

**Enormous Rope.**

THE Birmingham *Daily Post* says: "It is, perhaps, hazardous to say of any thing that it is the largest specimen of its kind in the world. But we may fairly say this of an enormous rope just made by our townsmen, Messrs. John and Edwin Wright, Universe Works, Garrison street, so widely known by their share in the production of all the principal ocean telegraph-cables, including the new French Atlantic cable, now in course of construction. We have more than once had occasion to mention Messrs. Wright's extraordinary performances in rope-making; but this latest one is so extraordinary as to merit special commemoration. The rope, which is intended for shipment abroad, is 11,000 yards long, measures five and one fourth inches in circumference, and weighs over sixty tons. These figures are enough to take one's breath away; but when we come to see how the monster is built up, there is cause for still greater surprise. The rope (made of Messrs. Webster & Horsfall's patent charcoal wire, laid round a hemp centre) consists of six strands, with ten wires in each strand. Each wire measures 12,160 yards, so that the entire length of the wire reaches the enormous total of 726,000 yards, or 412½ miles. To this has to be added the length of yarn used for the centre—namely, twenty-seven threads, made from Petersburg hemp, each thread measuring 15,000 yards, and giving a total length of 405,000 yards, or about 230 miles. Adding together the wire and yarn, we have a grand total of 1,131,000 yards, or 635 miles of material—all going to make up a monster wire and hemp rope a little under six miles long. Such a rope certainly has never yet been made; and we doubt whether, excepting in Birmingham, such a one could be made. As it lies in vast coils in Messrs. Wright's machine-room, it looks like a miniature Atlantic cable multiplied by five times the cable thickness. Of course, such a rope will bear an enormous strain, and its capacity in this respect is increased by the perfection of the machinery employed in the manufacture, giving the strands an exactly uniform 'lay,' and imparting the regularity and the precise angle of 'twist,' which experience proves to possess the greatest resisting and holding strength."

For length and absolute weight, this is probably the largest rope ever made; but as a mechanical exploit it does not equal the rope recently manufactured by Mr. Roebling, of Trenton, N. J., for the planes on the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad, at Solomon's Gap, near Wilkesbarre, Pa. The length of this rope is 5000 feet, its circumference is 7.85 inches, and its weight over 30 tons. The material is the best quality of iron wire, and it is one of three ropes of similar dimensions which have been made by the same manufacturer. One of these ropes has been in use for over a year.

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