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Recent Foreign Inventions.

A NEW CANNON.—A patent has been obtained by Capt. T. A. Blakely, of the Royal Artillery, England, for making cannon as follows: He takes a tube of cast steel, and then surrounds this with external rings of wrought iron shrunk on. He also employs a buffer or spring of air at the butt of mortars to moderate their recoil. He also claims the method of strengthening old guns, by shrinking wrought iron bands on them.

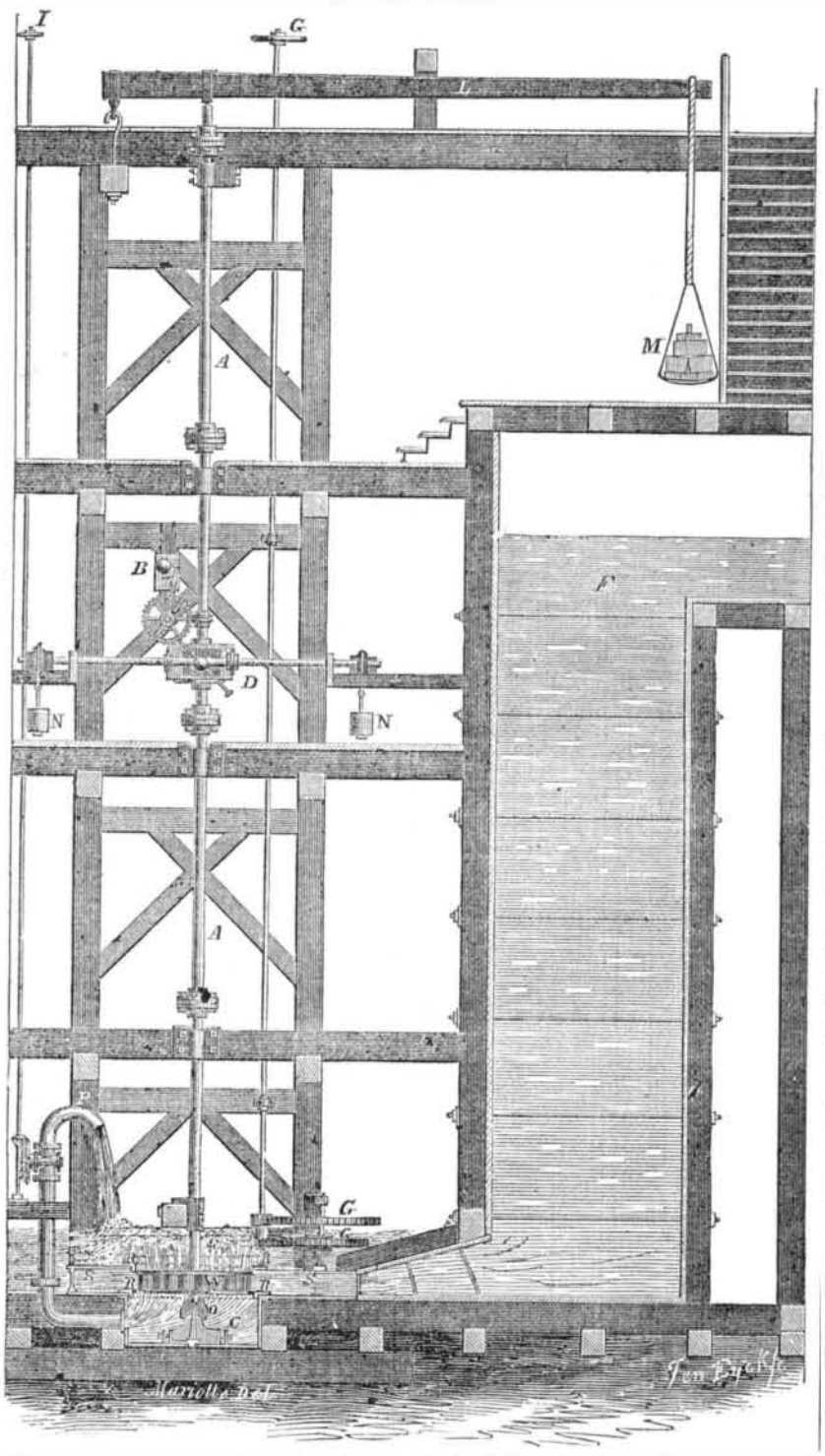
WOODEN COMPOSITION PIPES.—B. Blackburn, of Clapham Common, Eng., has obtained a patent for the following method of making pipes. He takes thin strips of wood, and bends them spirally and diagonally, and fills up the interstices with asphalt, or cement.

NEW MATERIAL FOR PAPER.—Alex. Brown, of Tarbet, North Britain, has obtained a patent for the use of fern, or the bracken plant, in making fibrous materials to be used in the manufacture of paper. He has also produced a textile fabric from the bracken, (our common brake,) and other plants of the cryptogamic series, and claims the manufacture of cloth from such. Our Patent Office has refused, in times gone past, patents for the application of a well-known material to a new purpose, but it should be generous in such cases when the results produced are improvements.

PICKERS OF POWER LOOMS.—Thos. Helliwell & Joseph Barker, of York, Eng., manufacturers, have taken out a patent for preserving pickers and picker-sticks, and for preventing caps coming off the shuttle during the process of weaving. The invention consists in the use of a spring of steel or whale-bone fixed behind the back end of the shuttle-box, such spring being attached at one end to a raw hide, and it has a hole in the other end passing around the sirspindle of the shuttle-box. The raw hide forms a buffer bringing the shuttle gradually to a state of rest, and preventing it going too far into the box, and it also assists in returning it for the next shot.

AN IMPROVED SOAP.—W. A. Armand, of London, has secured a patent for the following method of making a soap called "saponitoline," and which is stated to be of a superior quality. He places in a copper 88 gallons of soft water and mixes with it 112 lbs. of crystal soda, or 79 lbs. of salts of soda, and after two or three hours have elapsed, agitates it, and adds 112 lbs. of common soap. He then heats the whole to 40° or 45° centrigrade, and adds 17 lbs. of pearlash, and 17 lbs. of quick lime. When ebullition has commenced in the copper he slowly agitates the heated mass, and pours into it about 5 gallons of mucilage of linseed or marshmallow seed, after which he adds 7 1-2 pounds of borax, or about 2 1-2 pounds of calcined alum. When the whole is well mixed in the copper, and the liquid presents the appearance of being perfectly homogeneous, he leaves it to boil on a slow fire for 3-4 of an hour. The fire is then extinguished, the copper covered over, and the temperature allowed to fall to 55° or 60°. He then pours the liquid into barrels, where it becomes solidified in about 24 hours, (supposing that hard soap has been used,) if otherwise, it remains in a gelatinous state.

CENTER VENT WHEEL WITH HYDROSTATIC CHAMBER.



