

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. T. M., of N. Y.—Soda will precipitate the lime in the water used for your boiler, but we cannot tell the quantity required, as that depends on the amount of lime held in solution.

J. A., of Mich.—Concrete roofs were exhibited in the French Exhibition, which become very soon as hard as stone. We do not think you stand any chance whatever of getting a patent for your combination of substances for roofing.

A. W. H., of Mo.—We have no practical experience in the marble sawing business, and cannot therefore answer your inquiries. It would be more satisfactory for you to address your inquiries to some marble worker.

B. B., of Ct.—Indicators for registering the distance run by carriages are well-known devices. They have been successfully employed. Your plan does not possess much novelty, but we are of the opinion that a limited claim can be sustained.

C. F. Aehle, of Boonville, Mo.—Wishes to procure a saw mill to cut hard timber. He wants the best machine in existence, and there is no doubt several of our readers can supply his wants with credit to themselves and decided advantage to Mr. Aehle.

H. C. C., of Iowa—We do not know how you can get the Tinner's Guide unless from the publisher—write him again.

C. R., of Ohio—Please send us a sketch and description of your alleged improvement on Keichum's Mower, and we will examine it.

C. D. M., of N. Y.—The idea of extending a pipe over the top of the locomotive for the purpose of taking in fresh air to supply the train of cars, is quite old. See Vol. 2 of the Sci. Am.; it has often been proposed since that time.

C. W., of C. W.—We are friends to human progress, as you imagine, but we cannot go so far as to procure for you the price, and an explanation of all the different kinds of buckwheat hulling machines. We should advise you to write to some agricultural warehouse in Buffalo as the most likely place to get the information.

C. S. J., of Mass.—It would be a very long road without a turn. If you are disappointed you should not be discouraged. Inventors are often anticipated, but they should not become supine. You will succeed by perseverance, and in no other way.

N. S. H., of Pa.—The plant you have sent us is known here by the name of "milk weed." The fibers of the pod are beautiful and silky, but they are short and weak, and therefore not suitable for textile manufactures.

C. W. McC., of N. J.—We know it is a common belief that a ball fired from a smooth bore fire arm will pass through a common piece of window glass, and cut a clean round hole. We have never tried the experiment; if you have been conducted with a smooth bore, they certainly contradict a common opinion, and one, too, which has been taught in school and college.

J. Van, of Ill.—Instead of air at a low heat being any advantage in using it as a motive agent, it is the very reverse, both with steam and air. You are in error in stating that we have ridiculed hot air as a motive agent; we only commented on the assertions of those who advocated its use and denounced steam.

C. Jordan, of Sequin, Tex.—Wishes to procure tools for boring artesian wells, the latest and best. Can some of our subscribers inform him?

D. W. Blackleach, of Sacramento, Cal.—Is about to engage in the manufacture of buckets, tubs, etc., and desires to get the best machinery for that purpose. He wishes to know the cost and amount of power required to drive the machinery, and any other information that may be useful to him in the business.

A. C., of Ohio.—Your ideas in regard to the action of the Secretary of the Interior in seizing upon portions of the Patent Office, are very spirited; but it would be better for you to direct your zealous labors in another direction, where they will do more good. Inventors in your section, and all others who are friendly to this noble institution, should contrive to reach the member of Congress in the district, and secure his influence in saving the remaining portions of the building from the hands of the modern Philistines, who threaten its usurpation.

E. R., of Ky.—It is impossible for us to comprehend the operation of your invention without a sketch and proper description of it. Inventors should always be particular to describe briefly and pointedly all such portions of their improvements as they wish to claim. We have no patience with long, tedious, and unnecessary details in describing an invention. If the sketch is carefully done, the operation of the machine can easily be described, without waste of time, paper, and ink.

P. S., of Va.—The opening in one vessel of water running into a second one, having its bottom about one-eighth below it, should be over one-eighth larger, to fill the second vessel. The quantity of water in one vessel has nothing to do with the pressure on the square inch—that depends entirely on the height of the column. It will require an opening of 742 square inches in the bottom of a box, to discharge 1320 cubic feet per minute, if the height of the box is 15 feet.

G. W. M., of Pa.—In order to understand how to make malleable iron, you should procure a work upon the subject. Overman's work on iron manufacture will suit your purposes; it can be had of Lindsay & Blackiston of Philadelphia.

R. A., of Pa.—Pyroxylic acid is obtained from the distillation of wood. It mixes freely with water, and like alcohol dissolves the resins and volatile oil, and is often a cheap substitute for spirits of wine for that purpose.

F. N. B., of Wis.—In constructing a model for the Patent Office, it is not always necessary that it should operate, although it is much better that it should do so. We should advise you to exhibit an actual operating model, then there will be no excuse for mistaking your idea.

J. A. B., of R. I.—We do not attend to the purchase of books. If you want a work treating upon the science of mechanics, Nicholson's will answer your purpose: it is dry, deep, and learned, but reliable. If you want a work on machinery, there are several.

