

CORRESPONDENTS

A. C. M., of Pa.—How did Naterer measure 220 deg Fah. below zero? We never heard before of such a low temperature being obtained.

G. S. Y., of Miss.—Gun cotton is made by digesting cotton in sulpho-nitric acid. On page 212, Vol. 8, Scientific American, you will find a very full description of a good method to make gun cotton.

W. G. B., of Ala.—Saws strained between single springs are quite old.

S. A., of Mass.—There is nothing new or patentable in your projectiles, so far as described.

W. McB., of Ohio.—We have no doubt that you desire to advance the best interests of inventors, and we are not prepared to say that your views in respect to the fees are incorrect. They are, however, impracticable at present. Congress will not meet till next winter, and it is out of season now to advocate reforms in the law. Revolve the subject in your mind and collect facts thereon till the next session; then let us hear from you again, if the subject still seems to you important.

L. G. T., of Conn.—The price of the Ambrotype Manual is probably about \$1. Fairchild & Co., 109 Nassau street, are the publishers. "Is Turkey rhubarb (Rheum Palmatum) cultivated in this country? It appears to be a distinct species from the pie plant (Rheum Rhabarbarum)." Can any correspondent inform him? We have not the information.

W. R., of Fla.—Small batteries were constructed and advertised quite extensively a few years ago for medical purposes. The price, we think, was \$9, and presume they can be had now in this city.

E. C., of Cal.—Your bomb to be exploded by concussion in striking would be defeated by the liability of the bomb to turn around while flying. The idea is very old, but your form of it is probably new and worthless. We attach no value to your suggestions on electricity.

E. L. M., of L. I.—No. "A large wheel turning in a wagon" would not "tend to propel the wagon in the opposite direction," nor in any other. Your magnetic perpetual motion contains no elements of success.

C. H. C., of Conn.—"What would be the effect on a body, the brig Advance for instance, if it had advanced to the north pole, and come in direct line with the axis of the earth?" Answer: Nothing.

"Effects are not patentable, but only the modes of producing them. If you have a saw gummer operating in some novel manner you can patent it, or if you produce either by new or old means a substantially novel saw, you can patent it as a new manufacture, but you cannot patent an effect alone, such as gumming saws rapidly.

T. B. T., of Ohio.—We are not sufficiently well acquainted with the wild gooseberry to enable us to advise with you in reference to its value as a hedge.

S. C., of N. Y.—You have discovered a gas easily produced, with elastic power, sufficient to drive machinery like steam, and wish to condense it so that you may use the same over again, and thus obtain power at almost no cost. We consider the problem hopeless in the present state of the arts.

Wm Beswick, of Lancaster, Wis., wishes to purchase a water wheel best adapted to a stream with plenty of water, and only about five feet fall.

L. N. Y., of Nova Scotia.—You can procure a good saw gummer of Howe & Co., this city.

J. J. Fleming, of St. Paul, Ind., wishes to correspond with some manufacturer of cast steel wire No. 24.

M. C. L., of C. W.—You can procure such a steam engine as you want of Wm. Burden, Brooklyn, N. Y.

T. R., of N. Y.—The reason why your gas bill is as high since the price of gas was reduced as it was before, may be owing to a greater pressure of gas in the main pipe—a point which is now being investigated in this city. There are two kinds of gas meters, the wet and the dry. In the former the gas passes through a wheel, which it revolves in water, and its revolutions measures the quantity passing through. The dry meter is composed of flexible diaphragm chambers, which expand and contract as the gas fills and exhausts out of them. By the acts of expansion and contraction they register the quantity that passes through them.

P. W. B., of N. Y.—1st. Breech-loading fire-arms will not stand as much wear and tear as muzzle-loading pieces. 2d. They will shoot ball as well as any other 3d. They will not carry shot at all as they are invariably rifled. The great reason why breech-loading arms have become so popular is the convenience and rapidity of loading them.

Junius, of N. Y.—Write to the Commissioner of Patents for a copy of Huff's patent for mastic roofing. If there is no such patent he will inform you.

H. W. M., of N. J.—Yes. It takes the same power to project a ball to a given height as it does to raise it slowly to the same height, and it would require the same power to generate the required velocity in the balls in your device as you could gain from their descent. Read "Bartlett's Mechanics," which you can buy for about \$2.

S. P. C., of N. J.—"Vestiges of Creation" are on sale in this city, price 25 cents. Hugh Miller's "Footprints of the Creator" is also for sale in all the principal book-stores. Price \$1. We have already recorded our objections to floats under water for an ocean telegraph. Your scheme of such floats with a ship attached above, for the men and instruments, would obviate them, but we conceive it practically impossible to maintain such a float at any considerable depth under water. The many long cables to confine it must be very heavy, even if they are not loaded by accumulations of aqueous animals, and every structure will leak when exposed to great pressure.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business for the week ending Saturday, March 14, 1857.—

J. M., of N. Y., \$25; J. D. S., of O., \$25; J. B., of Ill., \$30; H. B., of Eng., \$1065; J. P. M., of Mass., \$25; T. B., of Mass., \$110; B. & Van P., of Wis., \$30; S. H. & Co., of Vt., \$30; H. B., of N. Y., \$47; O. J., of N. J., \$25; J. & J., of N. Y., \$30; W. T. B. R., of Ill., \$25; S. & M., of Wis., \$25; A. C. B., of N. C., \$37; E. H., of Iowa, \$26; J. V. J., of Mich., \$10; J. J. C., of Mass., \$30; C. F. H., of Conn., \$25; C. Van B., of N. J., \$30; J. D. S., of Vt., \$30; W. S. R., of S. C., \$30; C. J., of Ct., \$30; F. T., of Mass., \$30; W. A. F., of Ct., \$30; W. M. S., of N. Y., \$100; D. P., of N. Y., \$30; G. M., Jr., of Ill., \$10; C. M.

Y., of N. Y., \$30; J. O. B., of N. Y., \$30; K. & G., of Ill., \$65; E. B. B., of La., \$30; C. B., of M. T., \$50; C. & D., of N. Y., \$55; N. R. B., of N. Y., \$25; S. B., of N. Y., \$60; J. M., of N. Y., \$35.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, March 14, 1857: D. K. A., of O.; W. A. F., of Conn. (2 cases); H. B., of N. Y.; N. J., of N. Y.; J. D. S., of O.; J. M., of N. Y.; M. G., of O.; J. P. M., of Mass.; R. H., of Vt.; S. H. & Co., of Vt.; O. J., of N. J.; W. T. B. R., of Ill.; A. C. B., of N. C.; S. & M., of Ill.; I. H. C., of Ill. (2 cases); C. F. H., of Conn.; E. H., of Iowa; N. R. B., of N. Y.; S. B., of N. Y., (2 cases); C. B. De F., of Conn.; J. M., of N. Y.

Important Items.

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