

New Inventions.

A New Field for Inventors.—The East Indies Thrown Open.

The vast British territorial possessions in India, which have heretofore been closed to Americans, so far as patents were concerned, are, by a New Patent Bill, lately promulgated, now thrown open to the world. British subjects and foreigners are treated alike. Patents are granted to all applicants, irrespective of nationality, on very moderate terms.

The New Law provides that the applicant shall file a petition and specification, as in this country. The Governor General then refers the papers to some person appointed by him, for inquiry and report. (The purport of this inquiry and report is not stated, but we presume it is for examination as to novelty.) The applicant pays the referee a reasonable fee, and then the Governor issues the patent for fourteen years. He may afterwards extend it for another term of fourteen years, if he thinks proper. Beyond the fee of the referee no charge is made, save a few small sums for copying, signatures, seals, &c. Five copies of the specification are, however, required from the applicant.

Nothing is said about drawings. No model is required. The individual who first introduces an invention into India may apply for and obtain a patent. It is not necessary that he should be the inventor. Judicial functions are given to certain courts to try cases of infringement.

The editor of *Newton's London Journal* says:

"The law, which has just been promulgated, opens, for the first time, to the British and foreign inventor, on equal terms, the vast field of India, containing upwards of 100,000,000 of souls. The value to patentees of this concession of the Local Government can hardly be over-rated, if we may infer from the success of the East Indian railways and telegraphs, that a desire exists in the native population to avail themselves of the improvements of the West. Where nature is so prolific, and the people are so industrious and skillful, we see no reason why inventions, adapted to the country, should not find a more rapid and extended success than in any country in Europe. It will be seen that the spirit of the English law is preserved, but the government tax is materially less; and there are some admirable provisions in relation to actions for the infringement of patents. Singularly enough, a provision defining what shall not be admissible in evidence, as an answer to any action for infringement, is almost the echo of a suggestion contained in the last Report of the United States Commissioner of Patents."

For the information of our readers and their friends, we would state that we are already prepared to take out East Indian Patents with promptness. Our arrangements for securing foreign patents in every country where patent laws exist, are thorough and complete.

American Marble.

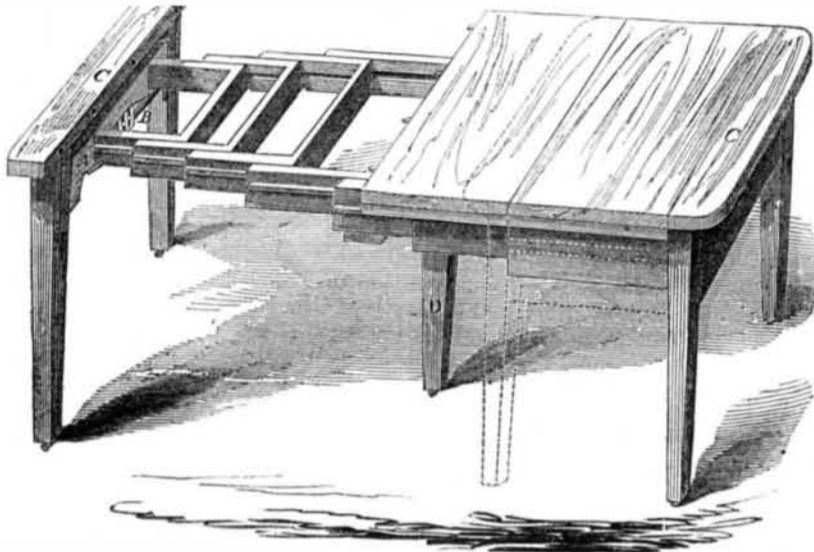
Our country is rich in the finest marble for sculpture and architecture. It abounds in almost every State, and when timber becomes scarcer, it will be more extensively used. In the rural districts, in romantic spots, where now only frame cottages "on the wood crowned heights are seen," there will yet arise elegant marble structures, graceful in their proportions, and capable of with standing the storms of ages. "The Marble Worker's Manual,"—the new book noticed by us last week—contains much useful information regarding the qualities and peculiarities of different marbles. Such knowledge should not be overlooked by workmen, architects, and builders, because there is just as much difference in the quality of marble, as it relates to beauty, strength, and durability, as there is in different kinds of wood. At West Rutland, Vt., marble is obtained which has no superior for sculpture in the world, and some of it has been exported to Rome, ordered by Italian sculptors. It has a fine grain and works beautifully under the chisel. At great Barrington, Mass., there is a flexible marble, which bends like a bow when wet. Black marble, equal to that of Ire-

