screw. A tension produced by lacing the thread through a series of holes in the side of the shuttle, as is done in nearly all other Machines, is never uniform, and cannot be regulated without removing the shuttle from the Machine, breaking the thread, and then relacing.



DROP LEAF TABLE WITH BOX TOP AND SIDE DRAWERS.

Table of French mottled walnut; cover of American walnut, with sunken panels of thea mouldings, carvings, etc., of American walnut.

We are exhibiting on our Machines a universal feed attachment intended or ornamental stitching on fine shoes, gloves, clothing, etc. The feed is operated automatically in every direction by means of a Jacquard movement, and is capable of producing designs of every variety, from a single line of any curvature to a network of any desired width, having the appearance of lace or embroidery. This attachment is applied to the Howe Machine only, and is so entirely novel that it cannot fail to attract serious attention from manufacturers generally.

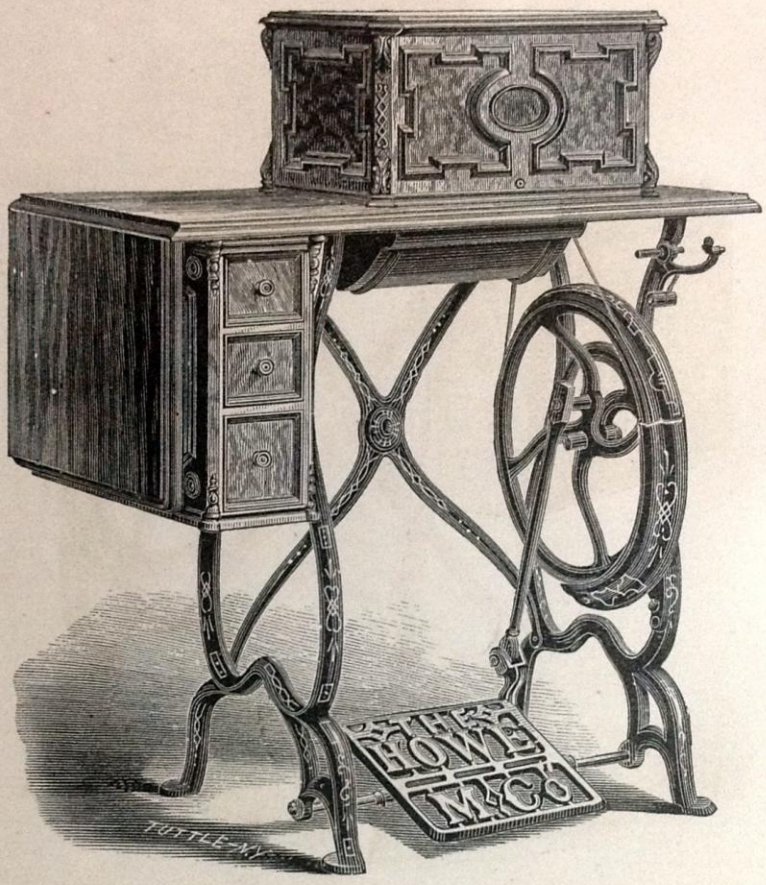


DROP LEAF TABLE WITH BOX TOP AND SIDE DRAWERS.

Table of American mottled walnut; cover and side drawers of American striped walnut, with sunken panels of American walnut burl.

Among other novelties which we exhibit, is an attachment for releasing the presser foot rom the work at each stitch. The foot is raised exactly the same distance from the surface of the material without regard to its thickness. This arrangement secures perfect uniformity in the length of stitches when turning short curves, stitching scallops or doing ornamental stitching of any description. This entirely new and very valuable improvement is applied only to the Howe Machine.

We also exhibit a patent Trimmer, which is so constructed as to trim the seams and tops of boots and scallops perfectly smooth and close to the line of stitching, no matter how irregular.

