



PERSONS who write to us, expecting replies through this column, and those who may desire to make contributions to it of brief interesting facts, must always observe the strict rule, viz., to furnish their names, otherwise we cannot place confidence in their communications.

WIRE GAGE.—A very complete wire gage, which has met the approval of the first brass manufacturers in the country, can be procured of Messrs. J. R. Sharpe & Brown, of Providence, R. I.

J. C., of Mass.—Shears and scissors of all kinds, and of the very best quality, can be obtained of Messrs. Wendt & Seymour, No. 31 Gold st., this city.

POISONED DOGS.—A correspondent from Alabama informs us that he relieved two valuable dogs, poisoned with strychnine, by the administration of about a teaspoonful of camphor gum to each. The relief was almost instantaneous. They were down, and unable to move.

A. W., of Me.—Dr. Scoresby (a good authority on such subjects) asserts that the highest waves of the Atlantic are not over forty feet; but it is said that the altitude of the waves of the Indian Ocean exceed fifty feet. It is also asserted that at the depth of three hundred feet no disturbance is felt in the water of the ocean.

J. T., of Ind.—It has been told to us by at least one hundred different persons within the past ten years, that they had discovered "perpetual motion," and without any other knowledge of the special contrivance beyond the simple assertion, we have replied: "Impossible—you are deceived." Now, we confess that we have no sympathy with visions of this character, and the sooner all such dreamers learn that to accomplish this result they must needs have the power of creation, the better it will be for them.

F. S., of N. Y.—The point of contact of one sphere with another is a mere point, no matter what may be the size of the sphere. G. W. H., of N. Y.—We cannot help thanking you for the compliments you pay us; and in answer to your suggestion for laying the cable, we would say that the same plan has been proposed many times before; but there are many practical difficulties to paying a cable through the bottom of a ship.

C. L. R., of Wis.—The samples of leather are excellent in appearance, but how about the durability? Many things look well, but it is dangerous to become very familiar with them. Our experience in the use of rapidly tanned leather has been rather disagreeable, and somewhat expensive.

RED-HOT WATER.—A correspondent inquires:—"Is there any such thing as heating steam red-hot, so as to explode like gas by ignition?" Water is composed of two gases, oxygen and hydrogen. It can be decomposed and resolved into elementary gases by the action of incandescent platinum, and when the gases are thus ignited they explode with great violence. We have heard of red-hot steam, but have never seen it.

PATENTERS.—We are glad to receive so many letters from our clients, thanking us for our services in procuring patents for them. These friendly expressions are always gratefully received and duly appreciated.

B. B. L. of Ohio.—Although water is theoretically incompressible, it is, in common with all other bodies, composed of molecules, and at the great depths of the ocean these are pressed nearer together by the weight of the superincumbent water, so that, in fact, water is capable of some compression, and as we have no mechanical means for testing the amount, we can only form our ideas from a course of inductive reasoning.

L. B., of Cal.—You had better write to the Secretary of the Society of Mechanical Engineers, Manchester, England, who will, we have no doubt, forward your letter to Mr. Siemens, and by that means you will obtain all the information you desire.

G. M., of N. Y.—You ask: "What would be the effect of mixing twenty-five per cent of atmospheric air in the gasometer, with the gas which supplies the city? Would it not effect a saving?" It would not be of any benefit to the consumers, although it might increase the profits of the gas company. The addition of air to gas dilutes it, and depreciates its quality.

Dr. I. Hendree, of Selim, Ala., inquires where he can get a good machine to make a very finished and superior pine shingle.

C. F. H., of Pa.—Borden's condensed milk is prepared in vacuo, at a low temperature. The office of the company is in this city.

C. H., of S. C.—The first telegraph line laid in England (in 1839) had the wires insulated in glass tubes, and laid in the ground; your suggestion, therefore, as to the use of such tubes, is not new. We agree with you that in many situations this plan would be the best, although the most expensive.