land, is found in New York. The verd antique is found in many districts, and in every State in almost every variety. It is rather remarkable, however, that although we have so many beautiful native marbles, that most of that employed for interior decoration is imported from Italy, because of its cheapness,—not on account of its better quality. The author of the "Marble Worker's Manual" directs attention to this fact, and points out the remedy. He states that when capital and the inventive arts are more directed to the busi-

ness of getting out and manufacturing marble, to send abroad for it will be as absurd as imitating our fathers, in bringing tomb stones ready made from Wales and bricks from Holland.

It only wants a proper stimulus and attention to bring out great improvements in quarrying marble, like that which recently (through suggestions and a prize offered through our columns,) led so rapidly to such a number of new inventions in machinery for sawing marble.

IMPROVED EXTENSION TABLE.



Improved Extension Table.

The ordinary extension table consists of a nest of frames made to slide one inside the other when compacted, but capable of being extended so as to receive additional leaves when a larger table is wanted. The extra leaves are separate articles of furniture, and when not in use are generally stowed away out of sight. When the table is to be shortened, the leaves must be taken off and conveyed to their closet; to elongate the table they must be again brought back. In families, hotels, on steamboats, etc., this repeated running to and fro with the table leaves is a great inconvenience.

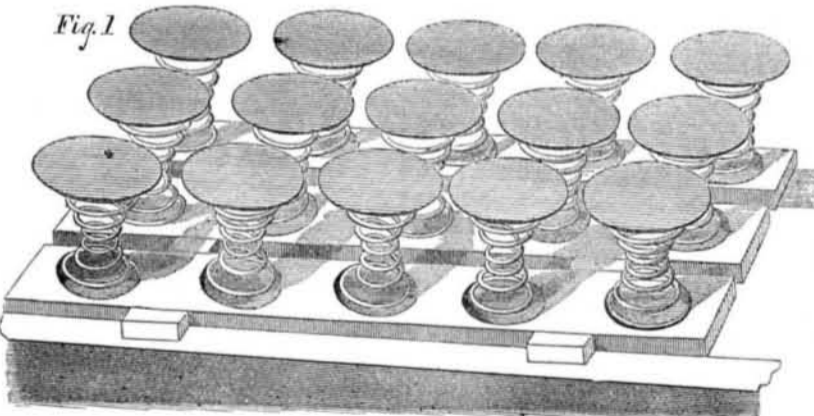
The improvement herewith illustrated is so made that the extra leaves are all packed within the table itself, and this is done by an arrangement of parts at once simple and convenient. The frame of the table is made in nests in the ordinary manner, but the cross

pieces, A, at each end, instead of being permanent, are made to slide up and down between guides. B is a spring, which acts against the cross pieces, A, and lifts them.—In order to compact the table the leaves are placed one upon the other, in a pile, and then pressed down, nest frames and all, until the upper leaf comes even with the surface of the fixed edge pieces, C; the pins on the upper leaf then enter the holes in edge pieces, and a flush surface is formed. When desirable, the leaves may be placed in double piles as shown in our engraving. D is an adjustable leg.

This improvement is applicable to the common tables in use. The expense of original construction is no greater than that of ordinary extension tables, notwithstanding its superior advantages.

Mr. E. A. Curley, South Egremont, Mass., is the inventor, who will give further information. Patented January 15th, 1856.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPRING BEDS.



Improved Spring Mattress.

Metallic springs are fast taking the place of hair and other materials, in the formation of mattresses. Improvement after improvement has been made, until now we may obtain beds and couches, of luxurious softness, the principal components of which are metal.

Our engraving shows the invention of Mr. Wendell Wright, of New York City. Spiral springs are used, each arranged separately, their tops mounted with flat wooden disks, their bases resting in sockets in a wooden cross frame.