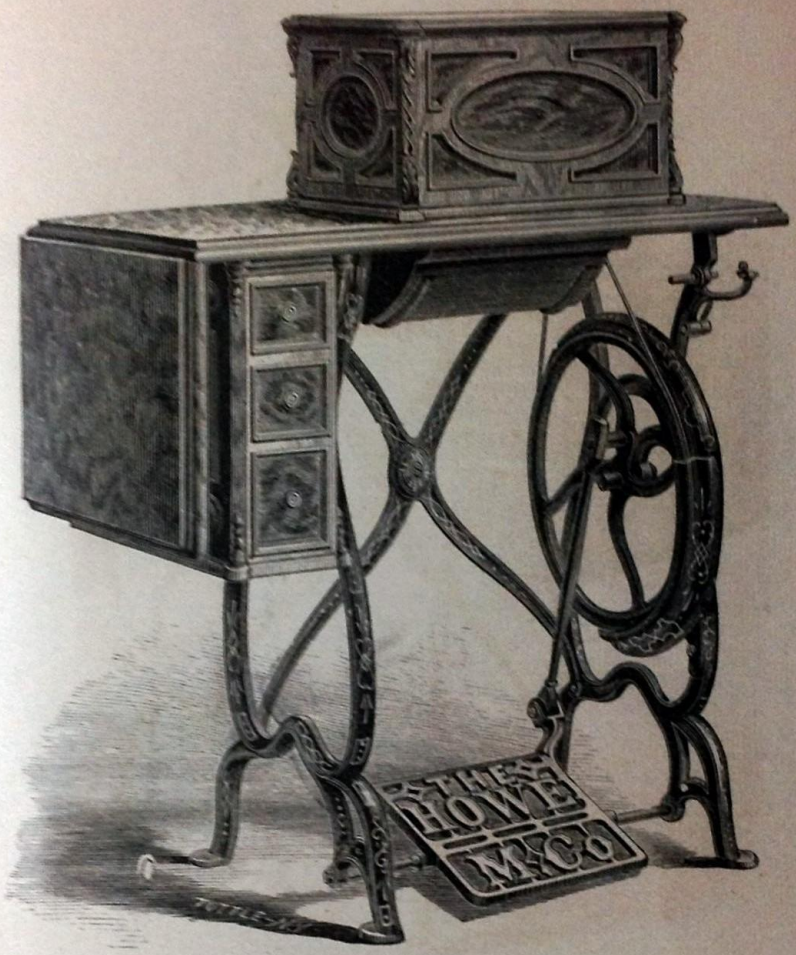


DROP LEAF TABLE WITH BOX TOP AND SIDE DRAWERS.

Table of French striped walnut; cover and side drawers of plain American walnut, with large sunken panels of French mottled walnut and small oval panels of butternut burl.

THE SHOE AND LEATHER BUILDING.

In addition to our Pavilion in Machinery Hall we have a space in the Shoe and Leather Building, where we are exhibiting a full line of our manufacturing machines running by steam power upon shoe work. Every one who is in any way interested in the manufacture of shoes or leather work of any description should visit our space in this building and examine our new "D" (or combined arm and platform) Machine. No pains or expense has been spared to make this the best Machine in the world for boot, shoe, harness and leather work generally.



DROP LEAF TABLE WITH BOX TOP AND SIDE DRAWERS.

Table of American mottled walnut bordered with rosewood; cover and side drawers of American striped walnut, with panels of American walnut burl.

We have on exhibition in our space in the Shoe and Leather Building a case of fine shoes of every variety of material, from velvet and satin to calf-skin. The stitching was all done upon the Howe Machine, and is of every variety, from the plainest to the most elaborate embroidery and imitation of lace. These shoes were made expressly to illustrate the capacity of the Howe Machine for fine work, and are models of beauty. We believe the stitching to be the most uniform and beautiful ever produced upon a Sewing Machine, and if any doubts have ever existed as to the superiority of the Howe for fine stitching, they will be removed by an examination of these samples.