PORTER AND ALE.—Temperance people will find an argument to enforce their doctrines, in the fact that 41,071,636 bushels of grain, paying \$25,000,000 duty, are annually converted into malt in Great Britain, for sale and porter. From this, some idea may be formed of the vast quantity of the most important staple of life wasted in the production of these beverages there. Franklin was not far from the truth when he ascribed much of the poverty and misery of the people of Great Britain

to their habit of drinking their bread instead of eating it.

D. B. W., of N. Y.—We are not acquainted with any published work on Selenography.

C. Y. P., of Mass.—No saving of cost is secured by evaporating liquids in vacuo. You therefore could not obtain a patent for economizing fuel by evaporating salt brine in vacuo.

S. M. C., of Wis.—There are quite a number of the "Corliss cut-offs" in operation. They give satisfaction, so far as we are aware.

E. P. B., of Me.—You are correct in regarding inertia and gravity as the causes of the peculiar motions of the rontoscope; but so much has been published on this question that it has become stale and uninteresting.

EFFECT OF AN EARTHQUAKE.—A short time ago there was an earthquake in the Granite State. A letter from Rumney says that the shock was felt in that town and in Hebron; it shook the houses quite perceptibly. But the worst effect of the earthquake was, that it shook the confidence which has always been felt in the primeval rocks of New Hampshire.

J. A. R., of Mass.—You had better wait until it is positively determined to lay another cable across the Atlantic, and then propose your plan to the company.

P. L., of Ga.—The kind of compass and sundial you described is made and sold by every philosophical instrument maker. The patent must have been granted on some peculiar feature in the combination of the needle with the dial.

W. M. K., of N. Y.—We thank you for your complimentary allusions to the Sci. Am. We mean at all times to make its columns utter the honest convictions of our sober judgment, without reference to the selfish views of cliques and parties; and when we wrote upon the canal question, the "smell or taint of the Central Railroad influence" did not hang upon the skirts of our garments, however it might appear to those who can see virtue only in a canal, or vice versa. We are so fortunate as not to need the smile or favor of any soulless corporation, and are prepared at all times to defend or oppose them, as we think proper.

GROUND AND HAZEL NUTS.—Ground nuts are quite an institution with "Young America," eight hundred tons having been imported into the United States from Gambia in one year. But France is the great market for ground nuts, where they are used for oil, of which they contain large quantities. The insignificant hazel nut, so agreeable to the palate, but so difficult to get, is exported from Tarragona, to the extent of 25,000 or 30,000 bags, four to the ton. A kind of chocolate is prepared from them, and they have been sometimes made into bread. The pressed oil of hazel nuts is little inferior to that of almonds.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, September 11, 1858:—

- I. W. H., of L. I., \$50; H. B. T., of Wis., \$30; W. & N., of Ill., \$30; D. W. T., of Ill., \$30; W. B. B., of Conn., \$30; P. H. C., of Ala., \$25; W. L. L., of Ohio, \$55; O. H. M., of Iowa, \$30; J. F. H., of Ky., \$55; A. W. L., of Mass., \$30; H. B., of Ind., \$30; J. R. H., of Conn., \$25; R. & M., of Vt., \$35; J. F., of Mass., \$30; A. H. G., of N. Y., \$31; N. & Y., of N. Y., \$25; W. T., of Ill., \$30; C. N. S., of Conn., \$25; J. P., of Tenn., \$15; F. H., of N. Y., \$27; O. B. T., of Ohio, \$30; J. C. T., of N. Y., \$15; E. W., of Mass., \$60; E. B., of N. Y., \$25; F. R., of Mass., \$25; J. C., of N. Y., \$25; L. H. M., of R. I., \$35; P. P. J., of Pa., \$25; S. & G. Y., of Pa., \$30; J. W., of Ind., \$25; G. B. C., of N. Y., \$30; H. H. P., of N. Y., \$30; D. S., of Wis., \$63; J. C. S., of Mass., \$250; G. I. C., of Vt., \$25; S. M. B., of La., \$50; F. Y., of Ky., \$25; A. C., of N. Y., \$25; D. S. McN., of N. Y., \$55; G. C., of Ky., \$30; J. D. R., of Pa., \$30; H. G., of Ill., \$25; J. H. B., of N. Y., \$20; N. W., of Ala., \$30; C. C., of Ind., \$50.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, September 11, 1858:—

