

- H. D. S.: of N. Y.-You can melt gold and silver in a crucible on a fire which has a good draft, or by the use of a bellow in a common furnace. Crucibles for this purpose are sold in the metal stores in this city. The specimen of coal which you have sent us is cannel; it can be obtained in this city, but it would be expensive to forward you such a quantity as you want.
- A. B. McC., of Ohio. To temper steel as hard as a file, heat it in molten lead until it becomes red hot, then plunge it into strong cold brine
- O. S. O., of N. Y .- Black lead mixed with oil and tallow makes a most excellent lubricator for carriage axles. Black lead makes a very good anti-friction substance for the wooden cogs
- N. A. P., of N. C.-Copal varnish can be colored to any shade of brown by dragon's blood. To render it very dark, add a little black Japa varnish. Linseed oil for carriage-painting add a little black Japa varnish. Linseed oil for carriage-paining should be boiled in an iron vessel in such a manner that the gas which arises from it will not come in contact with flame. Add to it the sulphate of zinc (about one ounce to the gallon) in very small quantities, at once, because when put in it is liable to fume over. Stir well during the operation until the oil becomes 'tropy," when it should be removed from the fire and laid past for use.
- J. B. S., of Ill.-The point on which Singer, Wheeler & Wilson, &c., pay tribute to Howe, is on the compination of the needle and shuttle. Neither Wheeler & Wilson nor Grover & Baker use a shuttle, but their contrivances are considered equivalents to the shuttle.
- D. McK., of C. W.—The Goodyear India-rubber Co., corner of Nassau-street and Maiden-lane, this city, have india-rubber gas-helders for sale, and can furnish you any size you may
- J. C. E., of Pa.—A temperature of from 65° to 70° is said to be the best for cream to be kept when churning. We do not know where you can obtain the oreide of gold at present.
- W. S., of C. W.-To coat iron with copper, clean it perfectly from oxyd by an acid and clean water, then place it in a mee's battery containing a strong solution of sulphate of copper.
- J. C., of Pa.—The method which you propose for enabling the Atlantic cable to sink gently, by the use of toit, is not new; it was tried in some experiments with the old cable, but was found to be of no avail.

 W. P. W., of N. Y.—A strong decoction of logwood
- and yellow oak bark, or butternut bark, mixed together, will make a stain to imitate walnut on basswood. You can make the veins or Streaks as deep as you choose by making the decoction very strong. Your subscription is received.
- W. H. A., of Iowa-The simple combination of a reaper and mower is public property, and free to Manny, yourself, and others. McCormick's patents have expired and have not been
- J. L. of N. Y .- The article to which you refer did not relate to the cause of incrustation in boilers (which has been explained in former volumes), butto the choking up of a passage at one side of the boiler. We are aware that sal-ammoniac will remove incrustations, but it should never be used for this purpose, as the ammonia, when set free, passes off with the steam, and acts very injuriously upon the metal of the boiler, the valve boxes and
- S. F., of N. Y.-The specimen which you have sent us of alkaline silicates, mixed with fluor-spar, is very hard, but it is too brittle to be employed as a roofing cement. It may, however be very useful for some other purposes.
- H. D. B, of Md.-We do not know of a better aurist than Dr. J. Henry Clark, of 286 Fourth-street (opposite Washington Parade Ground), this city. We have known of some remarkable cures of a partial deafness performed by him, and think you would do well to correspond with him concerning your difficulty.
- L. J. B., of Mich.-Water can be raised by a common 'lifting pump" from wells 100 feet in depth. The plunger of a lifting pump is placed in a cylinder near the water, and it is connected to the lever or walking beam by a long rod which extends to the top of the well. Water, however, cannot be raised through the suction above 28 or 30 feet.
- W. H. W., of Conn .- An iron walking staff with a glass head will never answer for a lightning conductor, or as a protective during thu der storms. A long copper or iron rod pointed on the top, and grasped with a dry silk glove on the hand would act as a gonductor, but glass is a non-conductor.
- J. R. H., of Wis .- For the cure of corns we have given many receipts. Sir H. Davy's was as follows:—Potash, two parts; salt sorrel, one part; each in fine powder. Mix, and lay a small uantity on the corn for four or five successive nights, binding it
- To Make a Storm Glass .- A correspondent kindly sends us these instructions :- Get a glass tubeabout a foot long and an inch in diameter, sealed at one end, and furnished with a bras cap at the other, with a small aperture; the tube is then filled with the following solution:—Camphor, 2½ drams; nitrate of potash, 38 grains; nitrate of ammonia, 38 grains; water, 9 drams; rectified spirits of wine, 11 drams.
- M. J., of Ala. You will find the following a good blacking for boots and shoes:—Rub well together one pound of ivory black in fine powder, three-quarters of a pound of molasses, and two o nees of sweet oil. Afterwards add one pint of vinegar, and the same quantity of beer. This is for liquid blacking. For paste blacking ivory black, one pound molasses, half a pound; olive oil and oil of vitrol, of each, two ounces; water, a sufficient constitute.

