

CORRESPONDENTS

B. R. McC. of Pa.—We really do not know the pressure on the wind-chest of the automaton clarinet player. We never thought of making the inquiry. You state the object of the Sci. Am., correctly, viz., "to popularize science in all its branches."

A. K. R. of Ohio.—In Vol. 9, Sci. Am., there is a series of articles on all kinds of water wheels. We have seen a number of water wheels operating on the same principle as the sliding piston rotary steam engine. They give an average of 60 per cent. of the stated power.

J. A. S. of Phila.—Sofar as we know, the expansibility of aluminum from 32 to 212 degs. Fah., has not been determined, but it cannot be such.

A. L. & W. E. I. of Pa.—There is no power in a water wheel itself; the power is the water. Over a fall of 26 feet with an area of 36 inches inlet opening, 1548 cubic inches fall per second—not quite two horse power. You surely have made a mistake respecting the size of the opening.

X. Y. Z. of Vt.—Correspondents who expect attention to their letters must sign their names to them. When we take up a letter which has not the writer's name attached we always cast it into the waste basket. It is not courteous to ask a favor of any one without giving your name.

J. L. H. of N. Y.—Robert DeWitt, of this city, is now publishing Ranlett's Street Architect. He can also furnish you with Ranlett's Cottage Architecture. Address him at 150 Nassau street.

H. M. P. of N. Y.—A spiral grooved feed roller is not patentable. We think such a spinning machine as you mention is new.

W. R. Jr. of Pa.—There is no difficulty in connecting the front and back driving wheels of a locomotive by Whitegreave's method, to make them work in harmony.

R. O. of C. W.—An over-shot wheel would be far better for your purpose than the wheels to which you refer.

W. M. A. of Ohio.—Will you describe the uses of your syphon more fully, also its object? The subject is of general interest. A syphon is of no use for mines over 30 feet deep.

J. M. B. of N. Y.—The plan you propose for a suspension bridge over the East River has been suggested before.

D. S. H. of —Address Douglass & Sherwood, 343 Broadway. We do not know of any other manufacturers of hoop skirts, although, no doubt, there are many others.

James M. Ross, of Pictou, Nova Scotia, wishes to obtain a power drill for working in quarries.

J. W. B. of Pa.—We should be glad to give you the information you want in regard to the best method of preparing the wood for the bending frame, but we do not think of anything that would be useful to you in this regard.

M. B. C. of Mass.—Stove pipe made of cast iron might have screw joints.

C. S. of C. W.—We are not acquainted with any substitute that can be used to take the place of molasses in the manufacture of printer's rollers; many things have been tried, but none have been successful. The molasses you obtain are the drainings of crystallized sugar; this is the reason why the molasses crystallizes when concentrated, and why it will not answer for rollers. It is our opinion that if you mix some Canadian balsam with your molasses it will not crystallize, and thus it may serve for manufacturing printer's rollers as well as West India molasses.

T. of Pa.—There was an Association of Civil Engineers formed in this State about eight years ago, but it only existed, we think, about two years. It promised well when it started. There is no Association of Engineers in our country like that in England.

D. S. of Conn.—The work on Draughting for sale by Blackie & Sons, 117 Fulton st., N. Y. Price \$10.50.

J. M. of Pa.—We are not acquainted with any single work on gunpowder, statistical or otherwise, appertaining to its use and manufacture in our country.

M. A. A. S. of Ohio.—We have received your samples of slate colors dyed on cotton, and the description of the method of dyeing them. We cannot advise you to apply for a patent; the same color can be dyed cheaper by methods in common practice.

C. J. N. of Me.—Another correspondent has taken up the subject of seeing the satellites of Jupiter with a looking-glass. Do not be so officious in giving advice without a knowledge of subjects.

J. H. of Ohio.—The water in Artesian wells rises to the surface and overflows. Address Welton, Stearns & Holmes, Artesian well engineers, Charleston, S. C. We do not know the cost of apparatus for boring such wells.

