

# “THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

## for February 10 - 16

### Armoury:

**Blacksmith** – “The Blacksmith Shop, nay not the groundhog, has finally chipped away at winter. On fire these days, besides early spring, are brick hammers, stake anvils, railing, and much of the same such and such (spoons, bench dogs, slide bolts). Perfection, unlike the passing of winter, takes time. All's well that falls well at the bottom of the anvil, except for groundhog shadows.”

**Tin Shop** – “See them in full uproarious thaw busying themselves on coffee pots, stamp boxes, kettles and cups.”

**Cabinetmaker** – “Hello from the Cabinetmakers! Melanie, our Harpsichord Apprentice, has been building up the supply of jack parts and learning the nuances of harpsichord tuning. Ed and Melanie have also begun rough sawing the walnut boards for the harpsichord lid. John is cutting out practice dovetails in preparation for a toolbox. Bill is organizing the mountain of woodworking sample legs, carvings, and feet while continuing the clean-up work on the tilt top table.”

**Colonial Garden** – “The Gardeners have been keeping a watchful eye on our manure pile this week and observed a high temperature of 155 degrees. We turned the pile; and over the weekend, we will be loading the manure into our hotbed, where it will serve as a heat source for our first round of spring seedlings. The lettuce in the Garden is looking splendid, and we harvested the ingredients for a fine salad for the Palace Kitchen. The warm weather this week is a good reminder that spring is on its way, and there is still much work to be done before it gets here! This week, the Gardeners will be working on our Garden plan for the upcoming season and will begin pruning our fruit trees, vines, and roses. Work continues on the pit for the new hotbed, and we are very thankful to the Brickmakers for their help with this project.”

**Gunsmith** – “At the Gunsmith, Darrin is beginning the prep work on a rifle barrel skelp, by hot cutting the correct profile and using multiple strikers to make the skelp thinner towards the muzzle end. Eric applied the finishing touches to his rifle barrel, two silver touch marks, the proof mark for the shop, and his initials stamp. Richard has been casting silver hardware recently for a pair of pistols and is filing the triggerguards and ramrod thimbles.”

**Joiner** – “This week, the Joinery will be showing off table construction and how molding is created and fit. There'll be a little carving, and little planing, and hopefully done finished pieces of furniture.”

**Printing Office** – The annual closing for preventative maintenance continues through February 15.