Scientific American.

NEW-YORK, MARCH 15, 1856.

Reduction of British Patent Fees.

An effort is about to be made in England to rescue from Government the large and increasing surplus accruing from the patent fees, after deducting the expenses of the Patent Office. The gross receipt for fees amounts now to about £95,000 (about $475,000) per annum. The expenses of the Patent Office are not so much as its receipts, into a considerable sum, the profits for last year amounting to £60,000. It is to prevent, if possible, the Treasury from acquiring a vested interest in this surplus that steps are now taken to prevent the diversion of this fund from other than for Patent Office purposes.

The attention of the council of the Society of Arts was recently directed to the subject by Sir Joseph Paxton, in a letter which he addressed to them as one of their vice presidents. He asserted that the Patent Office of England ought to be a national institution in the most comprehensive sense of the word. Such an institution, he said, would become the truest and best endowment of inventive genius. In consequence of his representations, the council appointed a committee of more than 60 members of the society, distinguished as inventors, or interested in the progress of the arts, to consider the subject. This body adopted the following resolutions :

1. That a deputation of patentees and others seek an early interview with the Prime Minister, in order to impress on him the importance of saving the surplus revenue of the Patent Office from absorption into the general public revenue.

2. That it is highly desirable to place the Patent Office on a footing correspondent with the paramount industrial position of the country ; and that steps be taken to press upon the Commissioners of Patents, upon the Government and the Legislature, the propriety of having the surplus appropriated to that object.

As the British patent fund is not exclusively the product of British contributions, we claim to have a voice in the disposal of it, and in the name of *our* inventors, who pay a considerable amount yearly into it, we ask for a reduction of British patent fees.

The British patent fees have been greatly reduced from what they were previous to 1852, but they are still too high. They may be still further reduced one half, and yet pay all the expenses of the Patent Office handsomely. We hope British inventors will begin and advocate this reform and press it vigorously upon Parliament. The English patent laws were made for rich, not for poor inventors, and it is well known that the great majority belong to the latter class. There is not one English journeyman in ten who is able to pay the large patent fees charged for protection. When an English journeyman mechanic invents a useful machine, he has to seek the patronage of a more wealthy person to enable him to secure his invention. He is, therefore, obliged to place himself in the power of another person or lose the benefit of his invention. Such a system is too strongly feudal for the present age, and we call upon Sir Joseph Paxton, who was once a journeyman himself, to devote his energies, first, to the removal of this, the greatest evil connected with the English patent system. We admire the efforts he has made to secure the surplus patent fund from the grasp of the government to save it from being used like the general revenue, but we believe the best and most just way of benefitting inventors, is to reduce the patent fees.

When the subject of "patents" was brought before the late meeting of the British Scientific Association, held in Glasgow, it was refreshing to inventors to hear the sentiments expressed by such distinguished men as Sir David Brewster, Fairbairn, and others, regarding the fees charged inventors in England for patents. The combined opinion of these savans was, that patents ought to be granted to inventors *free*. They considered that inventions conferred great public benefits upon the country, therefore the public could well afford to grant patents to inventors without charging them for the privilege. We could also advocate the same policy as a measure both wise and politic for our country, but as politicians would always be growling at the necessary appropriations for the Patent Office,—our inventors, we know, would disdain to have it insinuated that they were the least burden upon the country. For this reason, therefore, we advocate moderate patent fees—the lowest possible to pay the necessary expenses of the Patent Office, and no more. And as Judge Mason has recommended a reduction of our patent fees to British subjects, we hope English inventors will also zealously advocate a reduction of theirs for their own benefit and that of our inventors who may desire to secure patents in that country.

Gold and its Uses.—No. 2.

GATHERING GOLD IN CALIFORNIA—Various plans have been tried for gathering the gold of California, and a correspondent, J. Tavanay, M.D., of the San Francisco *Chronicle*, states that immense progress has been made since 1850 in securing gold at various diggings. He says :—

"At first the pan, then the rocker was sufficient to enrich many a miner. The tom and the riffle-box followed. After these came the sluice, as more expeditious and simple. The above means are applicable only in rich ground in the best localities; the pan, in particular, becoming useful only where the gold is thick, as, for instance, in the famous Table Mountain, where one needs only to stoop and pick it up. In a short time that active, enterprising, go-a-head spirit, (so peculiar to Americans, and well typified in their poet's motto *excelsior*,) which ever urges them forward, devised such means as are now used to level hill and plain, filling up gulches, ravines, &c., and in certain parts upturning and changing the whole aspect of the country. There are means by which many now amass fortunes, where they would have starved had they been riveted to the first methods in use.