The accompanying figure is an elevation of Reuben Rich's patent Center Vent Wheel with a cast iron scroll, to which is applied Winters' Hydrostatic Chamber. This view represents a wheel in successful operation at the cotton mills of the Tallassee Manufacturing Co., at Tallassee, Ala. A "Prony Brake" for ascertaining the power of the wheel, is also represented.

A is the shaft of the wheel, W. R R are adjustable rings in which the wheel revolves. C is the hydrostatic chamber. O is the step and support of the wheel. S S is the section of the cast iron scroll. F is the fore-bay or water flume. P is a discharge pipe, having a stop cock, I, for regulating the upward pressure on the disk of the wheel from the hydrostatic chamber, C D is the Prony's friction brake or dynamometer. N N are weights suspended on it, and B is a bell to announce the number of revolutions performed by the wheel, it being struck with a hammer operated by a cam, as shown. L is the lever of the dynamometer, and M the weights on the scale. G, at the top, is a wheel lever on a shaft, to open and close the gate of the wheel by the pinions and wheels, G G, at the foot. These parts are all plain, and will be readily understood.

In this illustration it will be observed that the wheel discharges its water at the top only, its bottom being a solid plate. Between the periphery of the water wheeel, W, and the rings, R R, in which it revolves—although the rings and wheel are fitted very accurately to one another—there will still escape a certain quantity of waste water between the lower ring and the wheel, into the hydrostatic chamber, C; this chamber soon fills, and an upward pressure is thereby exerted on the sole or bottom plate of the wheel, proportioned to the head of water employed and the area of the wheel. This pressure is regulated by the valve in the discharge pipe, P, so as to proportion the discharge with the quantity of water that escapes into the chamber, C. In this manner the escaping waste water is made subservient to relieve the wheel of downward pressure on its step, O. In the wheel, at Tallassee, the entire upward pressure of the hydrostatic chamber, with the valve in the discharge pipe closed, is 25,000 lbs; the weight of the shafting, &c., amounts to 22,000 lbs. To balance this, about three twenty-fifths of the water flowing into chamber C, is allowed to escape by pipe P, and thus twenty-two twenty-fifths of the waste water is saved, by this useful method of applying it.

This hydrostatic chamber, C, is made of iron, but it might be formed in a rocky foundation, excavated in a proper situation for the purpose. Various devices may be employed for the escape of water from the hydrostatic chamber. A wheel put up for the Cartright Manufacturing Co., at Cartright, Ga., has inch holes bored through its disk (the number of such corresponding to the quantity of water,) for the escape of water from the hydrostatic chamber.

In experiments made with this wheel, to test its power, by a Prony brake, we are informed by the inventor that the increased useful effect of the Hydrostatic Chamber amounted to ten per cent. The same principle is alike applicable to the double as the single wheel, and to all water wheels running on vertical shafts, or carrying round a weight of water as they revolve. The invention can be applied by a small elevated tube of water to relieve the friction and pressure on any revolving vertical shaft of an engine or machine, which carries a great weight of machinery. The same principle can be applied to wheels that discharge below instead of above, but that method is not shown in the figure; the inventor, however, will explain the plan of doing this to those who apply to him.

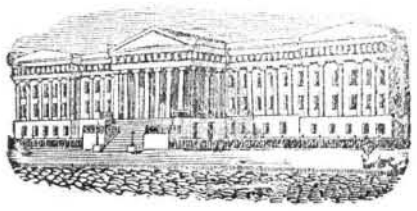
It is evident that the Hydrostatic Chamber is a very useful improvement, that it nearly annihilates all the friction incident to the weight of the wheel, and its shafting on step O. Devices heretofore applied to relieve the friction on heavy vertical shafts, have rather aimed at disseminating than reduciug the friction, so as to reduce or equalize the wear of the rubbing surfaces. The improvement is an exceedingly simple one,—its qualities and merits are apparent at a glance. This Hydrostatic Chamber, on Reuben Rich's wheels, is employed by the Cartright Manufacturing Co., Ga., and Tallassee Manufacturing Co., Ala. Daniel Keith, Esq., is Superintendent of the former, and Z. Philips, Esq., of the latter—who can be referred to for opinions respecting its value.

The inventor of the Hydrostatic Chamber is J. S. Winter, Esq., who has applied for a patent, and from whom more information respecting its use and application may be obtained by letter addressed to him at his residence, Montgomery, Ala.

American Ship-Building.

During last winter and spring the docks of New York were crowded with ships for which no cargoes could be obtained, and, as a consequence, ship-building was almost suspended in all our dock yards. Things have taken an entire change within the past two months. Freights are now very high—a sure sign of abundant employment to our shipping—and in all the ship yards the sounds of hammer, mallet, and adze ring merrily from morning till night. There has been a partial failure of the crops in France and England during the present season, while there never was such a great surplus raised in our country. We are therefore able to supply the foreign demand, and this calls into activity the immense amount of capital invested in our commercial navy, which is stated to be larger now than that of any other country.

The Camden and Amboy Railroad Company, N. J., on whose road so many lives were lately lost by accident, have attached to some of their engines small whistles connected with exhaust pipes, through which the waste steam issues, making a continual succession of short shrill sounds, audible to a considerable distance.



[Reported officially for the Scientific American.]

LIST OF PATENT CLAIMS

Issued from the United States Patent Office

FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCT. 9, 1855.

SEWING MACHINES—C. J. Cowperthwaite, of Philadelphia, Pa.: I do not claim the application of a weight, simply to give pressure to the cloth holder, either fixed or adjustable.

But I claim, first, the weight trip lever, K, applied substantially as described, to the bar, J, or its equivalent, which holds the cloth so as to serve not only to apply pressure to the cloth, but to hold up the said bar, or equivalent, from the cloth, when desired; and also to allow the said bar, or equivalent, when its foot is struck by the needle bar, while it is held up, to descend and to hold it down again, until it is lifted by the operator, substantially as described.

Second, I claim arranging the shuttle race obliquely to the direction in which the cloth is moved, to produce the seam or line of sewing, substantially as described, for the purpose of causing the visible parts of the stitches on the front or upper side of the cloth to be straight, or all in the same line.

[The foregoing invention consists, first, in an improved feed motion. Second, in the employment of a weighted trip lever, instead of spring pressure in feeding the cloth. Third, in an oblique arrangement of the shuttle race relating to the line of the feeding movement, or of the sewing, whereby the stitches formed by the needle and shuttle are all caused to be produced in line with each other, instead of zig-zag, as in other machines. Fourth, in a new way of regulating the tension of the spool thread. Fifth, in a novel device for regulating, positively, the length of needle thread which is given off to form each stitch.—Sixth, in a novel device for the purpose of holding the thread, and keeping it extended in a straight line from the cloth to some distance above the needle during the descent of the needle, until the eye thereof passes through the cloth, for the purpose of preventing the kinking of the thread around the needle as it enters the cloth.—Seventh, in an improvement in the shuttle whereby a cop is therein successfully used.