S. B., of N. Y.—It appears that your application was filed Jan. 12, 1855, and the opposing one on the 20th June following. It seems very strange that the Office should have granted a patent for the last application, and overlooked yours so long; but no doubt Mr. E.'s patent was issued through mistake. His patent can have no force against yours unless he can go behind the date of your invention. His withdrawal from the interference is evidence of the intention to retire from the ring. Of course we cannot judge between the claims of either, but if you had employed a faithful agent he would not have allowed your case to remain silent in the Office so many months without kicking up a rumpus about it.

W. J. L., of Mass.—You could undoubtedly take the sun's altitude with your instrument, but we do not think the prospects of success with such an invention are sufficient to encourage you to make an application for a patent. We advise you to show it to some mathematical instrument maker, in Boston, and get his opinion upon it.

A. F. G., of Ill.—Devices for releasing unruly horses from carriages are well known. If you have any thing new in this line a patent can be secured for it. We advise you to send us a sketch and description of it.

S. M. C., of Mass.—We do not decline your business. We gave you our opinion merely, and if the test satisfies your expectation, we are very glad,—that is the way to prove an invention; it is better than opinions.

J. D., of Ala.—In answer to yours of the 10th, we would remark that has been the practice of the Patent Office for some years to refuse patents on medical compositions. The reason assigned is that it would interfere with the freedom of the faculty in their practice.

R. D. N., of N. H.—We have examined the sketch of your apparatus for starting pumps when the water gets low, and we do not think you can obtain a patent for it. A suspended reservoir has been employed in a way substantially similar; that is to say, at one end of a lever the other end of which is weighted.

J. C., of N. Y.—We will return the model of your marble saw. Your determination not to proceed is a wise one, in consideration of the date of your invention. The handpower described by you does not possess any novelty, in our opinion, upon which a patent can be secured. The same ideas have been presented to us before.

G. S., of Pa.—You wish an exact rule to give the exact length of ten straight pieces that will form a circle for a wheel twenty feet in diameter. We have never seen such a rule; it would be like squaring the circle.

W. R. McC., of N. Y.—We direct your attention to the article on preserving fruits on another column.

T. S. I., of Ohio—Your machine for sawing wood does not, in our opinion, embrace any novelty. The one illustrated in No. 2, Vol. 10, Sci. Am., possesses all the features of yours. The difference is mechanical, without involving anything patentable; its portability is a recommendation, but it is not the subject of a patent. Your odometer appears to be a convenient apparatus. A dynamometer, we think, can be had of C. W. Copeland. See his advertisement.

A. A., of Ohio—You can procure of T. S. Ingersol, North Ridgeville, Ohio, an odometer which will indicate the number of miles run by a carriage. He has had one in use for some time, as he informs us, with success.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business for the week ending Saturday, Oct. 20, 1855.—

J. L. H., of Ill., \$30; R. O., of Canada, \$30; J. A. C., of Ala., \$30; S. B. D., of N. Y., \$100; C. & T., of Wis., \$25; P. L. S., of Ind., \$20; S. N., of N. Y., \$30; J. H., of Ill., \$20; J. W. K., of N. H., \$15; E. A. C., of Ct., \$25; G. P. G., of N. Y., \$30; B. J. B., of N. H., \$30; I. S. P., of Vt., \$25; W. A. M., of Mass., \$30; A. H., of Va., \$25; G. W. P., of N. Y., \$25; E. S. Y., of L. I., \$30; D. S. H., of R. I., \$30; F. J. O., of Mass., \$55; T. & S. H., of N. Y., \$25; J. T., of Pa., \$25; R. W., of Mass., \$60; J. L. B., of O., \$10; H. N. DeG., of N. Y., \$55; A. J. P., of Mass., \$30; R. H. H., of Ill., \$30; J. P. H., of Va., \$55; O. V. D., of Ill., \$25; M. N. G., of Ct., \$25; C. A., of N. H., \$5; D. P. F., of Mass., \$52; T. B. S., of N. J., \$30; J. D. A., of O., \$30; P. K., of N. Y., \$30; E. B., of Ct., \$35; G. R. J., of N. Y., \$25; H. L., of N. Y., \$25; T. B., of N. Y., \$25.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, Oct. 20.—

P. L. S., of Ind.; C. A. S., of Mass.; J. C., of Mo.; B. B., of R. I.; C. & T., of Wis.; S. B. D., of N. Y.; G. W. P., of N. Y.; T. & S. H., of N. Y.; J. M. T., of Pa.; G. R. J., of N. Y.; E. A. C., of Ct.; I. S. P., of Vt.; G. A. C., of Pa.; A. H., of Va.; H. N. DeG., of N. Y.; M. N. G., of Ct.; C. A., of N. H.; C. D. F., of N. J.; H. L., of N. Y.; T. B., of N. Y.; G. S., of N. Y.; E. B., of Ct.; O. V. D., of Ill.

Important Items.

BACK NUMBERS AND VOLUMES.—The following numbers and volumes of the Scientific American, are for sale at this office, at the annexed prices.—Volume VI., Vol. VII., Vol. IX., and Vol. X., complete. Price, bound, per Volume, \$2.75. Number in sheets, complete, \$2. Of Volumes IX. and X., we have also about 40 numbers each, not consecutive, which will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1.