Ground sluicing, which has produced immense results in certain places, and more particularly along the American river, is far from being the *ne plus ultra* of washing on a large scale. That which carries the palm at present, where practicable, is effected by means of a hydraulic tube. At Coon Hollow, Auburn Neveda, and a few other such privileged places, mountains have been leveled with the plain by this process. It consists in conducting the water to the top of a hill partly composed of a thick layer of auriferous soil; the water is let down through a solid tube of wood, or through a strong hose of canvas, leather, or caoutchouc, which coils down the side of the hill from the hight of 100 or 200 feet, sometimes more; this tube terminates in a nozzle, through which a torrent is shot with the force of gunpowder by the pressure of six or seven atmospheres, produced by the weight of the column of water. Thus, fifty or sixty inches in succession of water can be darted through a small opening of one or two inches, according to the hight of the column. The water whistles through the jet, which is directed by one man, and this fluid catapult demolishes and crumbles to pieces avalanches of soil from the hill side, all of which soon becomes a deluge of mud, which finds its way through a large sluice. The largest stones and rocks are got rid of with the hand or by means of levers, (those of six or eight inches diameter are easily carried along by the current,) and the gold is found arrested in its course by riffles and other numerous and simple obstacles placed in the way under a false bottom bored with holes."

EXTRACTING THE GOLD.—Gold is found in exhaustless quantities combined with pyrites and quartz as a matrix, in Virginia, Georgia, California, Australia, and many other parts of the world. Until the gold discoveries of California were made, most of our native gold was obtained by the reduction of the gold from the quartz. The obtaining of gold economically from quartz rocks has incited the inventive genius of many persons during the past seven years, hence there have been a host of quartz crushers and gold extractors invented.

It is believed that when the surface gold has all been picked up in California and Australia, that the vast range of quartz rocks in these countries will afford fields for obtaining gold by machinery for ages to come. The extraction of gold from its parent rock has therefore recently become an interest of great magnitude. Gold is contained in unequal quantities in quartz. Some rocks are rich, others are poor; but millions upon millions of tuns of quartz are believed to contain about eight ounces of gold to the tun. The quartz is first required to be finely subdivided by crushers, to bring it into contact with quicksilver, for amalgamation and extraction. The quicksilver picks up, as it were, the gold from the quartz; the gold is afterwards obtained from the quicksilver by straining the latter through leather and driving it off by heat—the mercury being recovered by distillation. Heat and friction accelerate the dissolving action of quicksilver. One pound of mercury at 212°, after passing through a leather bag, can hold in solution 42 grains of gold, which is upwards of five times as much as it can hold in solution at 60°; hence, if 20 lbs. of mercury were put into a machine for a tun of auriferous quartz, and the mercury heated to 212°, and filtered at that temperature, every pound of mercury which passed through the bag might hold in solution 42 grains of gold, equal to an apparent loss of 1 oz. 1 dwt. gold per tun of quartz. At 90° Fah. 15 grains gold per lb. remain in solution=12 1-2 dwts. gold in 20 lbs. mercury; at 60° only 7·5 grains per lb.=6 1-4 dwts. gold. This difference of solubility of gold in mercury according to the temperature is a matter of great importance in making experiments upon gold quartz ores.

When it is necessary to collect the amalgam from a machine, it should be carefully freed from extraneous matter by a gentle stream of water, after which it may be strained and squeezed either in a leather or canvas bag The amalgam, now freed from superfluous mercury, should be flattened and put into a cast-iron retort and luted with plaster of Paris, then gradually heated, nearly to redness, and kept at that heat for about an hour. All the mercury that is volatized from the amalgam is easily collected by making the back of the retort dip about 1-4 in. under the surface of the water of the receiver. The retort being allowed to cool, the gold is taken out. It is possible to drive off the mercury so completely that the gold when melted shall lose only 0·68 per cent. in weight, but not unfrequently the loss in melting is upwards of 13 per cent. A light yellow color, however, is an indication that the gold from the retort still contains much mercury, especially when the fineness is equal to 23 1-2 carats. Some of the quartz miners, instead of distilling off the quicksilver of their amalgam, subject it to the action of nitric acid, but this acid does not separate the gold completely from the mercury; hence this treatment is expensive and useless.

Progress of the Great Fraud.

