## Scientific American.



P. C. M., of 111 .- Your remittance of \$4 is at hand. We will return your model and patent as soon as we can spare it. We know nothing about the parties of n you inquire or their books

C. B. Thompson, of St. Catharines, C. W., desires to correspond with some party who manufactures the best boot-crimping machine.

J. R. L., of Fla.-There is nothing new or patentable in the employment of saws for the purpose of trimming the edge of the board in the operation of tongueing and grooving.

L.H. Thomas, of North Adams. Mass., wishes to pro cure a machine for crimping zinc. Can some of our readers inform him ?

B. M. & Co., of London .- Your letter of the 19th came to hand after your advertisement bad expired, therefore too late to make the alteration in it which you propose.

D. A. M., of Pa .- You will find an engraving o grist mill feeder on page 344, Vol. 12, Sor. AM., which we recommend you to employ in preference to the old plan

M. L. P., of Ill,-You can procure pump augers of the Amos Manufacturing Company, Chicopee, Mass. G. F. W., of Ohio.—Who are yon? If you wish at-tention repeat your inquiries, and let us know who

you are C. S. F., of Me .- You can obtain the book from Scrib

ner', Park row, this city. The price is \$2 50. C. C., of Me.-You can procure a "Rose engine for ornamental turning" from J. Reeee & Son, Hayden-ville, Mass. We do not keep machinery of this kind for sale. You will find in our advertising columns several reliable machinery manufacturers and dealers.

J. M. B., of Pa.-The difficulty under which you laborat present is that the Commissioner of Patent's report is not yet published, and will not appear in all probability until near the close of this year. In No. 22 of the present volume Sci. A.M., we published the report in advance of its regular issue by authority of Congress. You will undoubtedly get it after its issue. Congressional printing jobs are very slow coaches for this fast age. They are about the only reminders we have of old time

H. J. K., of Mass.-A patent was granted to Thoma J. Spear, of New Orleans, La., July 16, 1841, for the fol-low ng method of making indelible ink. Take three drams of ground India ink, and four ounces of boiling solution of caustic soda, mix these ingredients together shake them for about ten minutes, and the ink is ready for use. You can try this ink, perhaps it may suit your

hurpose. Any person has the privilege of using it now. H. Z., of N. Y.-You ask, "How many engines can exhaust into the same condenser and keep the vacuum at twenty inches, with one air pump ?" A dozen steam engines may exhaust into one condenser, and the vacu-um may be maintained with one air pump, provided the pump and condenser are large enough. The capacity of the condenser and pump must be proportioned to the quantity of steam to be condensed, not the number of engines.

N. S., of Wis .- The cheapest and best floating bridge which you can build for winter over a portion of the Mississippi is by logs with their ends put up and down the stream, well fastened together and planked on the top for the roadway. Connect the ends at each side to trong chains to allow for the rising and fulling of the water.

in a b iler by injectin , tho feed water into the boiler or generator in fine spray. If Mr. Paine's proposed in-vention only embraces this feature, it is neither new nor usefi l.

C. R. T., of Mich .- Switches have been arranged so that while the cars are passing, thoy adjust it, to prevent them from running off the track. The sketch you send does not show how the operation is performed, therefore ve can only arrive at a general conclusion, which is an favorable to its novelty.

M. B., of S. C .- Your ideas are good, but we could not carry them into practice without much trouble. I. M. M., of N. Y .- A "horse power" means 52,000 pounds, lifted one foot high in one minute. The pressure in a boiler does not indicate the horse power. Violins are stained dark or light, a cording to the kind of varnish employed. "Dragon's blood" is the principal col-oring agent for violin varnishes. You can make them

light or dar , according to the quantity used. Z. D., of Ga.-On page 120, Vol. 5, Sci. AM., you will find an article on preparing hides for tanning, in which the best methods known to as are described. by a very experienced tanner.

A. T. H., of D. C .- Our former answer regarding th impossibil ty of obtaining an increase of power by simply increasing the diameter of a water wheel, is also applicable to the revolving endless belt bucket motor, which is quite old.

J. C., of Ohio.cautioned the publi being too sanguine regarding the sugar crop to be obtained from the Chinese cane, and anything more upon the subject in our columns than has already appeared, would be a waste of space. Your information regarding glucose is interesting and useful.

J. D., Jr., of Va.-You will find a full description of the new alloy resembling gold, on page \$08, Vol. 12, Scr. An. We do not know why white zinc paint spreads so much when mixed with oil. A good druer should be used with it

M. T., of Iowa.-Weare not acquainted with a single work which describes the process of making Bourbon whiskey, nor is there a book published on the distilla

des. tion of American whiskeys. S. H. B., of Ohio.-We cannot describe the hot air engine, as it now is, without drawings, so as to convey a proper idea of its construction and operation. We shall present an engraving of it in a few weeks.