RECEIPTS.—When money is paid at the office for subscription, a receipt for it will always be given; but when subscribers remit their money by mail, they may consider the arrival of the first paper a bona fide acknowledgment of the receipt of their funds.

BINDING.—We would suggest to those who desire to have their volumes bound, that they had better send their numbers to this office, and have them executed in a uniform style with their previous volumes. Price of binding 75 cents.

IMPORTANT TO INVENTORS.

THE UNDERSIGNED having had Ten years' practical experience in soliciting PATENTS in this and a very large number of foreign countries, they continue to offer their services to all who may desire to secure Patents at home or abroad.

Over three thousand Letters Patent have been issued, whose papers were prepared at this Office, and on an average fifteen, or one-third of all the Patents issued each week, are on cases which are prepared at our Agency. An able corps of Engineers, Draftsmen, Draughtsmen, and Specification writers are in constant employment, which renders us able to prepare applications on the shortest notice, while the experience of a long practice, and facilities which few others possess, we are able to give the most correct counsels to inventors in regard to the patentability of inventions placed before us for examination.

Private consultations respecting the patentability of inventions are held free of charge, with inventors, at our office, from 9 A. M., until 4 P. M. Parties residing at a distance are informed that it is generally unnecessary for them to incur the expense of attending in person, as all the steps necessary to secure a patent can be arranged by letter. A rough sketch and description of the improvement should be first forwarded, which we will examine and give an opinion as to patentability, without charge. Models and fees can be sent with safety from any part of the country by express. In this respect New York is more accessible than any other city in our country.

Circulars of information will be sent free of postage to any one wishing to learn the preliminary steps towards making an application.

In addition to the advantages which the long experience and great success of our firm in obtaining patents present to inventors, they are informed that all inventions patented through our establishment, are noticed, at the proper time, in the Scientific American. This paper is read by not less than 100,000 persons every week, and enjoys a very wide and influential circulation.

Most of the patents obtained by Americans in foreign countries are secured through us; while it is well known that a very large proportion of all the patents applied for in the U. S., go through our agency.

MUNN & CO. American and Foreign Patent Attorneys, 123 Fulton street, New York; 52 Essex Street, Strand, London; 29 Boulevard St. Martin, Paris; 6 Rue D'Or Brussels.

CLARK'S DIFFERENTIAL WINDOW BALANCE.—New method of changing window sashes, dispensing entirely with weights and boxes, causing a saving of \$2 to \$3 per window. Model on exhibition at the Crystal Palace. Rights in States and countries for sale by WILLIAMS & SMITH, Real Estate Agents, 81 Nassau st., N. Y.

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A 100 HORSE HORSEPOWER ENGINE for sale cheap.—Heavy iron frame, fly wheel, pumps, leather pipes, and a 14 inch driving drum, 4 feet high, attached to the fly wheel shaft. Apply to JOHN T. HENRY & SONS, corner Remsen and Water streets, Brooklyn, E. D.

WANTED.—A situation by a man that has superintended a pattern shop, is well acquainted with steam engines and mill machinery, etc. is also a mechanical draughtsman, and a steady man. Address Z. A. Louisville, Ky.

FOR SALE.—A good barrel, is offered in any one in want of a barrel. Price with all the latest improvements, and warranted in every respect perfect. Apply at 84 Albany street, Boston, P. M. P. K.

WANTED.—The subscriber being desirous of securing a small mill with one or two sets of water, a Machinery complete in every respect, with the necessary buildings, and a good site, near the Post Office, Mass.

KIRCHHOFF, Model Maker for Inventors, &c., has removed to 86 Duane street, near Broadway.—The number of successful models he has made are the best references as to his practical abilities, and his scientific and mechanical experience in the most varied branches.

IRON WORKS FOR SALE.—The Globe Iron Works, situated in, and extending from 31rd to 34th st., and directly upon the line of the Hudson River Railroad and the North River. This property consists of nineteen lots of ground, with machine shop thereon, 140 feet by 50, and three stories high; a foundry 104 feet by 80; boiler shop 92 feet by 60, and brass foundry 25 feet by 15. The above were built about four years since, in the most substantial manner, all of brick, with slate roofs and copper gutters throughout, and for strength and durability are unsurpassed by any in the city; they were constructed with especial reference to locomotive, and heavy engine and mill work, and the location is admirably adapted to that business. The engines and boilers, and all the tools, with which the works are amply supplied, are of the most approved kind and workmanship, and now in excellent running and working order. The tools will be sold either with or separate from the buildings and lots. For terms, &c., which will be made easy, inquire on the premises, or of G. B. HARTSON, 102 1/2 Broadway, or A. SMITH, 174 West 23rd street, New York.

WANTED.—A Machine for making a miter dovetail on boxes. It was invented about twenty years ago, and is much used in making out and ready boxes. A person having a road one will find a purchaser by addressing box 137, Harrisburg, Pa.

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