SEWING MACHINE CABINET AND SECRETARY COMBINED.

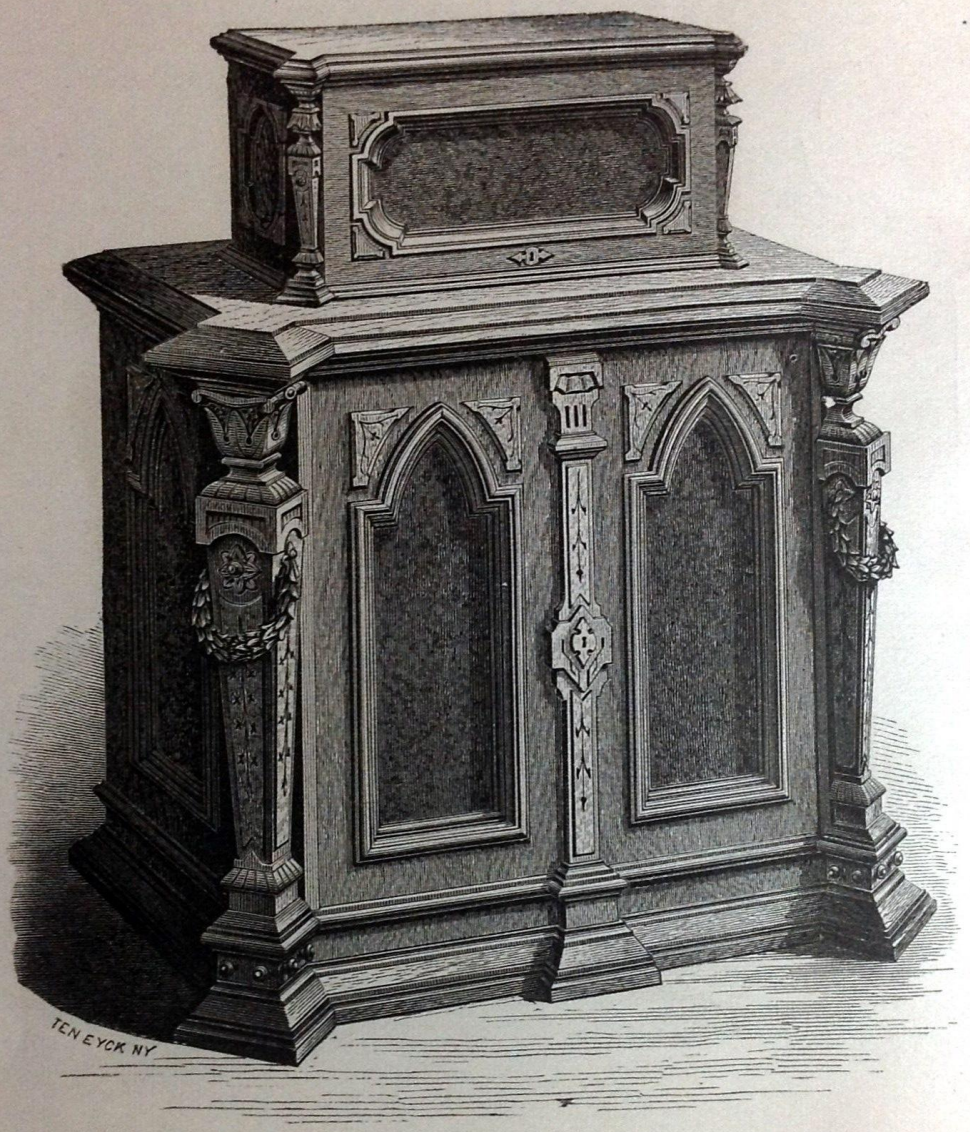
The above, and the cut upon the opposite page, illustrate a very novel and ingenious arrangement, combining a Sewing Machine cabinet and a lady's writing desk.