E. B. of Ohio.—Inflammable gases can easily be ignited by electricity.

Y. N. of N. Y.—The term "Minie rifle" is incorrect; it is the Minie ball which allows of muskets being rifled.

L. M. F. of N. Y.—Calculate the expense of a tunnel under the East River before you propose it publicly.

O. S. H. of N. J.—A circular saw of 3 feet diameter can be run at the rate of 200 revolutions per minute as easily as an IS-inch saw 400 revolutions per minute. We cannot tell you what speed of saw teeth is most effective. Different kinds of timber require different velocities of the saw; there is no general rule. Sawyers differ much in opinion regarding the best speed for saws.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business for the week ending Saturday, Jan. 3, 1857:—

J. T. of Pa. \$25; J. & K. of Mass. \$5; J. F. P. of N. Y. \$25; W. W. D. of Cal. \$20; S. B. of N. Y. \$20; G. L. W. of N. H. \$27; P. E. of Ala. \$20; G. M. M. of Ct. \$30; J. W. of R. I. \$40; J. O. of Ill. \$30; J. H. L. of Vt. \$40; A. W. of N. Y. \$30; E. R. C. of N. C. \$30; A. B. of N. Y. \$30; I. W. S. of N. J. \$30; T. J. C. of N. Y. \$50; S. P. F. of N. B. \$40; W. H. McN. of N. Y. \$100; E. H. H. of Ga. \$25; C. & S. of N. Y. \$305; B. A. H. of N. Y. \$12; J. W. H. of R. I. \$50; J. H., Jr., of N. Y. \$180; B. T. B. of N. Y. \$55.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, Jan. 3, 1857:—

C. T. W. of O. P. E. of Ala.; J. F. P. of N. Y.; J. T. O. of Pa.; J. & K. of Mass.; G. L. W. of E. H.; E. Q. S. of O.; E. H. H. of Ga.; J. P. of Tex.; B. A. H. of N. Y.; P. C. of N. Y.; P. H. of Ill.; W. W. D. of Cuba; J. W. H. of R. I.; J. H. Jr., of N. Y. (2 cases); B. T. B. of N. Y.

Important Items.

GIVE INTELLIGIBLE DIRECTIONS.—We often receive letters with money enclosed, requesting the paper sent for the amount of the enclosure but no name of State given, and often with the name of the post office also omitted. Persons should be careful to write their names plainly when they address publishers, and to name the post office at which they wish to receive their paper, and the State in which the post office is located.

FOREIGN SUBSCRIBERS.—Our Canada and Nova Scotia patrons are solicited to compete with our citizens for the valuable prizes offered on the next volume. [It is important that all who reside out of the States should remember to send 25 cents additional to the published rates for each yearly subscriber—that amount we are obliged to pre-pay on postage.]

COMPLETE SETS OF VOLUME XII EXHAUSTED.—We regret that we are no longer able to furnish complete sets of the present volume. All the back numbers except 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 13, we can yet furnish, if new subscribers desire to commence back to the beginning of the volume; but unless they specially request to the contrary when making their remittance we shall commence their subscription from date of receipt of the order.

INVENTORS SENDING MODELS to our address should always enclose the express receipt, showing that the transit expenses have been prepaid. By observing this rule we are able, in a great majority of cases, to prevent the collection of double charges. Express companies, either through carelessness or design, often neglect to mark their paid packages, and thus, without the receipt to confront them, they mulct their customers at each end of the route. Look out for them.

PATENT LAWS AND GUIDE TO INVENTORS.—This pamphlet contains not only the laws but all information touching the rules and regulations of the Patent Office. Price 12 1/2 cents per copy. A Circular, giving instructions to inventors in regard to the size and proper construction of their models with other useful information to an applicant for a patent, is furnished gratis at this office upon application by mail.

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.

PATENT CLAIMS.—Persons desiring the claim of any invention which has been patented within fourteen years can obtain a copy by addressing a letter to this office stating the name of the patentee, and date of patent when known, and enclosing \$1 as fee for copying.

Literary Notices.