We should need several diagrams in order to illustrate clearly the various improvements outlined as above. They are all intended to render the common shuttle sewing machine more convenient of management, and more perfect in its operation than it has heretofore been. So far as we can judge, Mr. Cowperthwaite's efforts have been crowned with much success. Nothing can exceed the exactness and uniformtiy of the work which he produces, or the ease and certainty with which his improved machines are managed. We regard this invention as one of value and importance.]

WASHING MACHINES—J. A. Bills, of Troy, N. Y.: All I claim is the movable partitions, i i.

PREPARING VEGETABLE FIBER—Jean Blanc, of New Orleans, La.: I do not claim burying the plants in either wet sand or mud, as described in the "India" process, found in the Agricultural Reports of the Patent Office for 1854, page 174.

Nor do I claim, simply rotting the plants on end, with the butts down, as described in the Southern Cultivator

But I claim the staking of the plants, butts down, in a pit dug for said purpose, and surrounding them with dry leaves, or straw, with earth thrown around the same, thereby enclosing them entirely on all sides, leaving the top open and uncovered, as fully set forth.

ECONOMISING STEAM—Geo. M. Longacre, of New Orleans, La.: I claim the employment of two sets of boilers in the manner and for the purposes described, having steam of different pressure and temperature therein, and passing the steam from the boiler of the highest pressure through the pipes of the evaporators, &c., to the other boiler, from whence it is used to move the machinery of the mill.

CHURNS.—John G. Dungan, of Steubenville, O.: I claim giving the outer leaves of an alternately opposite rotating agitator, a rocking motion to and from the sides of the churn, substantially as set forth.

APPARATUS FOR HEATING BUILDINGS BY STEAM—Chas. Davenport, of Watertown, Mass.: I do not claim a boiler, radiator, and supply cistern so connected by pipes that the steam from the boiler may be made to circulate through the radiator, and from thence pass in a condensed state back to the boiler.

But I claim the arrangement of the vessel, M, and its connecting pipes, Q N P, and valve, O, the supply cisterns, L, the boiler, A, the radiator, I, and the leading steam and return pipes, K and R, of the said boiler and radiator, the whole being made to operate together, substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

CORN SHELLERS.—Stephen Elliott, of Wayne Co., Ind.: I claim the combination of the screws, B, with the clamping jaws, D, arranged and operating in the manner set forth.

MANUFACTURE OF BORAX FROM NATIVE BORATE OF LIME—Thomas Bell and Henry Scholefield, of South Shields, Eng. Patented in England July 25, 1854: We do not claim making borax by combining the boracic acid of commerce with a solution of carbonate of soda, and boiling and evaporating the same.

But we claim our mode of manufacturing borate of soda from borate of lime, the same consisting in boiling the borate of lime in water, and an acid, separating the lime and other foreign matters, adding a saturated solution of soda to the liquid, boiling the compound, separating the impurities or foreign matters therefrom, and subsequently evaporating the clear liquor and crystalizing out the borax therefrom, as specified.

CORN SHELLERS—Charles Bishop, of Norwalk, Ohio: I do not claim, separately, the toothed or corrugated wheel, C, for that has been previously used.

But I claim, in combination with a shelling disk or wheel, such as described, the series of ear boxes radially arranged around it; said boxes being composed of elastic backs and unyielding partitions, as described.

[The above is an improvement on the oldest of all the corn shellers—that in which a bevel toothed shelling wheel is employed, having a yielding movement on it, bearings, or a spring, to accommodate different sized cobs. In these shellers there is generally only one opening for the reception of the corn. When a small ear is put in followed immediately by a larger one, the latter is apt to force back the wheel or spring, and cause the first ear to drop down without being perfectly shelled

Mr. Bishop obviates this difficulty, and also increases the capacity of the sheller, by a slight alteration which any one can make. He provides several openings to the sheller, each opening furnished with a spring back, which presses its ear up against the shelling wheel. This enables him to present, simultaneously, against the surface of the wheel, as many ears as there are openings, and all of the ears will be stripped of their grain with the utmost certainty. It is a good invention.]

GAUGING AND MEASURING STAVES—L. T. Atkins, of Sage County, Va.: I claim the combination of treddles, clamps, and vibratory arms or levers, operating in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

ACID SULPHITE OF LIME—P. L. Bernard and Jos. Albrecht, of New Orleans, La.: We claim the apparatus for the manufacture of sulphite and bi- (or acid) sulphite of lime, consisting of the oven, g r u x, the three superposed cylinders, No. 1, 2, and 3, and the ventilator, v, each of said parts constructed, furnished, and arranged substantially as described and for the purposes specified.

COTTON GINS.—H. H. Fultz, of Lexington, Miss.: I claim giving the cotton to be ginned within the feed box and directly over the saws, B, a spira or twisting motion, by means of the plates, c, or an equivalent device, so that the cotton will pass from one end of the feed box to the other, and have a fresh surface presented successively to the action of the saws as it passes over them, for the purpose as shown and described.

[We have in preparation an engraving illustrative of the above excellent invention, which will be shortly published.]

VIBRATING PUMPS.—Ellwood Garrette, of Wilmington, Del.: I claim, in vibratory double-acting pumps, the arrangement of the side passage, a, with its openings, b c, into chambers, e a, respectively, in combination with the vibrating pistons, f g, having their valves, h i, opening upwards, or in the direction of the outlet of the water, in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

GRAIN SEPARATORS.—Peter Geizer, of Smithsburg, Md.: I am aware a self-acting blast regulator for fan blowers is not new, this I do not claim.

But I claim the vanes within the fan case, against which the blast acts, for the purpose of closing or opening the register automatically, to regulate the blast, as set forth.

I also claim the manner of separating the grain from the straw and other impurities, by means of aprons, vents, and grooved rolls, without the use of a riddle, whether one, two, or more sets of such separating apparatus be used, substantially as described.

I also claim, in combination with the separating apparatus, the self-regulating dividing shelf, upon which the grain drops, for the purpose of carrying the heavy grain back, and the lighter forward, for a second or more complete separation, as set forth.

I also claim the hinging of the upper to the lower portion of the straw carrier frame, and providing it with adjustable sides or conveyors, for dividing and conveying the straw into any desired localities, as set forth.

CUT-OFF VALVES FOR OSCILLATING ENGINES.—Henry E. Canfield, of New York City: I claim the arrangement in oscillating engines of separate loose valves moving independent of each other, when the motion is given them by the oscillation of the cylinder for the purpose of cutting off the steam at such part of the stroke as may be desired, substantially as shown and described.

