# TRIUMPH OF SKILL.

Rovel Product of Mechanical Ingenuity in a London Residence.

A curious piece of mechanical luxury has been set up in Sir James Blyth's home in Portland place, London, by means of which the dining-room can noiselessly double its size. One saunters down to drink a cup of coffee (so a contemporary describes it), and finds a spacious and well-proportioned room papered in warm crimson and hung with handsome pictures. There is a door of communication with the adjoining room, on either side of which hangs a large picture in a heavy gold frame. The floor is polished, and a thick carpet comes within a yard of the wall all round. The coffee is excellent, but one doubts its potency when, on turning round, one is confronted by the partitioning wall, doors, pictures, and all half way through the floor! Silently it sinks below, and no flaw in the polished and even floor is perceptible! Only the crimson walls are twice as long, and there are bordered carpets. It is the most perfect triumph of mechanical

Was Wu's Name Explained? Mr. Wu Ting-Fang acquired his pungent English in London, says the Chronicle, of that city. He was a student in the Middle Temple in 1876, and was known by his proper and unpronounceable name of Ng Choy. Subsequently, after he had entered the public service of his country at Tientsin and had been promoted to be a mandarin, he followed the custom of adopting an official name. Ting-Fang is said to mean "hall fragrance," and is intended to indicate that the one so designated is so sweet and eminent a lawgiver that the sweet savor of his reputation "fills the court." A penny weekly in search of novelties might do worse than offer a prize for official names for our public men.

A Touching Eulos

The following brief but touching eulogy was recently pronounced by a sergeant over the tomb of a soldier in the cemetery at La Haye: "Comrades, the deceased, a friend of us all, had a clean sheet. He looked after his boots, which rarely required mending, and he always had some money to draw from his pay. Imitate his example, com-

extraordinary resuscitating power of light received a very curious illustration a few years ago in the silver mines at Laurim. The mines had been abandoned more than 2,000 years ago as unworkable, and an enterprising Briton discovered some poppies of a species which had disappeared for 20 centuries, the seed of which had lain dormant beneath the slag for 2,000 years. When the slag was removed to the furnace the next | Two visit to the mine found the entire space covered with a most gorgeous Three show of poppies. After their 20 centuries' rest they had bloomed as vigorously as ever, without the aid of a single drop of water or any restorative other than the rays of the sun.

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