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 well 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 no extraordinary as to merit special commendation. 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 & Hossall’s patent charcoal wire, laid round a hemp centre) consists of six strands, with ten wires in each strand. Each wire measures 12,169 yards, so that the entire length of the wire reaches the enormous total of 72,900 yards, or 41/2 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 13,000 yards, and giving a total length of 465,000 yards, or about 250 miles. Adding together the wire and yarn, we have a grand total of 1,381,000 yards, or 625 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 wash-house, 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 coiling 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. Rodding, of Trenton, N. J., for the piers on the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad, at Solomon’s Gap, near Wilkesbarre, Pa. The length of this rope is 5,000 feet, its circumference is 7.55 inches, and its weight over 33 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.