The above cut represents the secretary open and ready for use, the Sewing Machine and cabinet being entirely concealed. This secretary is complete in every respect, and when closed forms an elegant article of furniture.

SEWING MACHINE CABINET AND SECRETARY COMBINED.

The above cut represents the Machine and cabinet exposed in position for sewing. If desired, the cabinet may be readily detached from the secretary and removed to any part of the room.

Many attempts have been made to combine a Sewing Machine with some ordinary article of furniture, but never before with any degree of success. The objects attained by this arrangement are convenience, economy of space, and absolute protection to the Machine when not in use. This combination can be furnished at less cost than the two articles can be purchased separately.

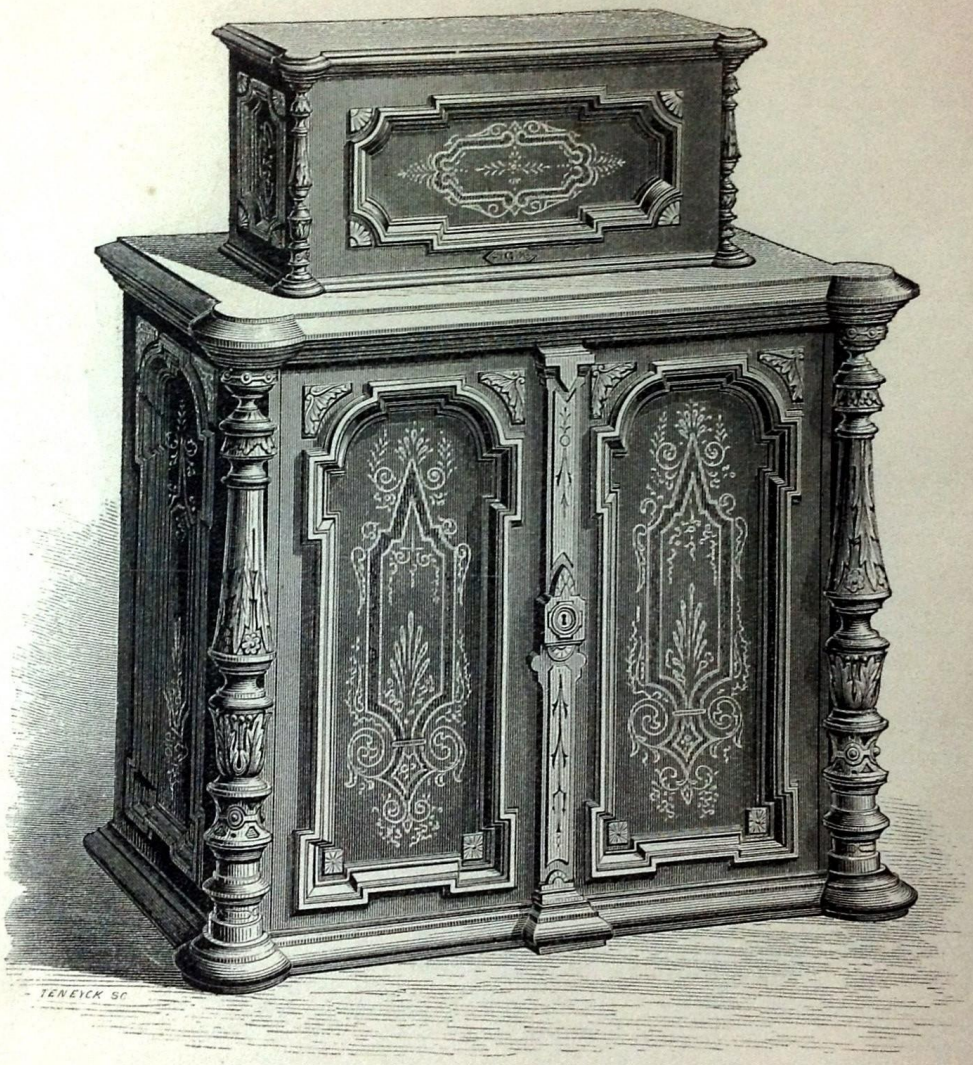


CABINET CASE.

