iron used in the colony. But the want of ready money and the liberal way in which the company construed the privileges granted by the Court, caused their failure. Their troubles, like those of many modern enterprises, began in lawsuits. A superintendent of the works raised the dam in the river, causing the water to flow back upon adjoining lands. The owners of the lands which had been thus injured began suits against the company, some of which were protracted for more than twenty years. At last, the plaintiffs hired a person to cut the dam and destroy the works. This was done one night in the year 1671, when the pond was full. The works were very much injured; they were never entirely re-built, though continued on a smaller scale for some time longer. Thus came to an end the first industry of this kind in America.

A tradition handed down from one of the men employed at the works explains why they were beset with so much trouble from the inhabitants of the neighborhood. It is to the effect that after the works had done considerable business, the people became alarmed through the apprehension that the quantity of charcoal used would occasion a scarcity of wood; and, urged on by their fears, threw so many obstacles in the way of the company that the business was eventually broken up.

R. I.

---

A Trip to Worcester.

A large many of the fellows who glory under the distinction of "Techs," have, I dare say, visited Worcester; but I doubt if any have ever spent a day at sight-seeing more profitably than did our party of thirteen, which, under the guidance of Dr. Norton, made an inspection of several of the industries of that vicinity. Besides getting a day off from school, we had ample opportunities for appreciating the difference between theory and practice, and for getting vivid impressions of the scale and proportions on which industrial processes are carried on.

The Worcester Gas Light Company was our first objective point. It may seem strange that we should go so far to visit a gas-plant, when Boston affords such good facilities in that direction; but these particular works have a special attraction inasmuch as the Company, in connection with the old process, have built an annexed plant for the manufacture of the so-called water-gas, the same which was the cause of so much perplexity to our State legislators a winter or two ago.

The water-gas of the chemist is made by passing steam over hot charcoal, and is a simple mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen; this has no illuminating qualities. The water-gas of trade is the theoretical gas, although anthracite coal is used instead of charcoal, enriched with volatile hydrocarbons, in order that it may possess luminous properties.

The use of this gas for illuminating purposes is prevented by the State, on account of the large per cent of carbon monoxide, a poisonous combustible, which it contains. The State, however, allows a certain per cent of this carbon monoxide to be present in illuminating gases, as it is one of the products of coal distillation, and therefore present to some extent in the gas of the old process.

Owing to the small quantity of monoxide present in the latter gas, it has been found practicable to mix with it a large volume of the water-gas, and still keep within the limit of the law; and this is just what the Worcester Company does. With two thousand cubic feet of coal-gas