AMALGAMATOR—Samuel Gardiner, Jr., of New York City: I claim, first, the hollow perforated rollers, A A, receiving water at their journals, and discharging it in small streams all over their peripheries, and revolving in opposite directions, in a trough or troughs of quicksilver, so that their upper parts are constantly approaching each other, and having the auriferous and other metaliferous matter fed above or between them, all substantially as described.

Second, The arrangement of the amalgamating rollers and the distributing rollers and trough, substantially as shown and described, whereby the matter is fed equally on both amalgamating rollers, and on the descending portion thereof.

[This amalgamator consists of one or more pairs of metallic rollers geared together and revolving in a trough in contact with mercury. The journals of the rollers are hollow, and so are the rollers themselves; the latter are perforated with fine holes, so that, by the introduction of water through the journals, there will be an unceasing outward discharge of water on the surfaces of the rollers, keeping them continually moist.

The quartz previously pulverized and mixed with water into a thin paste, is introduced from above upon the rollers, and by them spread over their entire surfaces; the rollers coat themselves, as they revolve, with mercury, and the latter absorbs the gold dust from the paste. The issuing water from the rollers loosens the quartz as fast as it forms upon their surfaces, and the gold, being heaviest, falls to the bottom of the trough. A running stream of water constantly flowing into the trough carries away the quartz dust, and the rollers come round with a fresh coating of mercury at every turn. This is a simple and apparently effective and economical amalgamator.]

MORTISING MACHINE.—Hezekiah B. Smith, of Lowell, Mass.: I claim moving the chisel carriage, B, to and from the wood to be mortised, by power, essentially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

Second, I claim, in combination, the bent lever, O2, clutches, K2, a b c and d, pulley stops, P2 and Q2, or their mechanical equivalent, by which the said chisel carriage, B, will stop its own motion, at or near any desired point, substantially in the manner, and for the purposes set forth.

SEEDING MACHINES.—H. R. Smith, of Massena, N. Y.; I claim the combination of wheels, B I, with the hopper, F, when arranged substantially as shown, for the purpose specified.

DAGUERREOTYPE PLATE HOLDER.—David Shive, of Philadelphia, Pa.: I do not claim a two part daguerreotype plate holder, nor do I claim actuating the two parts by means of springs and the force of the hands.

But I claim a daguerreotype plate holder so constructed that when its under side is compressed by the hand of the operator, as described, its upper side shall expand so as to admit of the plate being placed between the hooks, b b, and b' b', thereon, and so that when the pressure of the hand is relaxed, the said upper side shall contract, causing the hooks, b b, and b' b', to catch upon the outer edges of the plate and hold it firmly upon the face of the holder, substantially as described and set forth.

FEEDING THE SHINGLE BOLT TO KNIVES.—Wm. J. Scott, of Carthage, N. Y.: I claim the application and construction of the two handled cams, v v. Also the adjustability of the arms, M M, by means of the bars, L L, as described.

Second, I claim the combination of the rocking lever, i, clutch or hand, g, lever, f, and spring, l, with the knife frame, for the purpose of feeding intermittingly the block to the knives, in the manner described.

PORTABLE BORING ENGINES—Thos. Goodrum, of Providence, R. I.: I claim, first, conducting the steam to the engine through a pipe, which is fitted to slide within another pipe, substantially in the manner described, whereby the weight of the engine may be supported by the pressure of the steam.

Second, the employment of two or more sliding pipes, 1, 12, 13, 14, of different sizes, and within the other, in combination with suitable clamps, l, substantially as described, for the purpose of securing all but such one of the said pipes, whose area, acted upon by the working pressure of steam, will receive an aggregate pressure about equal to the weight of the engine.

[The apparatus which forms the subject of this invention consists of a portable steam engine, carrying one or more auger stocks, either attached or geared with its main shaft. The cylinder of the engine receives steam from a boiler through a flexible pipe, which allows it to be carried about in the hands, and operated in different places at pleasure. The engine is also provided with a curious arrangment of sliding pipes, whereby nearly the whole weight of the concern is supported by the pressure of the steam. In boring, therefore, the operator only requires to guide the auger by handles attached to the frame of the engine. If desirable, steam may be introduced, to cause the necessary pressure upon the tool. This is a singular improvement, applicable, we are told, with much useful effect in ship building, and wherever large amounts of boring are to be done. Experience proves that steam may be conveyed with perfect facility in flexible pipes, for short distances around a stationary boiler.]

WIND REGULATOR FOR ORGAN PIPES.—Danl. George, of Nazareth, Pa.: I claim constructing the lower part of each or any of the pipes of an organ with a transverse seat, fitted with a plug, b, like that of a faucet, having a suitable passage or passages, the area of which is regulated by turning the plug, for the purpose of regulating the tone of the tube, and tuning the instrument, substantially as described.

[In church, and other organs, the throats or lower parts of the music pipes, rest on a box called an air chest, into which the air from the bellows first flows. Holes are made through the air chest, and into them the pipes are placed to receive wind. The tone of each pipe is set or tuned by altering the size of its throat. If the sound is too low, the throat is jammed together a little, with a hammer: if too shrill, it is enlarged with a mandrel. Mr. George's invention consists in simply placing a common stop-cock in the throat of each tube—an improvement which permits the tuning of the pipes with the utmost convenience and perfection. We wonder that it was never thought of before.]

FARM GATE—S. A. Skinner, of Derby, Vt.: I do not claim elevating a gate by means of a windlass and draft and connecting chains; nor making the gate to close into a recess below its sill; nor balancing a gate by means of counterbalance weights, cords, and pulleys.

I claim the manner of making the gate, viz., of a series of bars or chains, D D, and upright chains, connected and arranged as specified, and so as to fold into, and unfold out of a recess below the sill, as explained.

I also claim the combination and arrangement of the latch bar, I, and the cords, g h, the same being constructed and applied to the windlass, and made to operate substantially as specified.

REGISTER BOTTLE FASTENINGS.—John Smylie, of Philadelphia, Pa.: I claim the spindle, F, with its sliding ball, E, in combination with the arm, H, projection, L, lever, J, spring catch, K, and dial, G, or their equivalents, arranged and constructed substantially in the manner, and for the purposes specified.

APPLYING FIRE EXTINGUISHING CARTRIDGES.—Wm. M. Storm, of New York City: Having described my improved method of extinguishing fires, I claim simply the plan of projecting into the flames with precision and penetrating force, by means of an apparatus or gun, purposely adapted, and by means of a projectile power, independently and separately generated, the fire-extinguishing gas generating solid itself, in the concentrated and properly adapted form, substantially as described and in moderate, distinct, and rapidly intermittent masses as explained, whereby the gas is generated apart from the machine, and within the source of the fire, by all of which I attain the many points of increased efficiency and convenience of operation set forth.

