

Correspondents

NOTICE TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.—No communication can receive our attention unless it is signed in full with the name of the writer.

If our "Magic Lantern" friend will send us his address, he will be answered in our next number.

H. P., of Mo.—Your plan for removing the waste and nightsoil of a city, without throwing it into the rivers, by having it carried in boxes to some place outside and there left to decompose, to prevent the poisoning of the water, is comparatively old, and was practised in New York some years ago.

R. C. L., of St. Louis.—There are several patent looms for weaving wire. The only one to which we can refer you for a description is that of G. W. Smith, illustrated on page 176, Vol. XI., Sci. Am.

I. B. H., of —.—Let your friend Mr. A. open a correspondence with us in regard to his rejected case. We will do all we can for him. Thank you for those subscribers.

S. A. Arnold, of Beloit, Wis., wishes to obtain the address of Thomas Ling, who patented a pump in 1855.

M. J. H., of N. Y.—Your pile-driving apparatus seems to possess novelty, and we are of the opinion that you had better send us a sketch and description of it for examination.

H. H., of Pa.—The best material for polishing cast iron is four emery, first used with oil and then dry. The ordinary mode of proving a steam boiler is by hydraulic pressure. Boiler makers have pumps specially constructed for the purpose.

George Tatwiler, of Dayton, Ohio, wishes to get information in regard to the proper time to cut his tobacco crop. We have no personal experience on this subject. No doubt some of our readers can inform him.

C. J. S., of Conn.—Probably the reason why you did not get our answer to your letter was because you failed to sign your name to the communication. We require this to be observed by all our correspondents.

S. D. C., of Wis.—We do not now know of any special encouragement at present to attempt to bring out new modes of signaling for railroads. There does not seem to be much interest on this subject among railroad men at the present time.

J. McV., of C. W.—Thank you. We will look out for that "catching fish" business hereafter. We consider it a humbug.

Joshua Beal, Baton Rouge, La., wishes to procure the best known machine for making large hominy; also, a power mill for crushing and grinding corn and cob for feed.

A. J. D., of Cal.—We do not discover anything patentable in your crusher. Springs having been applied to the stamps, the substitution of a different kind of spring cannot be considered an invention, and we discover no other essentially novel feature. In reference to an artificial leg, write to Palmer & Co., of this city. We have not time to attend to your outside commission.

L. E. O., of N. Y.—"I hope you will not denounce me as visionary for asking whether there is not a standing offer by the British Government for a machine which will propel itself? Would our own government be likely to give anything for a machine of this kind? What would the concern be worth if it could be used as a motive power? My theory of the perpetual motion is absolutely infallible." We answer first, that the British Government is made up of too many scientific men to permit it to act the foolish part of stimulating attempts to produce perpetual motion by offering a prize for its discovery. Second, the United States Government has never proposed to get an impossibility, therefore it cannot probably be induced to take an interest in such an invention. Third, it would be worth millions of dollars if capable of being applied as a motive power. Your theory may be all very nice, but the only difficulty in it we deem to be that it cannot be reduced to practice. Remove this obstacle, and you are sure of success.

"A Citizen," of Worcester, Mass., is informed that the laws are adequate to protect an inventor in his legal rights. If, however, he misplaces confidence, and assigns his right to irresponsible parties, it is an act of his own, and the law cannot intervene. We are sorry to hear of the case you mention. If the patentee has been defrauded, he has his remedy by invoking the protection of the courts.

T. McG., Jr., of Ohio.—We are unable to say precisely to what extent it is desirable to allow the cushioning of the steam in the cylinder; but great care must be taken in not allowing the principle of operation to be carried too far, or the loss of effect of the steam on the other side of the piston will be serious.