- C. N. S., of Conn.; F. Y., of Ky.; L. H. M., of R. I.; R. & M., of Vt.; J. W., of Ind.; F. H., of N. Y.; E. S., of Vt.; G. I. C., of Vt.; F. R., of Mass.; J. R. H., of Conn.; J. H. B., of N. Y.; E. B., of N. Y.; P. A. C., of Ala.; G. C., of Ky.; P. P. J., of Pa.; G. B. C., of N. Y.; D. S., of Wis.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PATENT SOLICITORS.—Messrs. MUNN & CO., Proprietors of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, continue to procure patents for inventors in the United States and all foreign countries on the most liberal terms. Our experience is of thirteen years' standing, and our facilities are unequalled by any other agency in the world. The long experience we have had in preparing specifications and drawings has rendered us perfectly conversant with the mode of doing business at the United States Patent Office, and with most of the inventions which have been patented. Information concerning the patentability of inventions is freely given, without charge, on sending a model or drawing and a description to this office.

Consultation may be had with the firm, between nine and four o'clock, daily, at their principal office, 128 Fulton street, New York. We established, over a year ago, a Branch Office in the City of Washington, on the corner of F and Seventh streets, opposite the United States Patent Office. This office is under the general superintendence of one of the firm, and is in daily communication with the Principal Office in New York, and personal attention will be given at the Patent Office to all such cases as may require it. Inventors and others who may visit Washington, having business at the Patent Office, are cordially invited to call at our office.

We are very extensively engaged in the preparation and securing of patents in the various European countries. For the transaction of this business we have offices at Nos. 66 Chancery Lane, London; 29 Boulevard St. Martin, Paris; and 26 Rue des Eperonniers, Brussels. We think we may safely say that three-fourths of all the European patents secured to American citizens are procured through our Agency.

Inventors will do well to bear in mind that the English law does not limit the issue of patents to inventors. Any one can take out a patent there.

Circulars of information concerning the proper course to be pursued in obtaining patents through our Agency, the requirements of the Patent Office, &c., may be had gratis upon application at the principal office or either of the branches.

The annexed letter from the late Commissioner of

Patents we commend to the perusal of all persons interested in obtaining patents:—

Masses, 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 THE 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. Communications and remittances should be addressed to MUNN & COMPANY, No. 128 Fulton street, New York.

TO LUMBER MERCHANTS—FOR SALE.—The Pontiac Mills, Ottawa river, Canada, with extensive limits. Mill cost \$150,000, but will be sold at a great sacrifice, to wind up the estate. Liberal terms of payment. Apply to JAMES DOYLE, Aymer, C. E., HENRY MCKAY, Montreal, or to GORDON & BRUCE, New York City. 2 3

TO BRICKMAKERS—EVERY MAN WHO has witnessed our machine—when operated by only three horses it turns out the most solid and perfect bricks at the rate of sixty per minute—pronounce it not only superior, but altogether beyond and above comparison with any other in use. For particulars address the undersigned at Philadelphia. 2 4 J. W. & E. C. JAYNE.

STEPHENS' STAINS FOR WOOD—AT half the cost of paint, dyeing, and bringing out the grain of pine or any inferior wood, so as to resemble black walnut, rosewood, mahogany, satinwood or oak. Sold in highly concentrated powders at \$2, \$1, 50 cts., and 25 cts. per packet, corresponding to the gallon, half gallon, quart, and pint of liquid. HENRY STEPHENS, Chemist, London, and 70 William street, New York.