SEWING MACHINES.—Isaac M. Singer, of New York City: I claim, First, the employment of a supporting tongue substantially as described, placed between and in combination with the two needles, to support the cloth or other substance, and prevent its being puckered during the operation of sewing, and drawing the two rows of stitches tight, substantially as described.

Second, the employment of the guide plates, substantially as described, to guide cloth that has been folded in making flat, lapped, or other analogous seams as described, so that the row or rows of stitches shall be made at a regular and determined distance from the folded edge, as set forth.

Third, in combination with one or more eye pointed needles and shuttles, or the equivalent therefore, for sewing one or more seams, the employment of a vibrating thread carrier, for carrying a thread or threads alternately in opposite directions across the seam or seams, and laying it on the face of the cloth substantially as described, so that it shall be secured to the face of the cloth by the needle thread or threads as described.

SEWING MACHINES.—Isaac M. Singer, of New York City: I claim, in combination with the shuttle and attached there to, the employment of a spring pressure guide, substantially as specified, to control the shuttle thread, as the needle enters the cloth or other substance to be sewed, as set forth, and for the purpose specified.

And I claim the continuous feed motion for spacing the stitches, substantially as specified, in combination with the vibratory motion of the needle, imparted in one direction by the feed motion, and in the opposite by a spring or any equivalent therefor, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

[Mr. Singer is the inventor and patentee of many highly ingenious and successful improvements in cloth-sewing machinery. But the inventions above patented, strike us as forming a crowning triumph. They consist in a new plan of stitching, and in a novel method of embroidery, whereby ornamental designs, of every description, can be wrought out on the cloth in the most splendid manner, with great precision and rapidity. We have seen some elegant specimens. Thread, silk, worsted, gold lace, and other species of embroidering stuffs, varied in colors to suit the taste, may be laid on with singular ease and facility. The work performed is, moreover, very firm and durable. The field of employment for inventions of this kind is a very large one. But the extensive resources and well known energy of Messrs. Singer & Co., leave no room to doubt that it will soon be well supplied.]

MUSIC BY STEAM OR COMPRESSED AIR—J. C. Stoddard, of Worcester, Mass.: First, I claim the musical instrument described, consisting of a number of what are commonly known as steam whistles, of such tones as to produce a musical scale, arranged in a convenient manner, upon a steam chest, chamber pipe, or generator, and furnished with valves and a rotating studded barrel, finger keys, or other suitable mechanical means of opening the said valves, to allow the escape of steam or air, to the whistles, substantially as set forth.

Second, as a part of the said musical instrument, I claim the described valve, with its two puppets and seats of unequal size, and with one end of its stem exposed to the atmosphere.

[Music by steam is no longer a myth; it is, at last, a patented reality. A daring inventor has seized the steam whistle by the throat, opened its mouth, and thrust down vocal organs wholly new. Its horrid screech is turned into a voice of melody, powerful, but pleasing. Slumbering villagers will no longer complain of broken rest. The midnight locomotive, rushing with lightning wing, will henceforth bear along sweet sounds instead of discord. The Sunday mail train, ceasing to shock, with its piercing din, the moral sense of whole communities, will lead them in vast choruses of hymns and psalms.

In plain matter-of-fact terms, this steam musician consists of a number of steam whistles of proper relative size, to produce any musical scale, arranged in any convenient manner, and provided with separate valves, by the opening of which they are caused to receive steam or air from any suitable pipe, chamber, or generator. The said valves are opened for the steam or air to escape to the whistles, by finger keys or by the revolution of a studded barrel or by any other suitable mechanical means. The important feature of this instrument is the peculiar kind of valve employed for the escape of the steam.]

FISH HOOK—Job Johnson, of Brooklyn, N. Y.: I do not claim forming a spider of hooks in themselves, as the same have been used for meat and a variety of other purposes

But I claim the method described and shown, of catching fish by means of a cluster or spider of hooks, beneath and around suitable bait, so that said hook can be suddenly raised up and catch the fish, while nibbling at the bait, in the manner and for the purposes specified.

I also claim the method set forth of attaching and hanging the hooks, e, from the ends of the spider arms, c, by means of the spring throat, q, whereby said hooks can be raised or replenished in the manner and for the purposes specified.

LEADING CLASP FOR CATTLE—Jos. Welton, of Waterbury, Conn.: I do not claim the method of leading cattle; but I claim the combination of the spring and slide with the clasp, as set forth.

INTERLOCKING GRATE BARS—Samuel Vansyckel, of Jersey City, N. J.: I claim so casting grate bars with projections and recesses on their sides and ends, as that when laid together they shall interlock, one over, under, or behind the other, in such manner as to prevent them moving vertically, horizontally, or from warping, whilst they may be readily removed or replaced, as set forth.

ATTACHMENT FOR SAWING MACHINES—G. W. Worden, of Fayetteville, N. Y.: I claim the vibrating gauge formed of the lever, G, with arms, d d, attached to its ends, the lever working on a pivot, c, attached to one of the arms, b', of the sliding gauge, E, and the arms of the lever, G, working horizontally through the gauge, E, substantially as shown, for the purpose specified.

[The above gauging contrivance is intended for use in connection with circular saws, its object being to facilitate the cutting of exact bevels and angles. A gauging apparatus of nearly the ordinary construction is secured to the sawing table in the common manner. The improvement consists in combining therewith an additional gauge bar, shaped somewhat like the following [. This bar is pivoted, and its arms pass through slots in the other gauge apparatus. If one of the arms of the improved bar is pressed in, by the stuff to be sawn the other arm will be consequently thrown forward and the two will form the desired bevel gauge. This is a very simple, cheap, and useful invention.]

CARD PRINTING PRESS—D. K. Winder, of Cincinnati, Ohio: I claim the double inclined bed, B, traversing form, F, and inking surface, g, in combination with the lever, C, spring roller supports, and operating lever, L, constructed, arranged, and operating substantially as and for the purpose specified.

MAKING ENVELOPES, &C.—E. W. Goodale, of Clinton Mass.: I claim, first, the employment, in a machine for making envelopes or bags, to support the blanks during either or all of the operations of pasting, stamping, and applying the gluten of a self-adjusting table, C, supported by a cam, whose position is so controlled by a spring, or its equivalent, applied to its shaft, that, as the blanks are removed, one by one, the table is caused to rise, to bring the next one to the proper hight or position, to be pasted, stamped, or have the gluten applied, substantially as set forth.

Second, giving the self-adjusting table a drop movement, substantially as described, by means of the cam, H, the lever, H', pawl, k', ratchet wheel, I, or their equivalents, acting on the shaft of the supporting cam, C2.

Third, applying the gluten which makes the envelope or bag self-sealing, to that part of the blank which is to form the seal flap or closing flap of the envelope or bag, by a die, while in the machine, at the commencement of the process, substantially as described, whereby the said die serves the two purposes of applying the gluten and of lifting the blanks, one at a time, from the pile, or retaining the top one while the remainder of the pile is lowered away from it.

