Scientific American.



S. M., of Mo.-Gunpowder has been proposed and tried as a substitute for steam many times. The chief difficul-ty is not so much in the suddenness of its action, for powder can be manufactured to burn with any required de gress of slowness, but in the accumulation of sooty mat ter in the cylinder.

C. A. C., of Mass.-John Bourne's "Catechism of the Steam Engine," costing 75 cents, is a tolerable elemen tary work on steam engines generally, and Z. Colburn on the Locomotive, costing about \$1 or \$125, is the bes on that special department of the subject. The first named is English, which detracts much from its value, and both are rather old.

E. H. C., of -----If you will give us your post office address, we will send you one of our circulars of information. Take some fine cotton and place it in a stone-ware cup, then pour amongst it some strong nitric acid, and allow it to digest for ten minutes. Now pour off the acid, and wash the cotton thoroughly in soft water until no taste of the acid is left, now dry it, and you have gun

C. W. W., of Ky.—By reference to the last Volume of the Scientific American you will get the information you want in regard to molding india rubber. J. A. Kissam of this city, can furnish you with the scales and meas ures. He will write to you.

George Conley, of Kingwood, Preston Co., Va., wishes to correspond with a manufacturer of saddle-trees and

E. E. W., of N. H.—The annual subscription to Silli-

man's Journal is \$5.
S. I., of —.—See advertisement of the honey recipe in another column. We have not one to sell nor to give

J. M. H., of Pa.—The New York Atlas is published by Herrick & Ropes, 44 Ann st. The Commercial Register is published at 140 Fulton st., by Messrs, Quin. Don't

S. C., of Va.-You say that your specification was re turned to you three years ago by the Commissioner of Patents, with the request that you make amendments to it; that you have entirely neglected to attend to the request of the Commissioner; that during this interval some other party has taken out a patent for the same invention, and you now desire to know what you can do to recover your lost rights. We advise you to drop the matter entirely, and allow the party who has secured the patent to enjoy its use without interruption. You have entirely neglected to attend to the Commissioner of Patent's requestand we see no reason, in any point of view why you have not forfeited you rights. You have pur sued a very short-sighted policy; and if you had employ ed a faithful agent, you would have been saved the mor tification arising out of this neglect. We think you will meet with much difficulty in getting your claims through the Office.

C. D., of N. J.—We will endeavor to give your communication attention in our next; hitherto we have not

P. V. R. V. W., of Washington.—We do not discover anything new or patentable in your method of fastenin railroad rails to their chairs. It seems to us to be an old

W. H. H., and others.-Parties who persist in writing to us without signing their names to their letters, will find us just as persistent in refusing to notice them. We will pay no attention to anonymous letters.

C. A., of N. Y.—We do not know of any manu of printing presses at the price you specify, viz., \$10.

C D., of N. J.-Mathematically, the top of carriage wheels do move faster than its bottom; but it is a question of an unprofitable nature.

A. K. G., of N. Y.—By reference to Volume 4, Scien tific American, you will find a great number of engragravings of rotary engines.
G. W.B., of Miss.—We are not acquainted with any

published work on Sign Painting.

D. K. B., of Md.—If you will send us a sketch and de scription of your safe lock we will examine it There are a great variety of such locks, some valuable, and others less so. We can give you but little advice on the latter branch of the subject.

G. C. H., of Ohio-Minifie's work on drawing is an cellent preliminary work. It is both mechanical and ar

J. D. Hitt, M. D., of Warrenton, Va., desires to open correspondence with some one who can supply a machine capable of pegging shoes with facility, and at the same time making the peg.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business for the week ending Saturday, Feb. 21, 1857 :-

C. D. of N. Y., \$55; G. D., of Pa., \$25; D. E. S., of O. \$25; S. Van S., of N. Y., \$100; D. T., of N. Y., \$30; R. C. S., of N. Y., \$55; S. T. S., of Mass., \$30; J. M. G., of N. Y., \$30; G. S. M., of Ill., \$10; J. C. K., of N. J., \$80; W. B. of N. J., \$20; S. T. H., of Ill., \$5; V. R. D., of Ill., \$25; L. W., of L. I.. \$35; S. B., of N. Y., \$36; S. R. of N. Y., \$30; W. D. A., of N. Y., \$250. J. M., of Ind., \$100; J. M., of N. Y., \$30; M. G., of O., \$35; M. & P., of Ky., \$25; E. L. E., of R. I., \$20; G. W. F., of Pa., \$25; J. G., of Pa., \$65; J. R. G., of Wis., \$30; J. F. B. of Mass. \$30; H. S., of Va., \$30; S. & L., of Ill., \$30; F. O., of R. I., \$10: V. & S., of N. Y., \$30: J. H., of N. Y., \$60: J D., of N. J., \$57; L. H. & Co., of Me., \$40; F. N., of L. I., \$30; S. R., of N. Y., \$25; K. G., of Pa., \$25; I. B. D. 7., \$30; S. R., 61 N. I., \$25; K. G., 61 Fa., \$25; I. B. D.
67 Tenn., \$25; J. H., of Conn., \$57; S. H. & Co., of Vt.,
\$30; J. M., of N. Y., \$30; G. D. H., of Ill., \$25; W. F.
E., of N. Y., \$25; J. B. T., of N. Y., \$35; W. M., of N.
Y., \$15; J. R. P., of N. Y., \$100; W. & C., of O., \$30; G.
W. A., of N. Y., \$25; H. R., of N. J., \$27; G. P. G., of N. Y., \$27; T. H., of N. Y., \$25; G. G. F., of N. Y., \$5; L. W., of L. I., \$25; W. A., of Pa.. \$20.

E Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, Feb. 21, 1857:

G. W. A., of N. Y.; S. B., of N. Y.; D. E. S., of Ohio H. R., of N. J.; G. P. G., of N. Y.; A. M., of Pa.; G. W. F., of Pa.; V. R. D., of Ill.; G. D., of Pa.; M. & P., of Ky.; T. H., of N. Y.; A. & H., of Miss.; S. R., of N. Y.; J. B. D., of Tenn.; K. G., of Pa. W. F. E., of N. Y.; G. D. H., of Ill.; G. G. F., of N. Y.; C. D., of N. Y.; L. W., of L. I.; W, A., of Pa.

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