Biography of an Inventor.

"Hunt's Merchant's Magazine" is an excellent work, and has no equal of its kind in the world, yet we must say that some of the autobiographies which are presented to the world through its columns contain statements altogether too highly colored; they may answer very well for fairy stories, but scarcely come within the province of sober fact. In the last number (February, 1864) of this respectable periodical, there is a biography of E. B. Bigelow, a distinguished inventor and one whose name is more conspicuous associated with the power-loom for weaving figured fabrics than that of any other man, still we think that the author (N. Cleveland) is rather given to the use of a free pencil. Respecting the subject of the article—which is illustrated with a bad engraving of a very good-looking man—it is stated that having been accidentally witness to the process of weaving a cloth, he invented and perfected a power-loom to weave the intricate fabric, and had it in operation within six weeks after its first conception. The plausibility to be drawn from such statements is, that Mr. Bigelow, perfectly ignorant of the art of weaving figured fabrics, and with only a piece of figured cloth to guide him, invented and finished a power-loom to weave such fabric in about forty days. This we cannot credit. If we were true, then he certainly must be the greatest inventive genius that ever lived—and before whose efforts, those of Falstaff, Whittem, Braun, Morse, and Zagar, become pale and epithetic—these great men never performed a feat in invention like that recorded of Mr. Bigelow in this biography. That he has made many excellent improvements on carpet power-looms, we admit, and for this he deserves the thanks of the whole world, and we rejoice to know that he has been justly rewarded with something more substantial than mere thanks—perpetual success—yet let us say that such highly colored and overdrawn statements as are made in this biography do him no good, but rather detract from his true fame. Those who are acquainted with the history of weaving will be inclined to believe that the information was furnished perfunctorily, and will be ready to attribute more than an ordinary share of vanity to the author; but we have the charity to believe that it is the product of an admiring and warm friend, who was not aware that Zagar had invented the most ingenious and intricate apparatus con-