REPRINTS OF THE BRITISH REVIEWS.—Messrs. Leonard Scott & Co., No. 54 Gold st., this city, publishes the four famous British Reviews—the Edinburgh, London, Westminster, and North British—also Blackwood's Magazine. These Reviews and Old Ebony present to American readers the very cream of British literature. To be intelligent of what is doing by the ablest writers of the Old World, no man can afford to dispense with these periodicals. They are exponents of the opinions, tastes, and talents of British authors. Blackwood's Magazine is Tory in politics, but its literary character, independent of its politics, is unequalled. The Edinburgh Review is Whig, in contradistinction to Tory. Its reputation is world-wide. The North British is the organ of the Scottish Free Church. It is learned, progressive, and liberal. The London Quarterly was established to counteract the influence of the Edinburgh. It represents ultra views of politics and religion. The Westminster commenced as ultra radical, but it is now called liberal. John Chapman, the American publisher in London, is at its head. These four Reviews and Blackwood are \$10 per annum. This is an excellent time to subscribe.

PARLOR DRAMAS FOR HOME AMUSEMENT.—This is the title of a very amusing little volume, by W. B. Fowle, published by Morris Cotton, Boston, and for sale by J. M. Fairchild, 109 Nassau street, this city. Its author has great powers of descriptive dialogue. It is a volume which, taken up at any moment; any of its pages, selected at random for reading, will shake the cobwebs of care from the corners of the mind.

NOW OR NEVER—THE ADVENTURES OF BONNY BRIGHT.—By the author of "Oliver Optics," who writes with his optics open—the story of a noble boy who never would tell a lie, and whose life is a fine example for imitation. It is a moral and well-written tale. For sale by Leavitt & Allen, this city. Published by Brown, Bazin & Co., No. 94 Washington street, Boston.

Terms of Advertising.

Twenty-five cents a line each insertion. We respectfully request that our patrons will make their advertisements as short as possible. Engravings cannot be admitted into the advertising columns.

All advertisements must be paid for before inserting.

IMPORTANT TO INVENTORS.

THE UNDERSIGNED having had TEN years' practical experience in soliciting PATENTS in this and foreign countries, beg to advise that 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, Examiners, Draftsmen, 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 wide spread and substantial influence.

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, Principal Office 128 Fulton street, New York.

TO ARCHITECTS.—A premium of \$250 will be paid for the best, and one of \$100 for the second best plan, with specifications, for the college edifice for the New York State Agricultural College, to be built at Ovid, Seneca county, the coming season. There will be required a Culinary Department, in all its details, a Dining Hall and Laundry, to accommodate from 300 to 400, a Lecture Room, capable of seating 400 to 500, and accommodations for the steward and his family in the basement.

In the first story will be required a President's Reception Room and an Office, five Professors' Rooms, five Recitation Rooms, a Library, and a Chemical Laboratory large and well lighted. The residue of the first and the three stories above, to be appropriated for Students' Rooms or Dormitories, not less than 175 in number, and not less than 100 feet in size, with a bed-room connected; the rooms lighted with an large window; halls not less than 10 feet in the clear, with stairways to approach them. Building to be four stories above the basement. Plans for heating, ventilating, and lighting in the most approved modern manner will be expected. The walls to be of stone or brick. If of stone, to be laid in courses rough hewn, corners suitably dressed with chisels, window sills and sills, cut stone delivered on the spot for about \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cubic yard, mainly shaped for laying. Cut stone at higher price. A suitable front doorway of stone, with a cap of suitable depth to receive an appropriate design, with stone steps to reach it; all to be done in a plain, but neat and substantial manner, and with the strictest economy. Cost to be estimated. Plans and specifications to be completed and sent to J. P. Johnson Esq., State Agricultural Rooms, Albany, N. Y., on or before the 10th of February next. The subscriber may be referred to, if desired, at Waterford, Saratoga county, N. Y. December 22d, 1856. S. CHEEVER, President. 18 5

CRIDGE & WADSWORTH'S IMPROVED Oscillating Steam Engine. Patented December 12th, 1854. After a thorough practical test for about two years of the above improvement, our success warrants us in inviting the closest examination into its reputation in our own locality, and the great popularity of our engines in the midst of the most active and intelligent competition. To engine builders and capitalists we present the following considerations. An engine unsurpassed for durability, compactness, and simplicity, cutting off the steam close to each end of the cylinder, by means of a side pipe, adjustable by set screws, securing a perfectly steam-tight valve with little or no friction or pressure, combining all the advantages of a double slide valve engine, and at the same time dispensing with all cams, cam-rods, cross-heads, rock-shafts, slide-valves, etc., saving their cost of construction and necessary waste of power in running. And finally, we present an improvement (applicable to all cylinder engines) which enables the manufacturer to construct them at one-half the cost of any other engine of the same value. This last consideration commends it to the immediate and earnest attention of all persons interested or engaged in manufacturing engines. Believing that the improvement is destined to revolutionize this branch of manufacture, we have decided upon selling such a number of shop rights as will introduce it into general use, and at the same time secure the persons purchasing against too much competition with each other, and on such terms as will bring it within the reach of all in moderate circumstances. Letters of inquiry in regard to terms, addressed to the undersigned, will meet with prompt attention. For explanations see No. 11, Vol. 12, Sci. Am. CRIDGE, WADSWORTH & CO., Pittsburg, Pa. 18 6