Fourth, applying the two dies, h h', to two arms or jaws, i i, which are connected together by a hinge, or its equivalent, arranged at the rear of the table, C, and have a sliding motion back and forth, substantially as described, to move the said dies out of the way of every successive blank, till the latter has had the gluten applied, and been separated from the pile, and then to bring them forward again, to receive the separated blank, and to receive the pressure of the screw, g, or its equivalent.

Fifth, attaching the paste box, the gluten die, and the screw, g, or other equivalent device which gives pressure to the stamp, which produces the seal to a head, E, receiving such a motion as is described, from a pair of cranks, or their equivalent.

Sixth, the employment of a pair of nippers, o o', having a motion of a positive length in the line parallel with the line in which the blank is required to move from the pasting to the folding apparatus, either to take a cut blank from a table, or to draw the material, before it is cut, from a roll, and measure off the proper length to be cut, substantially as set forth.

Seventh, The method of giving the necessary movement to the lappers, t1, t2, t3, t4, by means of the bent levers, u1, u2, u3, u4, and the springs, t*, applied to their hinges substantially as described.

Eighth, the creasing fingers, w, arranged and operating substantially as described, to hold the blank in position, and crease it in the line for folding the seal flap, substantially as described.

Ninth, the nippers, y y, arranged and operating in a lateral direction, substantially as described, to remove the finished envelopes or bags at one side of the folding stand.

Tenth, the lifter, 10, applied substantially as described, to the folding stand, and operated by the lever which carries the nippers, y y, for the purpose of lifting the finished envelope or bag at one side thereof from the stand, to enable it to be taken by the nippers.

Eleventh, applying a stamp, V, to work through the table, C, substantially as described, for the purpose of stamping a card, or other, on a bag during the process of manufacture.

Twelfth, the general arrangement and combination of the several working parts of the machine, substantially as set forth.

[The foregoing claims explain, as clearly as it can be done without engravings, the nature and operation of the invention to which they relate. Its purpose is to take the blank envelopes or lozenges, as they are technically called, fold and stick them, stamp their flaps with an ornamental seal, and put on the self-sealing gum.

An envelope is a simple looking affair when finished, but its manufacture, by mechanism, involves a number of operations, and the rapid movement of many different parts. Even when made by hand, it requires a great deal of fingering. The estimated annual consumption of envelopes in this country is at present between forty and fifty millions; their manufacture is an important branch of business. Girls are generally employed to do the folding, who are paid according to the number of envelopes produced. The rapidity and expertness which they acquire in the operation is really surprising. A smart girl, we have been told, can fold between four and five thousand per diem.

Several attempts have been made within the past few years to perform all the labor of envelope making by machinery. There are some successful machines in use, but their advantage over hand labor is not very striking, as they require considerable superintendence, and only turn out between fifteen and twenty thousand envelopes a-day. Mr. Goodale claims to have realized some important improvements, and thinks that the above invention will altogether outstrip, in speed and quality of work, any of the best machines in use.]

VARIABLE EXHAUST OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES—Saml. L. Hay, of Reading, Mass.: I claim the application of a self-regulating and adjustable blast pipe to a locomotive engine, as described, or such modification of it substantially the same.

TELEGRAPHS—Washington A. Peaslee, of Indianapolis, Ind.: I claim the mode described of dividing a long line of telegraph into two sections, and transmitting signals from either section to the other, viz.: by means of two receiving electro magnets at an intermediate station, the helices of which are interposed in the line of main wire, one after the other, said magnets acting in conjunction upon an armature lever, or its equivalent, which, by the motion produced by the attraction of the magnets, makes contact of a ground wire or wires, with the main line between the two helices, and the said receiving electro magnets and armature lever being combined with a spring, or other equivalent force, adjusted so as to draw back the armature lever with a force greater than the attraction of either electro magnet, but less than the sum of their attractions, or any combination of apparatus operating in substantially the same manner.

RADIATORS OF STEAM HEATING APPARATUS—A. S. Pelton, of Clinton, Conn.: I claim the arrangement, substantially as specified, in a chamber exterior to the escape valve of a porous packing, w, for preventing noise during the escape of steam from the heater, as set forth.

Also the employment of the float valve, m, in connection with the heater and pipes leading to the boiler, as pecified, to prevent the accumulation of condensed team.

PLOWS—Harrison Norton, of Farmington, Me.: I claim attaching the share, E, to the mold board, C, and "land side," D, of the plow by a hinge or joint, and moving said share by means of the bar, G, and lever, H, or their equivalents, substantially as shown and described.

[This improvement consists in a novel means of regulating the depth of the furrow. The plow point is hinged, and there is a rod extending down to it from the plow beam. By raising or depressing this rod the plow point will, in like manner, be moved up or down, and the plow will accordingly cut a shallow or a deep furrow, as may be desired. The rod is operated by means of a lever which runs along the beam to the rear part of the plow, within convenient reach of the plowman. In the tilling of rough and rocky soils, where it is requisite to have some means of instantly altering the depth of the furrow, this improvement will be found valuable. The expense of its attachment is trifling.]

SASH FASTENER—Wm. Patton, of Towanda, Pa.: I claim the arrangement of the self-acting catch or holder, with its staples on the outside of the window frame and sash, so that it may be more easily placed upon any window, without taking it out of the frame, or be readily repaired, and to prevent the cutting away or mortising of the frame or sash, as represented.

MUTUAL ARRANGEMENT OF VINEGAR ROOMS AND WHITE LEAD CORRODING CHAMBERS—Robert Rowland, of St. Louis, Mo.: I claim arranging the room wherein the metallic lead is placed, immediately above the room, wherein the manufacturing of vinegar is going on, and perforating the floor between the two rooms, so that the acetic acid, which is generated in the manufacturing of vinegar, may pass from the lower room, through said perforations, into the upper rooms, and there, in combination with carbonic acid produced in the upper room, by the fermentation of wort, or other similar substances, (or introduced into the upper room by pipes) act upon the metallic lead, for the purpose of converting the metallic lead into the carbonate of lead.

DOUBLE SEAMING CANS—Elliot Savage and Noah C. Smith, of East Berlin, Conn.: We claim the arrangement of the periphery of the bearing roller, L, that of the roller, I, the cylindrical portion, shoulder, and conical part of the roller, K, substantially as specified, and so as to operate together, in manner and effect advantages as stated.

We also claim the arrangement and application of two sets of conical rollers, so as to receive and work against the rim of a pan or vessel, and support it as explained.