We have before intimated that an attempt was in progress to subsidize or bribe Congress, and thus obtain the passage of a bill for the extension of the Woodworth Patent. What cannot be done by fair and honorable steps is sought to be accomplished by foul and treacherous means.

It has come out that an enormous fund has been raised for the purpose above specified. The city of Washington, we are told, is placarded with hand bills similar to the following :—

CAN $300,000

BUY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS?

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS are respectfully requested to examine "Report No. 155, House of Representative, July 17th, 1852," by which they will see that the WOODWORTH PLANING MACHINE PATENT is making the American People pay **$9,000,000** a year for the use of this Patent, and it is understood that the above sum of $300,000 has been appropriated *to induce Congress to extend this iniquity* for fourteen years from the 27th of December, 1856!

American genius is clogged by this monopoly, and the People are publicly plundered. Therefore, said Patent

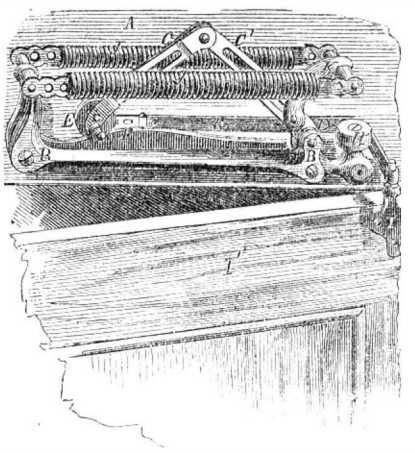
SHOULD NEVER BE EXTENDED!

We have received information from private sources which partially confirms the statement made in the placard relative to a large amount of money being pledged to obtain Congressional votes. It is the most gigantic scheme of corruption that has ever, within the annals of this country, been brought to light. Most earnestly do we hope that it may utterly fail; fail it surely will if our people will but do their duty. Again do we urge our readers to circulate petitions against the extension, obtain signatures as fast as possible, and forward them on to the Representatives of their districts in Washington. We suggest that every individual opposed to the extension should write a private letter to the member in Congress from his locality, expressing his sentiments, and especially warning him against this huge system of bribery. Private citizens have the right, and it is their solemn duty, under such circumstances, thus to address and urge their Representatives.

Recent American Patents.

Weighing Scales—By James Kelly, of Sag Harbor, N. Y., assigned to John Sherry, of same place.—There is a balancing lever of the usual kind, the article to be weighed being placed at one end, the weight at the other. One of the improvements consists in an ingenious application of a thumb screw for moving the weight, whereby greater accuracy and convenience is obtained; the weight is furnished with a pointer, which moves over a graduated scale. There is also another screw, by turning which a pointer is made to indicate the exact tare. For shop uses, and many other purposes, this invention appears to be invaluable.

Improved Door Spring.—By Prof. Amos Westcot, M.D., of the Dental College, Syracuse, N. Y.—This contrivance seems, at first glance, to be rather more complicated than so small an affair as a door spring ought to be. But we think we can show that all the parts here employed are necessary to the production of a good article. If other door springs appear to be cheaper and more simple, the inventor thinks they will be found to be lacking in several important particulars.



In the engraving A is the lintel of the door to which the contrivance is fastened by means of the screws B. C C′ are toggle joint levers, one of their ends being pivoted to the frame at D, and the other end terminating with the friction wheel E. This wheel is grooved on its periphery and traverses on a sharp edge E. The corner end of lever C is furnished with a projection, to which one end of the leather strap G is attached; the latter passes around friction wheel H, and fastens to the pintle, I, upon the door. The spiral springs J J are attached at one end to the frame of the apparatus, and at the other end to a bracket K; this bracket is attached to the lower end of lever C′. When the door I′ is opened, as shown in the cut, the strap, G, pulls upon lever C, causing the wheel, E, to travel up the curve of the edge F. The springs J acting through the bracket K, on lever C′, resist the movement of lever C, and become stretched, but collapse again in shutting the door. The curve of the edge F is so grandulated that the pull upon the door will be less when it is wide open than when nearly shut; slamming is thus prevented. The ordinary springs exercise their greatest power when the door is widest open, and thus impart a momentum which closes the door with violence.

The extremities of the springs J J are looped, as seen, so that they may be shortened at pleasure, and act with more force. The end of the strap, G, is also looped for the same purpose. The contrivance may be instantly thrown out of operation by slipping the end of the strap off from the pintle, I. The spring can be arranged so as to allow the door to remain open, at a certain angle, if desired. The contrivance may be placed upon either side of the

door, or wholly out of sight within the lintel; it is readily adjusted to suit heavy or light doors. It is said to close the door if open only for an inch, with as much certainty as if it were wide open.