SECOND-HAND MACHINISTS' TOOLS.—Viz., Engine and Hand Lathes, Iron Planers, Drills, Chuck Lathes, Gear Cutter and Vises, all in good order, and for sale low for cash. Also one new first-class Woodworth Planing and Matching Machine. Address FRANKLIN SKINNER, Agent, 14 Whitney avenue, New Haven, Conn. 1 13

CORLISS' PATENT STEAM ENGINES.—About 250, most of them from 40 to 400 horse power, are now in operation. On application, pamphlets will be sent (by mail), containing statements of responsible manufacturing companies where these engines have been furnished for the saving of fuel, in periods varying from 2 1/2 to 5 years. Boilers, shafting, and gearing. CORLISS STEAM ENGINE CO., Providence, R. I. 1 4

WOODBURY'S IMPROVED WOODWORTH Planing, Tonguing and Grooving Machines, are warranted to be vastly superior to any other machines in this country. When exhibited, they have always received the highest premium. Two gold medals have been awarded. Six patents have been granted to secure the improvements on these machines. All sizes constantly for sale, by JAMES A. WOODBURY, 69 Sudbury street, Boston. 1 5

RIVETS.—IRON BRIDGE, SHIP GIRDER, Boiler, Tank, Tender, Gasometer, and Stove Rivets. Railroads, Locomotive and Machine Shops, Gasometer Manufacturers, &c., supplied with every kind of rivet used in the trade. PHILLIPS & ALLEN, Rivet Works, Pennsylvania avenue, west of 22d st., Philadelphia. 1 4

ENGRAVING ON WOOD AND MECHANICAL DRAWING, by RICHARD TEN EYCK, Jr., 128 Fulton street, New York, Engraver to the Scientific American. 1 4

CRIDGE, WADSWORTH & CO., MANUFACTURERS of improved patent Oscillating Steam Engine, with variable governor cut-off. Shop, county, and State rights for sale. Also one-half the patent for Great Britain. For illustration see Sci. Am., Vol. 13, No. 51. Circulars with testimonials, &c., sent by mail on application to CRIDGE, WADSWORTH & CO., Pittsburgh, Pa. 1 3

IRON AND COMPOSITION CASTINGS, Chilled Rolls, Mill Gearing, Fan Blowers, Trip Hammers, Shafting, Shears, Presses, Heaters, Rubber Calenders, Grinding and Cutting Machines, Turbine and Center-vent Water Wheels, also contracts made for Breast and Overshot Wood Wheels, also orders taken for the manufacture of patented machinery of all kinds, by the BIRMINGHAM IRON FOUNDRY, Birmingham, Conn. 1 1f SHELDON BASSETT, President.

ENGRAVING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.—Machinery, Patents, Maps, &c., by WM. J. BARKER, No. 23 North Sixth street, Philadelphia, Pa. 1 4

PORTABLE STEAM ENGINES.—S. C. HILLS, 12 Platt street, New York, offers for sale these Engines, with Boilers, Pumps, Heaters, &c., all complete, suitable for printers, carpenters, farmers, planters, &c. A 2 1/2 horse can be seen in store; it occupies a space 5 by 3 feet; weight, 1,500 lbs.; price, \$240. Other sizes in proportion. 2 e3w

BAY STATE PLANER AND MATCHER, with wrought iron cut-head and Fitch's Patent Red Work, 24 inches wide, made by J. A. FAY & CO., Worcester, Mass. 1 4 eow

READ THIS—HUGHES' MISSOURI HAND Corn Planter—took first premium at United States Fair, September, 1857, in trial test—now challenges all others. Patented November, 1855, and September, 1857. County and State rights for sale. Send for a circular. Real estate taken in exchange for rights. Address D. W. HUGHES, Palmyra, Mo. 1 5

GREAT FAIR OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE at the Crystal Palace.—Articles will be received and located on and after Tuesday, September 7th. Entrance on Fortieth st. Exhibitors are requested to send their articles without delay. 1 2 F. W. GEISSENHAINER, Jr., Chairman.