OPERATING FARM GATES—J. K. Weber, of Seneca Falls, N. Y.: I claim the arrangement of the levers, a a', b b', cords, a2 a3, b2 b3, in combination with the spring bolt, for opening and closing a gate, which opens and shuts both ways, the whole operated and operating substantially in the manner set forth.

ARGAND LAMPS—J. G. Webb, of New York City: I claim the arrangement of the button, 5, and deflector or button, g, as described and shown, when used in combination with the draft spaces, i and i1, on each side of the burner or flame, having the relative proportions set forth, for the purposes and as specified.

WASHING AND BLEACHING FIBROUS AND TEXTILE SUBSTANCES—Julius A. Jillson, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and Henry Whinfield, of New York City: We claim combining with the washing, extracting, or receiving chamber, the double-acting force pump, and the disinfecting or bleaching vessel, operating substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

WIRE DISH COVERS—Wm. Lincoln, of Oakham, Mass.: I claim the combination of rotary forming and holding dies, A and B, with bedding mechanism applied, to operate therewith substantially as described.

I also claim the guide spindle, C, in combination with the cup die, A, and follower, B, substantially as described.

I also claim the carriage, D, the guide, H, the gearing, a c, and shaft, K, as combined with the dies and the beading mechanism.

I also claim combining with the cup die, A, the movable gauge top, l, the same being in the manner and for the purpose as specified.

LARD LAMPS—J. S. Brown, of Washington, D. C., assignor to Jos. Kent, of Baltimore County, Md.: I claim the combination and arrangement of the open bowl, A, with its hollow support, B, the inverted cup, C, with its air space, H, and enlarged mouth, h, and the piston, I, constructed and operating substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

DESIGNS.

METALLIC COVERS FOR JUGS—Orrin Newton, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

ORNAMENTING DAGUERROTYPE AND OTHER MATS—Hiram W. Hayden, of Waterbury, Conn.

BURIAL CASES—Martin H. Crane, assignor to Crane, Breed, & Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio.

[For the Scientific American.]

Machine for Peeling Willows.

I have taken much pleasure in the perusal of your valuable paper from time to time, and have been in the habit of looking to your columns for any new and useful invention, as I see you take much interest in any new thing that promises to be of value to the world. But there is a new thing which I believe has not yet appeared in your columns, viz., a machine for peeling basket willows.

The cultivation of willows is a subject which has excited a good deal of attention in this country for a number of years, and many farmers have tried it on a small scale, and found it very profitable; but owing to the great amount of labor required at one time to peel them, while the bark is loose, it was found that there could be but very few raised in this country, where labor is so scarce and high, without there could be a power machine for peeling them.

Here was a fair field for "Yankee ingenuity," and in this instance said ingenuity has accomplished its object in a most perfect manner. Mr. Geo. J. Colby, a young man in this village, is the inventor. He commenced the cultivation of willows some three years ago, and last winter he got up this machine for peeling them by horse power, and it works beautifully. I had often heard of the machine, but had my doubts of its being very valuable, for I imagined that a machine that would adapt itself to the different sized willows and effectually remove the bark from the large and small ones, and not injure the rod, must be a complicated affair. But I have lately witnessed a trial of it and have become satisfied that it is a valuable invention. Its operation is very simple, the willows being passed through between two or three sets of India rubber rollers, one set of which have a vibrating motion which rubs the bark off very effectually; the others mainly separating the willows from the loose bark. The rollers being made of india rubber, there is no possible chance for the willows to be injured, and it will adapt itself to all sizes, so that from twenty to thirty rods can be passing through at the same time.

With one horse, and two men to attend it, it will peel from one to two tuns per day, while to do the same amount of work by hand it would require 30 or 40 men and boys. In short I think this is one of the greatest labor-saving machines of the age, and if farmers only understood it they would soon plant willows enough, so that we should not be obliged to send to Europe for them as we now do.

Mr. Colby has published a circular giving directions for cultivating the European willow and preparing it for market, which he offers to send free to any one wishing to engage in the business, which, from his account of it, and from what I have learned from other sources, I think is the most profitable business that farmers can engage in when they have suitable land for this purpose. I remain, yours, very truly,

Jonesville, Vt. A. L. JONES.

[For the Scientific American.]

On Preserving Fruit.

The following article on the subject of preserving apples, pears, grapes, &c., has been prepared by Mr. Parker, the patentee of the Fruit Preservatory, illustrated on page 356, Vol. 10, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. The information contained in it is collated and condensed from the Penny, Rural, and London's Cyclopedias; from Downing, Barry, Prof. Dubrill, of Paris, Liebig's Organic Chemistry, &c. All the sources of information on the subject up to the present date have been examined, and to these the author, who is an extensive fruit dealer of many years standing, adds his own experience and practical knowledge.—[Ed.

GATHERING FRUIT—No precise time can be specified when it should be plucked; those kinds that ripen or mature early, should be gathered before they are quite ripe. Slight frosts will assist many valuable kinds of winter pears and apples in collecting all they can of grape sugar, which not only improves the flavor, but is the most important element for preservation. Fruit should be gathered when the trees and fruit are perfectly dry (this rule holds good for all kinds.) The best time, as a general rule, is when the fruit stalk separates easily from the spur. Apples and pears for preserving should have their stalks separated from the tree, but never from themselves. This should be done carefully by the hand, catching the stalk so that the bloom will not be disturbed. Such fruit as are the least defective or bruised when gathering should be rejected. Improved fruit ladders, and baskets two feet long, eighteen inches wide, not more than twelve deep, with carpet inside, will be found useful, so that the fruit may not receive the slightest bruise till placed in the Preservatory, or packed in good oak barrels so that they shall not shake inside while being conveyed. In the Preservatory they should not be laid more than four tiers deep; this should be done before the fruit is the least moist; a few hours with the slightest change of temperature will cause this. Some are of the opinion that fruit should be placed in heaps and covered with straw or flannel till they perspire thoroughly, say for three weeks, then opened when the air is dry, so that the evaporation may be removed. Any that remains on the fruit is wiped off with flannel before they are put away in the fruit room or in barrels.