S. A., of C. W.—We have often known condensers to be applied without air pumps to high pressure engines to condense all or the greater part of the exhaust steam. We have also known of many substitutes for force pumps for supplying boilers. Your application of the condenser is not patentable. We can give no opinion of the means by which you dispense with the force pump till you inform us what those means are.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, September 19, 1857:—

H. O. E., of N. Y., \$30; G. C., of N. Y., \$20; W. B., of N. J., \$30; P. C. C. Jr., of N. H., \$55; G. B., of Ark., \$50; J. H., of Ind., \$30; H. O. A., of La., \$25; C. O. L., of Vt., \$25; J. A. W., of Iowa, \$25; J. D. S., of N. Y., \$55; A. A. N., of Ill., \$33; E. L. G., of Conn.,

\$30; E. P. R., of N. Y., \$30; M. J. F., of N. Y., \$200; B. F. S., of Vt., \$25; W. S., of O., \$30; E. B., of Wis., \$55; E. H. D., of —, \$25; T. M. S., of Ga., \$55; S. & T., of Conn., \$35; W. H. T., of Ill., \$25; W. & R., of Vt., \$30; D. R. & M., of N. Y., \$250; H. S. B., of N. Y., \$30; C. & W., of N. Y., \$30; J. P., of L. I., \$20; T. D., of Conn., \$20; G. & Co., of Ill., \$25; E. G., of Mass., \$25; J. R., of La., \$20; A. B. D., of Conn., \$25; G. T., of N. Y., \$20.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, Sept. 19, 1857:

D. W., of O.; N. A. P., of Tenn.; C. O. L., of Vt.; H. O. A., of La.; J. A. W., of Iowa; A. B. D., of Conn.; J. P., of Wis.; L. & B., of Mass.; J. W., of N. J.; L. T., of Ky.; E. G., of Mass.; T. D., of Conn.; S. & T., of Conn.; W. H. T., of Ill.; C. F. B., of O.; B. F. S., of Vt.; M. T., of Ill.; G. T., of N. Y.; P. C., of Conn.

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** All advertisements must be paid for before inserting.

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The annexed letter from the late Commissioner of Patents we commend to the perusal of all persons interested in obtaining patents:—

Messrs. MUNN & CO.—I take pleasure in stating that while I held the office of Commissioner of Patents, more than one-fourth of all the business of this office came through your hands. I have no doubt that the public confidence thus indicated has been fully deserved, as I have always observed, in all your intercourse with the office, a marked degree of promptness, skill, and fidelity to the interests of your employers. Yours, very truly, CHAS. MASON. August 14, 1857.

\$500 PREMIUM.—THIMBLES FOR HUSKING CORN.—Over 75,000 sold the first year. The attention of the public is invited to GOULD'S Premium Husking Thimble, patented May 13, 1856. Illustrated and described on page 302, Vol. 11, Scientific American. These Thimbles have already gained great renown. We will give the above premium to any person who will produce their equal for the purpose for which they are designed. Circulars and samples sent by mail on the receipt of 24 cents in stamps. Address J. H. GOULD & CO., Alliance, O.

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TO INVENTORS.—A GENTLEMAN WHO HAS had considerable experience and success in the management and sale of patent rights, offers his services to inventors on equitable terms, or he will buy a good patent, or an interest in one. References exchanged; those of the advertiser are of the highest standing in commercial and scientific circles. Address L. M. W., Box 170, Tribune office, New York.

POWER MORTISING MACHINES OF OUR manufacture are the only ones capable of mortising hard wood with ease to the operator, and in which he has a perfect control of the motion of the chisel. Seven different sizes for sale. LANE & BODLEY, manufacturers of wood-working machinery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

SECOND-HAND STEAM ENGINE AND Boiler for Sale.—One 8-horse Upright Steam Engine, Boiler 30 inches diameter, 24 feet long, nearly new, and in good running order. For particulars address H. S. MATHER, West Norwalk, Fairfield Co., Conn.

IMPROVED WRENCH.—WITHERELL'S Patent—State and County Rights for sale, and wrenches furnished to purchasers at the lowest manufacturers' prices. For engraving and description of this Wrench see Scientific American, No. 2, Vol. 12. Address O. O. WITHERELL, Danville, N. Y.

A NEW AND SCIENTIFIC INVENTION.—Dr. Cheever's Galvano-Electric Regenerator.—Patent issued January 15, 1856. A circular relating to the use of the instrument, embracing a general treatise of atony of the spermatic organs, the result of which tends to softening the medullary substance of which the brain is composed, may be had gratis, and will be sent to any address by mail by their indicating a desire to receive it. All letters should be directed to Dr. J. CHEEVER, No. 1 Tremont Temple, Boston.

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