EVERY MILLWRIGHT, ALL MILLOWNERS, and those interested in hydrodynamics, should become acquainted with the merits and principles of the improved Fourneyron Turbine Water Wheel, or the "Universal Turbine," a wheel the most economical in the use of water, and giving the highest percentage, with a partially raised gate, of any yet discovered. It gives from 75 to 97 per cent of power, according to the size of wheel and head employed. For information address S. K. BALDWIN, Laconia, N. H. N. B.—For low falls of one, two, or three feet, also for any fall, it will surpass all others. 2 13

WARTH'S SELF-ACTING WOOD-TURNING LATHES.—The best and most practical now in use; one boy will accomplish the work of four men. State and County rights for sale. Address A. WARTH, care W. H. Berlin, 23 Chambers st., New York, or the manufacturers, who have machines of all sizes on hand. Also a general assortment of machinists' tools. Circulars sent. Address CARPENTER & PLASS, 479 First ave., New York. 2 13

ATTENTION—SCREWS 50 PER CENT CHEAPER than any other manufacturer. Manufacture of all kinds of metal screws, of every description, and for every trade, such as manufacturers of Sewing Machines, Gas Fixtures, Scissors, Piano-fortes, Machinists, Gunsmiths, Clocksmiths, Watchmakers, &c. C. DUCREUX, 510 Broadway (opposite St. Nicholas Hotel), New York. 2 1

OIL! OIL! OIL!—FOR RAILROADS, STEAMERS, and for machinery and burning. Pease's Improved Machinery and Burning Oil will save fifty per cent., and will not gum. This oil possesses qualities vitally essential for lubricating and burning, and found in no other oil. It is offered to the public upon the most reliable, thorough and practical test. Our most skillful engineers and machinists pronounce it superior and cheaper than any other, and the only oil that is in all cases reliable and will not gum. (The Scientific American, after several tests, pronounced it "superior to any other they have ever used for machinery." For sale only by the inventor and manufacturer, F. S. PEASE, 61 Main st., Buffalo, N. Y. N. B.—Reliable orders filled for any part of the United States and Europe. 1 13

THE WORKS OF THE AUBIN GAS CO., (General Office, No. 44 State st., Albany, N. Y.) as now perfected, are adapted to all materials and localities, and are in successful operation in villages, factories, and private dwellings. For full information as to cost, probable income of public works, &c., apply as above. For plans, &c., see SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of March 13th. 1 26

STEAM ENGINES, STEAM BOILERS, Steam Pumps, Saw and Grist Mills, Marble Mills, Rice Mills, Quartz Mills for gold quartz, Sugar Mills, Water Wheels, Shafting and Pulleys. The largest assortment of the above in the country, kept constantly on hand by WM. BURDON, 102 Front street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 1 26

MACHINE BELTING, STEAM PACKING, ENGINE HOSE.—The superiority of these articles, manufactured of vulcanized rubber, is established. Every belt will be warranted superior to leather, at one-third less price. The Steam Packing is made in every variety, and warranted to stand 300 degs. of heat. The hose never needs oiling, and is warranted to stand any required pressure; together with all varieties of rubber adapted to mechanical purposes. Directions, prices, &c., can be obtained by mail or otherwise, at our warehouse. NEW YORK BELTING AND PACKING COMPANY, JOHN H. CHEEVER, Treasurer, No. 6 Dey street, New York. 1 13

VAIL'S SPEEDWELL IRON WORKS, Morristown, N. J., manufacture Craig's Patent Double-acting Balance Valve Oscillating Steam Engines both stationary and portable, Knowles' Patent Muley, Portable, Gang and Re-sawing Mills, Sugar and Chinese Cane Mills and Sugar Pans, Grist Mills, Mill Irons, Belts, Water-wheels, Forgings and Castings. Orders for the above, and full descriptions of labor-saving machinery will receive prompt attention. JOHN H. LIDGERWOOD & CO., No. 9 Gold street, New York. 1 12