The case represented above is of solid oak elaborately carved. The top and panels are of mottled oak highly polished, and present a very beautiful appearance. This and the two following cabinets are believed to be the handsomest ever constructed for Sewing Machines.

CABINET CASE.

The case represented above is of solid rosewood elegantly carved and polished, bronze figures being inserted in the panels. The inside is divided into panels lined with satinwood and surrounded with rosewood mouldings.



CABINET CASE.

The case represented above is of ebony lined with whitewood, highly finished and polished. The corner posts are tastefully carved, and the panels are surrounded by a heavy moulding, and inlaid with woods of various colors.

MANUFACTURING MACHINES.

The same qualities which commend the Howe Machine as the best for family use, also render it superior to others for all manufacturing purposes. The firmness and durability of its seam, and the beauty and regularity of its stitch, have never been equaled. It is used upon boots, shoes, and leather work generally, to the almost complete exclusion of all other Machines.

Our manufacturing Machines are of three distinct styles, known as "B," "C" and "D," and each of these is of two classes, step and wheel feed.

The "B" Machines are intended for light manufacturing purposes. The *step feed* is for dress and vest making, glove work and light manufacturing generally. It is furnished with the same attachments as the family Machine, and is suitable for all kinds of family sewing. The *wheel feed* is for light shoe and leather work of every description, though the step feed is generally preferred for *ornamental* stitching.

The "C" Machines possess the same characteristics as the "B" Machines, but are larger, having more room under the arm, and are intended for heavier grades of work.

The "D" (or combined arm and platform) Machines are the most simple, convenient and reliable Machines in the market for general manufacturing purposes. By the combination of the arm and platform, many varieties of work can be accomplished which have never before been attempted upon a Sewing Machine. These Machines have an abundance of room under the arm for the passage of large garments, are exceedingly rapid and light running, and carry more thread in the shuttle than any other Machine in the market.

The *step feed* is for tailoring, carriage trimming and manufacturing every variety of cloth work, and is used extensively by Eastern manufacturers for leather work, especially for ornamental stitching. While it is exceedingly powerful, and is intended for the heavier grades of work, it can be used with equal facility upon the lightest material, and we will guarantee it to sew satisfactorily with any kind of thread from number 100 cotton to the coarsest linen. By the use of the arm felled seams can be made upon shirt sleeves, legs of drawers and similar articles, as readily as plain sewing can be done.

The *wheel feed* is for leather work. For siding up fine boots, closing side and back seams of shoes, it has no equal.

These Machines stitch with equal facility upon the finest patent leather or the heaviest harness leather, use a smaller needle for the same sized thread, and are guaranteed to sew a firmer seam with cotton or linen thread than any other Machine will sew with silk, and one which is in every respect equal to the best hand sewing.

The arm is so constructed as to pass through the smallest gaiter upper, allowing the front and back stays to be stitched on without the trouble of turning the upper inside out, with the additional advantage of lapping the front of the lining and seaming it up at the same time. By the use of this arm, the counter and side linings and straps over the seam of a boot can be stitched after the boot is seamed up and turned right side out. For fitting Creole or Congress Gaiter uppers this Machine is invaluable, saving the trouble of turning the upper, and leaving but one knot to be tied.

With our new stay-attachment on this Machine an ordinary operator can stitch on as many stays or strips in an hour as a skilled one can in five hours with any other Machine.

Our Vibrating Presser will be found very useful in doing ornamental stitching, as it insures perfect uniformity in the length of stitch in turning curves. For leather binding and harness work this attachment is almost indispensable.

THE HOWE MACHINE COMPANY,

PRINCIPAL OFFICE, No. 28 UNION SQUARE.

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