



L. B. V., of N. Y .- See Mr. Lester's advertisement on another page, for a good planing machine. We are not acquainted with a whitewash that will last for three venrs: but a cheap paint, composed of dry clay and sand in powder, some whiting, red lead, and linseed oil, will perhaps answer your purpose.

J. N. C., of Ohio.—You state that you have bought a patent recipe for making a paint, and have described it as a composition of shellac varnish and common paint, but say that while you can cut the varnish, you cannot mix it with the paint, and wish us to tell you how to mix it. Why don't you inquire of the person from whom you bought the recipe? He is bound to tell you, for "value received." We do not know why you have found difficulty in mixing paint with lac varnish. We can do it without any trouble; never heard of any difficulty experienced before your case.

J. F. P., of N. Y .- You state that you cannot fill your iron molds in making brass castings, and that you are unable to find out the cause. We do not know wherein the error in casting exists, but the result undoubtedly points to a defect in venting the mold. Some air, we think, must be retained inside, which prevents the brase

J. T., of Maine.-We presume you do not mean whalebone buttons, but those made of a composition of india rubber resembling whalebone, which are now in common use. We are not acquainted with the manufacture of whalebone buttons.

D. B. T., of Ohio.—Your suggestion to make an excavation large and deep enough to hold sufficient water to float the Louiathan, has been proposed to us several times. It has not escaped the attention of English en-

J. R., of La.-We are in receipt of your Letters Pat ent and \$20. The engravings will appear in our paper in about two weeks.

J. S., of Ohio.-Youhave made the water of your cis tern clear by throwing some alum water into it, and you now find that the water is hard, and curdles soap You can render it soft again by the use of some soda ash in solution. If you employ the water for drinking, be very careful and use only a very small quantity of the soda; for washing purposes you need not be so particular.

M. B. B., of N. Y.—We have examined your sketch of the double-acting pump, but do not find any patentable feature in it. It is not new to work the piston of one cylinder by a rod passing through the hollow rod of the other piston. The ill-fated steamer Pacific was not 300 feet long; the Persia is 360, the Adriatic 354, and the Leviathan 700 feet long.

C. B. H., of N. Y.—The cost of a nautical almanac is

fifty cents; you can obtain it from R. L. Shaw, No. 222 Water street, this city.

H, C. S., of N. Y.—We do not know what kind of oil the "lunar" is. We think it is a coal oil with a flash name. The agents who sell it cantell, if they will; ask them about it.

L. A., of Mass.—There is no power gained by the use of a balance wheel. It is a regulator and accumulator of power. You will obtain no advantage from one on the shaft of a circular saw driven by a belt; if it were a reciprocating saw, it would be advantageous.

W. Q. of Pa.-To obtain the information you want in reference to the velocipede patented by Kellner. you should order a copy of his patent from the Commis sioner of Patents.

F. B. W., of Ill.—The case you suppose is one that never could occur, as a syphon will only work when the delivery tube is longer than the receiving tube. In the first example, the water would rise up the tube just so long as the atmospheric pressure was excluded by mechanical means, as an air-pump; but the moment you remove the air-pump, the air presses just the same on the mouth of the tube as on the water in the well, so that it would again fall to its original level.

J. T. II., of Tenn.—We are not aware of having re

ceived a letter from you before. You can correspond with us again. We mean to neglect no one who complies with our rules in such matters.

S. Marshall, of Wilmington, Del., wishes to correspond with different manufacturers of carriage knobs in America and England.

A. B., of Ohio.-Gun barrels are browned by rubbing their surface with a weak solution of nitric acid and sulphate of copper, and setting them aside for a few days until they are coated with rust. This is brushed off : the barrel washed in warm water, dried, and rubbed up with a little wax dissolved in turpentine. Two and three coatings of the acid are sometimes required to bite a sufficient depth into the metal.

E. E. W., of N. H .- I Smee's Electro Metallurgy. ou will find a full description of the processes for multiplying daguerreotype pictures, also etching pictures

by the galvanic battery.
E. C. M., of N. Y.—We decline publishing your comnunication, as it does not, in our opinion, throw an light on the phenomena of the remains of tropical plants and animals now found in the arctic regions. You have advanced no facts to prove that the moon once formed part of the earth, and was shot from the bed of the Pacific or Atlantic oceans as you assert, by a great steam explosion caused by the water getting int the red-hot interior of the globe.

J. T., of Ohio.-There is no power in a lever: it only becomes a mechanical power when force is communicated to it. Those neighbors of yours who intend to derive as much power from a long lever as will drive a our-horse threshing machine are not acquainte (wit the "laws of mechanics." Youare safe in agreeing pay all the expense, if it operates.

A. F., of Mass.-You ask the question, "H the right to buy up second-hand patented machines and repair them, even to making all the essential

so long as the original table or frame is used in the same Territory in which they were originally sold to be used?" To replace the essential worn out parts of a patented machine on an old frame is nothing less than making a new machine. Unless you own the patent right, you cannot. As a mechanic, you can repair any broken part of a patented machine for others.

M. B. F., of N. Y .- Make your gang pulleys as follows, and you will have them arranged so as to run one-twelfth slower each setoff. Driver shaftfirst pulley, 8inch; driven pulley, 4-inch; second driver, 7 13-17-in., driven 44-17; third driver, 71/2-in. driven 41/4; fourth, 71-5 in. driven 4-4-5. This proportion of pulleys will enable you to decrease the speed of the driven shaft onetwelfth with every change of the same belt, so as to run your cards with the speed desired.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, January 30, 1858 :-

F. H. S., of Conn., \$25; T. G., ofPa., \$20. S. L. W. of Pa., \$150; N. S., of La., \$30; J. P. M., of R. I., \$30; A. F. F., of Vt., \$30; A. B. H., of N. Y.. \$30; C. W., of Pa., \$25; M. G., of Pa., \$25; C. Van DeW., of Mass., \$27; J. B. F., of Wis., \$30; J. H., of N.Y.. \$25; F. & Co., of N. Y., \$250; C. & M., of Iowa, \$20 H. A. W., of N. Y., \$25; J. T., of N. J., \$10; T. V., of Cal., \$27; C. E. G., of Pa., \$50; W. I. M., of Conn., \$30; S. G., of Mich., \$50; T. A. D., of N. Y., \$10; W. & C., of Conn., \$32; T. & B., of N. Y., \$45; S. C., of N. Y., \$30; F. P. A. Jr. of Conn., \$25; A. B., of Ohio \$28; E. K., of Pa., \$30; J. P. W. **b.**, of Ind., \$30; J W. F., of Mo., \$35; L. D. of N. Y., \$20; S. H. G., of Conn., \$30; A. E. L., of Pa., \$15; C. B. C., of N. Y. \$20; II. & Co., of N. Y., \$57; F. C. G., of N. J., \$20.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials he ve been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, Janu

C. & M., of Iowa C. B. C., of N. Y.; J. D., of N. Y.; W. G. S., of Mass.; L. R., of Mass.; II. A. W., of N. Y.; T. G., of Pa.; M. G., of Pa.; J. H., of N. Y.; C. Van DeW., of Mass.; F. H. S., of Conn.; N. W., of Conn.; A. B., of Ohio; W. McK., of Cal.; T. V., of Cal.; F. C. G., of N. J.; W. W. D., of Cal.; L. D., of N. Y.: I. C., of Vt.; A. L., of Conn.; T. R, of Pa. T. D. I., of Mich,; W. O. H., of Pa.; A B, of N. Y. S. G. Jr., of N. Y.; J. A. B., of Mass.

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Yours, very truly, CHAS. MASON.

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