The foregoing are some of the principal advantages of this invention; it has other good qualities, but we have not space to mention them. We can only add that it strikes us as being a very effective, strong, and durable contrivance. We should think it would last ten years as well as one. We have had one of the springs in use on our office door for a short time past, and are pleased with its operations. The price at which they are sold is from $1·50 up, according to size. Mr. E. H. Babcock, No. 3 Courtlandt st., New York, is the agent from whom further information can be ob tained.

Attaching Wagon Wheels to Axles—By Horace B. Simonds, of West Hartford, Vt.—Consists of a peculiar method of attachment, whereby an oil chamber is formed within the hub; said chamber, once filled with oil, will afford perfect lubrication for the axle for a very long period. The entrance of dust is also effectually prevented. Appears to be an excellent invention.

There is an incident connected with this invention that deserves notice. The patent was obtained through our Agency. When the inventor first applied to us for information respecting the patentability of the device, we expressed some doubts on the subject, and rather tried to discourage him from proceeding, especially as he said he was very poor. But nothing could stop him; go-ahead he would, although, in his reduced circumstances, the expense threatened completely to use him up. He managed to pay a portion of the money and was to pay the remainder when the documents were sent to him for execution. The papers were forwarded, and in due time we received a letter stating that he could not then raise all of the necessary funds; that he only had five dollars at hand, which he enclosed; that he had a cow which he had been trying to sell, but had not succeeded; that he expected to sell the animal soon, and would then remit the balance. In a few days more we received another letter, stating that *the cow was sold*, and the money was accordingly remitted. He hoped we would do our best for him, and get him a patent if possible; we said we would. Within a few days past we have received another letter, expressing strong hope that we would succeed in procuring him a patent, as he had been offered *fifteen thousand dollars* for the invention, if granted. The official Letters Patent have, ere this, reached him, and we hope he has received his money. One of his first investments, we trust, will be to repurchase that old cow, and feed her well during the remainder of her natural life.

MORAL—Perseverance is generally sure to bring its own reward. Patent rights for good inventions are not to be despised.

Notwithstanding the success of our untiring friend, we cannot advise every poor inventor to imitate his example and sell his only cow in order to pay for a patent application. Those who have two or more of such animals, however, especially if they are dried up, and refuse to give milk, might with propriety, and perhaps with benefit to their fortunes, send all but one to market.

Machine for Making Tallow Candles—By V. Squarza, of New York City.—This invention is distinguished for the variety of operations which it performs. To produce candles it is only necessary to set the machine in motion, and place in connection with it a tank of melted tallow and a good supply of lamp wicking; the finished candles then begin to drop out with rapidity at the lower end of the apparatus, packing themselves into boxes ready for market, as fast as they issue. The machine manufactures the kind known as "dip candles," which, for illumination, are superior to mold candles. Heretofore, dip candles have been objectionable, on account of their uneven nd unfinished appearance; but by this invention they are rendered as uniform and smooth as the best mold candles.

Machine for Pegging Boots and Shoes.—By Schuh and Slayton, of Madison, Ind.—There are quite a number of different parts and devices involved in this invention, the precise performance of which it would be difficult to describe without drawings. The boot is placed on one part of the machine and a stick of wood on another; motion being given, one portion of the mechanism operates to prick the holes with an awl, another to make the pegs, another to feed the pegs to the mouth of the holes, and another to drive the pegs home. These various operations are performed with great rapidity, about two minutes only being required to double peg each boot.

Novel Fire Grate.—By B. F. Foering, of Philadelphia, Pa.—Certain kinds of anthracite coal, when burned in stoves, produce a a clinker, or lava, that adheres to the sides of the stove, or fills the interior, and prevents good combustion. The clinker generally forms at the lower part of the fire. If there were any means of holding up the fire so that the ash grate could be removed, the clinker stuff might all be easily taken out from below at pleasure. At present, the clinker cannot be well removed until the fire is extinguished, and it is then hard, flinty, and liable to injure the lining of the stove in being broken off. This improvement is intended to remedy the above defects. Apertures are made in one side of the stove, just above where the clinkers form, and through these holes suitable bars are introduced; when the bars are pushed in they form a temporary grating, which supports the fire while the ash grate below is taken out for the removal of the clinker refuse.