THE ARTIZAN FOR 1857.—Orders for this valuable work, published monthly, received by the subscriber, sole agent for the United States, blank volumes and numbers on hand. CHAS. H. HAWWELL, No. 6 Bowling Green, N. Y. 18 7

THE ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER of Rural Affairs, and Cultivator Almanac for 1857. Embellished with one hundred and forty-two engravings and containing one hundred and forty-four large duodecimo pages. By John J. Thomas, author of "The American Fruit Culturist, Farm Implements, etc." Price 25 cents. Sent prepaid by first mail, by FOWLER & WELLS, No. 308 Broadway, New York Numbers 1 and 2 for 1855 and 1856, are for sale at the same price, and are still as valuable as when they first appeared. The three together, sent for 75 cents, contain 450 engravings, and 432 pages. The very best thing of its size and price. 18 2

WANTED.—One spoke lathe, one hub boring and mortise machine, one tenon machine, one fellow bender, all of best quality. Send list of prices to R. B. RIDLEY, Somerville, Tenn. 18 1

RECIPE FOR MAKING HONEY as good as that made by bees, and which does not cost over six cents per pound, sent for one dollar. Address G. A. R. RIDLEY, R. D. No. 1, by paying this advertisement three insertions, and sending a copy of it, will receive the recipe free. 18 5

WOOD SAWING MACHINES ALL COMPLETE for \$60. Two men and a single team will average from the log two cords of stove or railroad wood per week. Machines constantly on hand, and can be shipped to any station. Weight from 800 to 1000 pounds. Orders solicited. All letters of inquiry answered promptly. Address LAKE & KNIBBLE, Charlotte Center, Chautauque co., N. Y. 18 3

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IMPORTANT INVENTION.—Bulkley's Patent Dry Kilns, by superheated steam, will dry flour and meal without scorching, at a cost of two cents per barrel. Also green inch lumber in 12 to 20 hours. Tests allowed before purchasing the right. Circulars free. H. G. BULKLEY, Kalamazoo, Mich. 17 2

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NOTICE.—I will receive applications until the 1st of June for the right to make and sell my patent Double-Jointed Buckle, the best yet invented; one answering for the whole wardrobe; and will last to the third and fourth generation, if well made. Address: WILLIAM SLADE, 15 7 * Gum Creek, Dooly Co., Ga.

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THE PATENT EMPIRE POWER LOOMS for high speed, increased production of cloth, economy in operating, and superior make, are manufactured at the Empire Loom Works, Stockport, Columbia county N. Y. W. BENJAMIN & CO., No. 7 Whitehall st., N. Y. 14 8 *

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RUNYAN & HOSTER, of Seneca Falls, Seneca County, N. Y., are now prepared to fill orders for any or all sizes of Lewis' Improved Direct Double-Acting Force Pump, the best pump in use. A full description of it may be found in the Scientific American of March 22d, 1856. Rights are also offered for sale by States or otherwise. R. & H. refer to J. T. Miller, Esq., P. M., Seneca Falls, N. Y. 13 2 *

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NORCROSS ROTARY PLANING MACHINE.—The Supreme Court of the U. S., at the Term of 1853 and 1854, having decided that the patent granted to Nicholas G. Norcross, of date Feb. 12, 1850, for a Rotary Planing Machine for Planing Boards and Planks is not an infringement of the Woodworth Patent. Rights to use the N. G. Norcross's patented machine can be purchased on application to N. G. NORCROSS, Office for sale of rights at 27 State street, Boston, and Lowell, Mass. 45 6m *

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