The common method is to bind the springs together, but in this improvement they are separated and act independently. This permits their convenient removal for cleansing and purifying purposes. A thin bed of hair or other substance is laid upon the tops of the disks.

The springs are self-fastening in their at-

tachment to the disks and frame. The sockets of the disks and frame are shelving or grooved in form. The springs spread into the grooves and are thus held with such a force that although no other fastening is employed, they cannot get out of place.

The advantages of metal over other substances in neatness, durability, and the avoidance of vermin, are well known. This improvement, by its simplicity, greatly reduces the cost of manufacture. We have had one of these spring beds in use for some time past, and therefore speak from personal experience when we say that it is the best we have ever used, and we have tried many other kinds. Nothing can be more soft or comfortable. Messrs. Lippincott & Co., No. 1180 Broadway, N. Y., are the makers of these improved beds, and of them further information may be obtained.

Patented Dec. 10, 1854.

A New Life Raft.

A new and peculiar life raft, passed through our city last week, on its way to Philadelphia for a Ferry Co. in that city. Its appearance attracted quite a crowd of curious inquirers, as it was stopped in front of our office, by the inventor—W. B. Davis, of Brooklyn, for us to examine. It consists of two sides, composed of longitudinal layers of rattan covered with water-proof canvas, and so united as to form an elliptical boat, resembling two tubes with a space between them netted with rope matting. It is 18 feet long, weighs 300 lbs., and possessed a buoyancy of 700 pounds. It is adapted to be thrown from the deck of a boat, to answer the purpose of a large life-preserver. Its cost is but small, and it is elastic and strong.

Patent Fees.

During the last week we paid into the U. S. Treasury, to the credit of the Patent Office the sum of two thousand two hundred dollars. This is doubtless a larger sum than the Commissioner received, during the same time, from all other sources combined. Paradoxical as it may seem, it is a fact that the United States Patent Office receives nearly one-third its entire revenue from the Scientific American Patent Agency.

Chemical Analyses in the Patent Office.

Dr. C. T. Jackson, of Boston, has been engaged by the Agricultural Department of the Patent Office, to travel through the country and make chemical analyses of various kinds, with a view to determining the amount of nutriment in different kinds of grain—the amount of tannin contained in the barks and other materials used by tanners—the determination of the amount of phosphoric acid in the soils on the sea-board, supposed to be exhausted, as compared with the virgin soils of the West, and other matters connected with soils. He will analyze the cotton plant—sea island and upland, also the soils in which they are grown; also various grasses and the soils best adapted to their cultivation.

Notice.—Erratum.

The date over the List of Claims, in our last number, should have been *June 18th*, instead of the *11th*. The error occurred from neglecting to change the date over the list of the preceding week.

Straw Paper.

We have received some samples of paper made of straw, at Rock City Mills, Saratoga Co., N. Y., by C. Kilmer, which we really think is the best quality of straw paper we ever saw. It is very free from hard, yellow specks, so common in straw paper, has not that harsh, hard feel, so common to such paper; and it is well-bleached—being a good white.

Shola.

This is a singular substance manufactured in India from the cellular pith stems of a plant. It resembles Chinese rice-paper in appearance, and is manufactured by the natives into life-buoys, boxes, bottle-cases, hats, and many other articles. Owing to its extreme lightness it is admirably adapted for hats worn in hot climates.

Egyptian Alabaster.

The Egyptian Government having, of late years, opened up some rich quarries of Oriental alabaster, great quantities are now being sent to Italy for the purpose of making vases. The color of this alabaster is very beautiful, and it is very translucent.

Soda Water.

This is a name generally applied to a common effervescent beverage, but it is incorrect. The effervescent quality is not due to soda, and that substance is not present at all in the water publicly sold by that name. The effervescence is produced by carbonic acid gas, and is forced into the water by an apparatus. The gas is produced by pouring sulphuric acid upon marble dust, or upon the super-carbonate of soda.

Some barrels of Flour from this year's crop of Georgia Wheat, was sold last week in New York market, for \$10.50 per barrel.