I object to this mode of sweating; it not only spoils the flavor, but the wiping removes the bloom—that which nature supplies for protection from damp should not be foolishly taken off. If we would study nature, and patronize and read good periodicals, we would know and practice better methods. "Prove all things." Apples and pears have been deposited for winter use in the following methods: First, in single layers on the bare shelves of a fruit room; second, in the same manner, but covered with light canvas, which must be dried occasionally, as it absorbs the moisture. Third, in drawers, one layer or several layers in depth. Fourth, In oak casks without any interposing material; a few weeks after they are put in, they require to be carefully picked over, the casks made perfectly dry, and re-filled, the heads closely fitted, and the fruit on no account disturbed till unpacked for use. Fifth, in boxes, casks, large garden pots or jars, with pure and dry sand interposed between the layers of fruit. Sixth, in jars in which no sand or other substance is allowed to come in contact with the fruit, the mouths of the jar being covered with a piece of slate, and the whole plunged into a quantity of dry sand, several inches from the free atmosphere. The sand being a slow conductor of caloric, the sudden changes of temperature, and their powerful effects in causing the decay of fruits is avoided. Seventh, in heaps in a dry airy loft, a slight covering of straw being given to prevent the frost from injuring the fruit. Eighth, in close cellars excluded from the light which is in all cases injurious. Ninth, in dark but airy vaults. Tenth, on a small scale under a bell glass, cemented down air tight, this must be done on wood free from resin, else it will communicate its flavor to the fruit by the confined and accumulating exhalation. Eleventh, buried in a box placed on four bricks, under another box inverted, in an excavation so deep that the upper portion of the fruit may be 1 1-2 or 2 feet below the surface of the earth. Twelfth, in thrashed grain or straw, with or without a covering of the same. Thirteenth, in chaff of wheat or oats. Fourteenth, in flaxseed chaff. Fifteenth, in powdered charcoal; this, if it cannot prevent, will in no degree contribute to decay, internally or externally. In this substance the Newtown Pippins sent to England are frequently packed; were it not for the bruises they receive before they are put aboard, they would arrive in better condition. Sixteenth, in dried fern leaves packed in baskets. To keep preserved fruits, glass jars, or salt glazed earthenware are considered better than tin cans. The acids of the fruit act on the solder, producing sugar of lead. Much has been said and written respecting how preserved fruit should be cooked, what proportion of sugar used, the method of expelling the air, then sealing the cans so that they may be kept from atmospheric influence. The best mode consists substantially in expelling the air from the jars by placing them in hot water so long till the fixed air is dislodged then hermetically sealing them. In all this there are so many minute particulars to be attended to, not only the right time when, but the proper manner. If these are neglected or improperly done, the fruit will be worthless—experience is indispensible.

To construct a fruit room, choose a dry soil, somewhat elevated, facing the north, and completely shaded from the sun by high plantations of evergreen trees. The dimensions of it must be determined by the quantity of fruit to be preserved: this fruit room is inclosed by two walls, leaving between them an open space about ten inches wide. This stratum of air interposed between the two walls is the surest means af protecting the interior from the exterior temperature. In sunken fruit rooms some are so constructed that natural currents of dry air are made to pass through them; some use a stove, the air from which is intended to take off the damp which may accumulate. A subterranean cave or grotto in a rock, if perfectly dry, would make a good fruit room.

Loudon, page 2308, affirms that he kept apples at a temperature from 32 to 42 degs. for a whole year; their flavor was good, and they were in perfect order for eating. He does not say how so low a temperature was attained. M. Paquet, of Paris, received from the Royal Society of Horticulture a medal when he presented, on 12th June, 100 apples and pears, fresh and of good flavor. The building used by him consisted of an inner and outer house; this depository of the fruit was kept at a temperature of 50 degs. Fah.,—as low as 39 degs. would not be injurious; but 66 to 73 degrees proved destructive. He employed eight parts of sawdust—not pine—and one of charcoal highly dried in an oven, interspersed with the fruit, and kept in drawers several layers in depth. He says fruit should be gathered with the greatest care, and not in the least bruised, the fairest and finest specimens selected, and on no account to be wiped previous to being deposited in the fruit room.

[The remainder of this article will be given next week.]

Return of the Kane Arctic Expeditions.

On the 31st of May, 1853, Dr. Kane left this port, with seventeen bold companions, in the brig *Advance*, on his second Arctic Expedition in search of the unfortunate Sir John Franklin. For nearly two years no intelligence had been received from the party, and the fear became general that the vessel was destroyed, and that this Exploring band were perhaps cooped up in some Arctic wild, suffering for the means of escape. An expedition consisting of two vessels, named the *Rescue* and the *Arctic*—the latter a small propeller—was therefore fitted out to go in search of Dr. Kane, and left New York on the 4th of last June. No news having been heard of it for some time, our citizens were electrified on the evening of the 11th inst. with the thrilling intelligence of the arrival here of Dr. Kane, and his party, and the whole Expedition that went in search of him. Their arrival produced a universal feeling of delight among all our citizens.

Dr. Kane has discovered a new northern land, which he named "Washington," and a new channel which he named "Kennedy," also an open polar sea, and some other interesting geographical discoveries. The *Advance* became frozen in a pack of ice, in September, 1853, and had, finally, to be abandoned. The party made many expeditions from it on the ice, and at last effected their escape to Greenland, with Francis' metallic lifeboats and sledges, from which place they took their passage to England in a Danish ship, but were so fortunate as to meet with the American Rescuing Expedition sent in search of them at Discoe Island. With grateful hearts, they immediately embarked, and sailed for home on the 10th of August last, and here they have arrived, having lost but three of their crew during the two years and four months cruise, amid dangers of a most appalling nature, and sufferings almost unparalleled. All had the scurvy at one time except Dr. Kane and Mr. Bonsall, the daguerreotypist. The cold was 50 degs. below zero for months—last winter being very severe. Dr. Kane states that Gail Borden's Meat Biscuit, with which the Expedition was well supplied, "was an excellent article, much used by them all."

We feel thankful and overjoyed at the safe and fortunate return of both Expeditions. The great discovery of Dr. Kane is an open Polar Sea, into which there is an open channel. He predicted the existence of such a sea before he started, and like Columbus, he has been fortunate in realizing one object of his expectations. We hope, however, that no more Arctic expeditions will be fitted out, for this very open Polar Sea found by him, may be entirely closed next season.

The hazard of such undertakings overleap entirely all the practical advantages that accrue from them. Men may perform bold and praiseworthy acts to rescue the unfortunate; but with the sad fate of Sir John Franklin's Expedition and the bitter experience of Dr. Kane's search for him, we hope to find no one sufficiently foolhardy to again undertake the navigation of this dangerous and unhospitable Northern Ocean.

For all the purposes of commerce, the North-west passage is entirely sealed, and must always remain so, until the nature of things is reversed by the Great Architect. Then why persist in impossibilities?

In connection with this gratifying announcement of Dr. Kane's return we will make a dash at that superlative humbug of the 19th century called "Spiritualism." On page 363, Vol. 10, we published the lugubrations of a Baltimore correspondent, in which he says: "Dr. Kane has lost about thirty of his men, and is at present near Sir John Franklin. He will soon meet him, and return with him to New York—a triumph and pride to every truly American heart," and so on. The facts connected with Dr. Kane's Expedition and return, and the prognostications embodied in our correspondent's letter are strikingly at variance; and go to show the fallacy and deception that will work upon human understanding. Our readers will be amused by referring again to the article from which the above extract is made.

Dr. Kane was officially received by President Pierce on the 15th inst, The interview was very cordial.