Power Loom—By James Greenhalgh, Sen., of Waterford, Mass.—This invention relates to looms for fancy or figured weaving, such as ginghams. It consists in certain improvements in the shuttle-box-motion for changing the shuttles; also in an improvement in the shuttle motion, whereby two or more shuttles can be thrown successively from either side of the loom.

Cooking without Fire.—By W. W. Albro, of Binghampton, N. Y.—This invention consists in a combination of tin cooking dishes placed above each other, the bottom of one vessel fitting into the top part of the dish below, &c. In the lower dish of all, the inventor places a small quantity of quick lime, and then by means of a tube introduces a little cold water; a strong chemical action ensues and intense heat is instantly generated, whereby articles of food, such as meat, vegetables, &c., placed in the other dishes, will be cooked in a very short time. The inventor tells us that a tin contrivance of this kind, not occupying greater space than an ordinary band box, will do the cooking of a family of five persons. It is also adaptable for working-men's dinner pails, enabling them to enjoy freshly cooked and warm meals. We hope, hereafter, to make our readers more fully acquainted with this invention by means of an engraving.

Improvement in Wagon Axles.—By John M. Burke, of Danville, N. Y.—The ends of wagon axles generally terminate with metallic arms called skeins, upon which the hub turns. This invention consists in making the skeins hollow, like a sleeve or ferule, and driving them on to the end of the axles; the sleeve is split for a short distance on one side, which, owing to a slight elasticity of the metal, causes it to bind better upon the wood, especially if the latter is a little uneven. This improvement can be applied much cheaper and quicker than the common skeins.

Corn Stalk Harvester.—By Wm. M. Bonwill, of Camden, Del.—This is a low three-wheeled vehicle drawn by a single horse, the animal walking in the furrow or open space between the rows of corn. On each side of the machine, in front, there is an upright revolving shaft, the lower end of which, near the ground, is furnished with a circular saw. The shafts are put in motion by means of bands or gearing which connect with the wheels of the vehicle. When the machine advances, the saws come in contact with the base of the stalks and they are clipped off in an instant, falling over backwards upon the platform of the vehicle. As fast as a sufficient number of stalks to form a sheave collect upon the platform, they are swept off upon the ground, by the driver, who touches a lever for that purpose. Binders follow the machine, who tie up the sheaves.

Monumental Marble Saws.—By C. Amazeen of New Castle, N. H.—The object of this invention is to reduce four sides of a block of marble simultaneously, all the cuts being parallel, or on a taper, as desired. The improvement consists in certain ingenious arrangements of guides and adjusting screws, whereby the saws may be quickly set to cut at any given angle, and the work done in a rapid and convenient manner.

Gang Plows.—By A. & T. S. Smith, of Troy, Ill.—The agricultural implement known as a gang plow, consists of a frame mounted on wheels—several smaller plows, of the ordinary kind, being attached to the frame. It is used chiefly on light soils, and turns as many furrows, at once, as there are plows—thus saving much labor. The present improvement consists in certain means of elevating and depressing the plows at pleasure, also in a simple method of regulating the width between the furrows. It is a highly useful invention.

Merrill's Hoisting Block.—We are requested by the inventor to say that his address is Wm. H. Merrill, Taunton, Mass., instead of H. Merrill, as stated in the description of the above improvement, published in No. 21, present volume.

[NOTE—The official list of claims for patents issued on the 4th inst. will be found in another column. It embraces a large number of inventions, some of them of great importance and value. About one-third of the whole number granted were obtained, as usual, through the Scientific American Agency.

Persons wishing for information relative to the patentability of inventions may apply to us, either by letter through the mails, or in person. A rough sketch and description of the invention should always be furnished.

American patentees should bear in mind that an invention that is worth patenting here is generally of equal value abroad. The aggregate population of England and France amount to about *sixty millions*. The patent laws in both of these countries are good, and protect American inventors just as thoroughly as they do native-born subjects.

The business facilities between these countries is now so much improved that our countrymen can obtain patents on the other side just about as easily as they can at home Such opportunities should never be neglected

Recent Foreign Inventions.

Fastening Lithographs on Canvas.—L. A. F. Bernard, of Paris, patentee.—This invention consists in transferring and fixing, by means of a composition on canvas or cloth duly prepared, all kinds of lithographic representations and engravings, without removing any particles of the paper on which they are made.

