**Hack'le; Heck'le; Hatch'el.** A board set with sharp steel spikes for combing or pulling out hemp or flax to dispose the fibers in parallelism, and to separate the tow and hards from the finer fiber.

The teeth are of steel from 1 to 2 inches in length and very sharp. They are arranged in rank and file, in quincunx order, upon a board. The lock of flax is seized by the middle and one end is thrown over the teeth and drawn through. One end being hackled, the other end is turned to the comb and similarly treated.

Fig. 2352.

This separates the ribbons of fiber, removes any remaining traces of the boon or cellular matter, and divides the fiber into two portions, the short and the long, the tow and the line.

The process is repeated on a fine hackle whose teeth are more numerous and thickly set. The produce is from 40 to 60 per cent of fine flax; line.