- L. A. C., of Mass.—The washerwomen of Holland and Belgium, so proverbially clean, and who get uptheirlinenso beau-tifully white, use refined borax as a washing powder instead of soda in the proportion of a large handfull of borax powder to about ter gallons of boiling water. They save in soap nearly one-half. All the large washing establishments adopt the same mode. For laces, cambric, &c., an extra quantity of the powder is used; and for crinolines (required to be made very stiff) a strong solution is necessary. Borax, being a neutral salt, does not in the slightest decessary. Borax, being a neutral sait, does not in the signtess de-gree injure the texture of the linen; its effect is to soften the hardest water, and therefore it should be kept on every toilet-table To the taste it is rather sweet, is used for cleansing the hair, is an excellent dentrifice, and in hot countries is used with tartaric acid and bicarbonate of soda as a cooling beverage.
- L. A. P., of Ill.—The following is a good trap for snails, which are particularly fond of bran; if a little is spread on the ground, and covered over with a few cabbage leaves or tiles, they will congregate under them, and by making a morning examine tion, and destroying them, the numbers will be g eatly reduced,
- F. K. S., of Conn.-The French chemist, Thilorier, pecame famous through his experiments in liquifying and solidify ing the ordinary carbonic-acid gas, which may be generated very readily by pouring weak muriatic acid upon either chalk or marble. Thilorler's experiments were made principally with a view to obtain a otive power in lieu of steam.

Money Received

At the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, July 23, 1859:-

J. W., of Mass., \$30; G. & S., of Mich., \$25; K. & M., of Vt., \$32; S. L. O., of Conn., \$30; W. R. S., of N. Y., \$30; E. D., of Ark., \$35; V. H., of N. Y., \$30; J. W. H., of N. C., \$25; W. H. R., of N. Y., \$250; C. W. B., of Mass., \$30; D. D., of N. Y., \$35; I. M., of N. Y., \$25; D. P., of N. Y., \$20; D. S., of N. Y., \$25; A. T., of Conn., \$30; N. E. R., of N. Y., \$40; E. G. C., of N. Y., \$30; R. H. & A. D. M., of N. Y., \$250; C. R. H., of Wis., \$30; T. C., of Mass., \$30; S. & L., of N. Y. S10; L. E., of Conn., \$40; H. G. T., of Mass., \$00; S. & E., of N. Y., \$25; H. S. L., of Ill., \$30; E. D. & Z. W. L., of Ga., \$25; M. R., of N. Y., \$230; W. G., of N. Y., \$33; J. S., of N. Y., \$25.

Specifications, drawings and models belonging to par-ies with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, July 23, 1859:

Office during the week enaing Saturday, July 23, 1859:

J. T. S., of Pa.; I. D., of Mass; I. M., of N. Y.; O. S., of N. Y.;

L. S. U., of Tenn.; D. S., of N. Y.; W. McE., of Ind.; A. M. M., of
Mass.; T. C., of Mass.; J. W. H., of N. C.; M. & S., of Texas; D. C.
G., of Conn.; O. E. W., of Pa.; H. E., of N. Y.; S. A. C., of Ill.;
G. & S., of Mich.; O. G., of Ill.; C. R. H., of Wis.; E. G. C., of N. Y.

Et J. S. V. Y. E. D. Et Z. W. J. of Cons. Vet. W. M. & Y. V. Y. S. & L., of N. Y.; E. D. & Z. W. L., of Ga.; K. & M., of Vt.; J. S. of N. Y.

Literary Notices.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK. By Mary L.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK. By Mary L.

ooth. Clark & Meeker, No. 40 Walker-street, New York.

Strange as it may appear to the denizens of the Old World who accumulate the histories of cities founded in the mythical times of barbaric chieftainism, and who gather their records in bundles of a century each, our juvenile city, of which the locality has been known to white men only for 250 years, has achieved for itself "a strange, eventful history." Discovered in 1669 by Henry Hudson, a Englishman, in the service of a company of Dutch merchants, and subsequently colonized by Hollanders, many of whose primitive customs still remain among 'us, it was afterwards conquered by the English, and made free by the Revolution. We have had exciting scenes enacted in our streets, and wondrous stories of domestic pathot told around our fir-sides. The relies of these things are quickly passing away before the all-conquering march of bricks and mortar, and our only method of preserving them is on the puted page of some book like the one before us. This tells the history of the city in a truly pleasing strain, with a Knickerbockerish simplicity that is as charming as it is true, and has a quaintness which is peculiarly and happily its own. To all who come to see what has been achieved in this western world in a short space of time upon American oil, this work will be invaluable, and no one who loves his native city, or is proud of the metropolis of the western world, should hesitate to transfer it from the booksellers' shelves to his own.

PRACTICAL COMPANION FOR THE TIN, SHEET-IRON AND

This is the title of a neat little volume by Leroy J. Blinn, and published in Detroit by Barnes, French & Way. It contains rules, illustrated with diagrams, for describing various kinds of patterns used by workers in sheet-metal. Rules for cutting out elbows of sheetiron, for cutting ovale, owers of cones, &c., are found in this volume. It is a very useful little work. See advertisement in another column,

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE. Published by Leonard Scott & Co., No. 54 Gold-street, this city. The No. for this month is the first of a new volume, and is full of interesting matter.

History of the Scientific American and Important Information to Patentees.

We have printed a supplementary edition of the Scien-THIO AMERICAN, in which there is a history of its rise and pro ress, with illustrations of the building, externally and internally, showing the spacious rooms in which our immense patent business is conducted, and with life-like representations of the artists, engineers and specification writers at their daily labors. The same paper contains information on the many intricate points arising in patent law and practice, and comprises the best popular treatise on the subject ever published; it should be in the hands of all who are interested either in procuring, managing or using patented inventions. The legal information contained in this paper is the result tions. The legal information contained in this paper is the teamet be found in any other treatise on patent law. It also contains information in regard to Foreign Patents and Exte sions. It is published. ished in octavo form, sixteen pages, and mailed upon receipt of two three-centstamps. Address Munn & Co., publishers of the Sci-entific American, New York City.

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