In a vessel specially adapted for this purpose and capable of bearing heat, about a quart of soft water with a spoonful of linseed is placed; this is heated to ebullition for a few minutes, and is then withdrawn and strained, and the product is passed into another vessel. In this 400 grains of white moist sugar, are dissolved and strained through fine linen.

Into a quart of boiling water in a sand bath, 800 grains of white glue are thrown while stirring with a wooden spatula. In about three minutes the liquid is withdrawn from the fire and passed through a strainer. The solution, thus prepared, is mixed with the linseed water and saccharine solution, and the whole is placed again on the fire. When ebullition commences, the inventor stirs it with a camel-hair brush, which he withdraws saturated with the liquid, and passes quickly and lightly over the lithograph or engraving (which has been previously transferred to the canvas to be painted by means of transfer paper, which is entirely removed) up and down, across, and to and fro; thus leaving the drawing completely freed from the smallest particle of paper. This application of the above solution by the camel-hair brush, fixes instantly the drawing to the canvas. The drying of the canvas occupies more or less time according to temperature. It is next coated with varnish by means of a fish-tail brush, and the canvas is ready for painting by the ordinary methods.

Transferring Cullodion Photographs—Alexander Rollasen, of Birmingham, Eng., has obtained a patent for an invention in photographs, the nature of which consists in transferring to paper, linen, ivory, wood, metal, or stone, cullodion pictures taken on glass. The glass plate on which the picture is to be taken is first cleansed with spirits of wine, naptha, and tripoli, and is finally buffed with buff-leather, which has a slightly greasy surface. The glass is then covered with iodized cullodeon, or albumen, and is immersed in a bath of nitrate of silver, to render it sensitive. It is then placed on the camera, the picture taken in the ordinary manner, and afterwards developed by first washing in a solution of nitrate or acitate of iron, then with a solution of hyposulphate of soda. After being well washed in pure water it is dried. If the cullodion be of a very adhesive quality it is sometimes necessary, before drying the picture, to immerse it for two or three seconds in a bath of dilute nitric acid. The picture thus taken is removed from the glass by transferring the film on which it is impressed. When it is perfectly dry it may be colored and tinted on the back, according to the taste of the artist, and then covered with varnish. If it is desired not to color the picture while on the glass it is covered at once with a varnish made of asphaltum dissolved in naptha to about the consistency of cream. The varnish is now allowed to dry to a certain point, namely, when it does not feel sticky to the touch; but it is not allowed to dry further, lest it should crack. It is then coated with a thin solution of shellac, which p events further hardening of the varnish. The next operation is to remove this film of cullodion, with the picture on it, from the plate of glass. A thin mucilage, composed of two-thirds gum arabic and one of honey, is now laid on the varnish of the picture, and if the transfer is to be made on paper, *it* is damped first, and also coated with mucilage. The paper is now laid on the back of the picture, and both are laid flat on a table, and clamped between two pieces of wood. The surface of the paper is then rolled over with a small india rubber tube, to press out the air bubbles between the paper and glass. When the transfer is to be taken on wood or stone care must be taken that the surface is perfectly smooth, and the air bubbles may be driven out by commencing at one end, and laying the picture gradually down, from end to end. When the mucilage is dry enough—which may be ascertained by raising one corner of it—the film should begin to separate itself from the glass. When this is the case, its complete removal may now be effected. A few drops of water are now introduced with a feather between the glass and film, and gradually the picture separates from the glass to the paper. It can be transferred in the same manner on cloth. The surface of the picture is now gently touched up with fine varnish on a pellet of cotton wool, care being exercised not to injure the delicate surface. This varnish makes the surface slightly sticky to receive any of the dry colors for tints. When these are laid on, the transferred picture is complete.—Condensed from Newton's *London Journal.*

Fossil Fishes of California.

Prof. Agassiz reports concerning a number of fossil fishes obtained in California by W. P. Blake, that they mostly belong to the family of sharks. He says:—"No fossil shark's teeth have been found west of the Rocky Mountains before; the discovery of Mr. Blake constitutes one of the most interesting additions to our knowledge that could have been obtained from that quarter, and the importance of these fossils to science, is further enhanced by the peculiar relations they bear to similar fossils found in the Atlantic States and in Europe, and to the sharks now living along the shores of the Old and the New World."

Ding-a-ling, Ding-a-ling.

A correspondent tells us that in the town of Middle Haddam, Conn., *one million* of tea and sleigh bells are made and sold annually. A large portion of all the work done in the place relates to bells. Middle Haddam makes a good deal of noise in the world, after all.