WROUGHT IRON PIPE, CAST IRON PIPE, Galvanized Iron Pipe (a substitute for lead), Stop Cocks and Valves, Boilers and Boiler Flues. Pumps of all kinds sold at the lowest market rates by JAMES O. MORSE & CO., 76 John st., and 29, 31 and 33 Platt st., New York. 1 8

TO IRON FOUNDERS AND PIPE MANUFACTURERS.—I will sell the right to use and furnish the best Core Bars extant, for molding all kinds of Green Sand Cores on a hollow bar, for three-inch pipe and upwards. GEO. PEACOCK, Dalton, Ga. 1 6

LAP-WELDED IRON BOILER TUBES.—Prosser's Patent.—Every article necessary to drill the tube-plates and set the tubes in the best manner. THOS. PROSSER & SON, 28 Platt st., New York. 1 5

CARY'S CELEBRATED DIRECT ACTING Self Adjusting Rotary Force Pump, unequalled in the world for the purpose of raising and forcing water, or any other fluid. Manufactured and sold by CARY & BRAINARD, Broadway, N. Y. Also for sale by J. C. CARY, 240 Brookport, New York City. 1 11

PECK'S PATENT DROP PRESS—ALL sizes, used for stamping copper or tin wire, silver ware ornaments, spoons, &c., and for forging gun work, lock work, carriage clips, &c. Also power and foot punching presses, and oval die chucks. Manufactured by MILO PECK & CO., 3 Whitney avenue, New Haven, Conn. 1 14

STEAM WHISTLES—IMPROVED PATENT for locomotive and stationary engines. A large assortment constantly on hand. Manufactured by HAYDEN, SANDERS & CO., 306 Pearl st., New York. 1 5

5,000 AGENTS WANTED—TO SELL four new inventions. Agents have made over \$25,000 on one. Better than all other similar agencies. Send four stamps and get eighty pages particulars, gratis. EPHRAIM BROWN, Lowell, Mass. 1 5

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J. & WM. V. CUMBERLAND'S IMPROVED Patent Metallic Oil, for machinery and burning. Warranted to last longer than sperm oil. Manufactured only by the New York Cumberland Metallic Oil Works, foot of East 24th st. Office, No. 305 Broadway, New York. Under the inventor's superintendence. N. B.—See that our brand "New York Cumberland Metallic Oil Works, foot of East 24th street," is upon every package, however small. 1 10

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WOODWORTH PLANERS—IRON FRAMES to plane 18 to 24 inches wide—at \$90 to \$110. For sale by S. C. HILLS, 12 Platt street New York. 1 26

WELLINGTON MILLS EMBERY—CONSUMERS will look for copyright label on each case, by whomsoever sold, and they will be sure of the best emery. Cases contain 200 pounds each. Testimonials of its superiority from Collins' Axe Co., and many others. GEO. H. GRAY & DAN FORTH, Boston, Mass. 1 9

These machines have no rival.—[Scientific American,

WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING MACHINES, 343 Broadway, New York, received the highest premium awarded in 1857 by the American Institute, New York; Maryland Institute, Baltimore; and at the Mass., Connecticut, Illinois, and Michigan State Fairs. Send for a circular containing editorial and scientific opinions, testimonials from persons of the highest social position, &c. 1 1f

HARRISON'S 20 AND 30 INCH GRAIN Mills constantly on hand. Address New Haven Manufacturing Co., New Haven, Conn. 1 13

IRON PLANERS AND ENGINE LATHES of all sizes, also Hand Lathes, Drills, Bolt Cutters, Gear Cutters, Chucks, &c. on hand and finishing. These tools are of superior quality, and are for sale low for cash or approved paper. For cuts giving full description and prices, address "New Haven Manufacturing Co., New Haven, Conn." 1 13