8. B. C., of Conn-Umber, either burned or raw, mixed with white lead, makes the most beautiful buff color for the entside of houses. You can darken to any

shade with ivery black. J. S., of Ohio.-The cartridge of the Prussian needle gun is not made of the most sonsitive percussion mater-ial "within our knowledge." It is simply percussion powder-the chlorate of potash-which you can obtain in abundance in the city where you reside

2.J. R. B., of N. Y., can get the information he wants in regard to old coins by addressing Wm. Traver, of Camden, S. C.

J. S. D., of N. H.-Steel tools are tempered very hard by quenching them in cold salt brine when at a If you wish to render the tools somewhat red heat. tough and elastic, temper them in oil. There is no eccessity for employing any other ingredient in the oil. R. S., of Pa.—We do not know anything about the machine said to be patented, which cuts out fly-net strips ofleather, combined with a pinking-iron. See recipes for gold wash in another column.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, March 13, 1858 :--

Saturday, March 13, 1858:---D. & M., of Pa., \$30; W. M. B., of Del., \$25; W. Y. G., of Ky., \$25; L. R., of Mass., \$40; D. M. L., of Pa., \$80; W. I., of N. Y., \$26; P. B., of Va., \$25; J. W. G., of N. Y., \$30; J. H. W., of N. Y., \$20; L. W. H., of N. Y., \$55; N. A., of Pa., \$30; H. & B., of N. Y., \$55; A. M., of N. Y., \$25; H. M., of N. Y., \$105; J. H., of Mo., \$55; H. B., of Pa., \$25; S. & A., of Mich., \$30; G. M. L. McM., of Ohio, \$35; W. W., of N. Y., \$23; W. D., of Wis., \$25; W. W. H., of Ohio, \$12 : J. B., of Conn., \$30; W. D. J., of N. Y., \$30; T. K. W., of Conn., \$30; T. & MeC., of N. Y., \$32; C. & B., of N. Y., \$50; J. MeC., of Ohio, \$10; F. & J., of Ohio, \$30; T. F., of N. Y., \$30; A. D. B., of Mass., \$50; B. J., of
 N. Y., \$50: J. W. G., of Vt., \$25; W. M., of Hi, \$50;
 D. O. De W., of N. Y., \$25; M. T., of Conn., \$22; 8
 W., of N. J., \$30; N. F. E., of Vt., \$30; W. & D., of Mass., \$50; T. O., of Miss., \$10; W. O. P., of N. Y., \$20; J. S. D., of N. Y., \$20; H. S. V., 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 18, 1858 :---

W. V. Jr., of N. Y.; H. B., of Pa.; W. M. B., of Del.; P. S., of Va.; J. B., of N. Y.; R. B., of N. Y.; E. K., of Pa; W. Y. G., of Ky; H. M., of N. Y., (3 cases); J. M. H., of M. J., of Ky, H. M., of N. Y.; O. P.S., of Me.
 W. W. H., of Ohio; J. V. A., of N. Y.; W. D., of Me.
 W. W. H., of N. Y.; M. T., of Conn.; T. & McC., of N. Y.;
 L. W. H., of N. Y.; J. S. D., of N. Y.; H. S. V., of N. Y.; O. S., of N. Y.

## Literary Notices.

BLACKWOOD & EDINDUBGH MAGAZINE-This able periodical for the present menth (as republished) con-tains the "Journal of Capt. Burton," at ther of the "Pil-grinage to Meeca," and sent from Zanzibar, in East Artice, where he is new travelling. It is a most inter-esting article. "What will he do with it ?" is con-tinued, and is a faccinating story. Published by Leonard Scott & Co., No, 64 Gold street, this city.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, for March, published by Phillips, Sampson & Co., of Boston, is sustaining its already high character for literary merit, and there is an amusing sketch in it entitled, "A Welsh Musical Festival.

'ITR YOUNG MEN'S MAGAZINE for March is full of the most interesting and edifying matter. Its well-wishers are doing their utmost to extend its sphere of usefulness, and we hope that those of our readers to whom it is ad-dressed will take a look at one number, when we are are they will be pleased with it. Fublished at 248 Broadway, this sity.

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The annexed letter from the late Coramissioner of Patents we commend to the perusal of all persons in-terested in obtaining patents :--

terested in obtaining patents :--MESSRS. MUNN & CO.--I take pleasure in stating that while I held the office of Commissioner of Patents, worst TRAN ONE-FOURTH OF ALL THE BUSINESS OF THE OFFICE came through your hands. I have no doubtthat the public confidence thus indicated has been fully de-served, as I have always observed, in all your inter-course with the Office, a marked degree of promptness, s ill, and fidelity to the interests of your employers. Yours, very truly, UHAS. MASON.

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