But this does not prove that clseaper engines of war fenced in-the space is open, and rich crops will repay the may not be devised, and still be more effective. That this sysparison with the cost of one of the British iron-clads. Let us take the Minotour, which was built as a model war ship, fully up to the times. The weight of her hull alone is 7,586 tuns -five times more than this fort. Armor and backing 6,124 -five times more than this fort. Armor and backing 6,124
tuns-four times more than the fort; engine and coal 2,540 tuns tuns-four times more than the fort; engine and coal 2,040 tuns

- more than half as heavy again ; making, exclusive of arma--more than half as heavy again ; making, exclusive of armathis fort. The hull alone cost $£ 365,365$; with double armor and backing, would cost $£ 757,350-$ equal to about $\$ 8,756,750$. But the Bellerophon is claimed to be an improvement, though smaller and lighter, with a saving of a quarter of a million pounds. These statements are taken from a paper read by Mr. Reed before the Royal Society, London. We are not prepared to say just what this fort will cost, but other things being equal, it will be nearly in proportion to their respective weights, equal, it will be nearly in proportion to their respective weights,
noi exceading $\$ 400,000$, or about one tenth of the Minotaur; not exceading $\$ 400,000$, or about one tenth of the Minotaur;
and it would be safe to say that our Government could build ten forts and equip them for action, for every single iron-clad of this type that any foreign Government could build and send against us, at the same time the commander of such iron-clads might hesitate to attempt to pass two of these forts and one battery properly located in the Narrows below this city.
But the construction account is not the only or most unfavorable comparison, the cost of maintaining these sea monsters on a war footing is simply enormous, to say nothing of the deterioration, even when laid up in ordinary. It requires a strong detail of officers and men to keep them afloat and in repair, whereas this fort is never in dänger of sinking, or getting out of repair in its machinery, and in time of peace these forts are to be laid up, by drawing off the water and allowing the fort to settle down on its ways, when the iron has only to be protected from. oxidation, and a detail of one man to a fort would be a sufficient guard. When in a case of emergency, by having connection with a reservoir, in twenty minutes the fort could be set afloat, all in fighting trim. Neither is this all the saving by this system, as in case of the batteries they may be manufactured to order (exact duplicates), and stored in all the arsenals and seaports, when, if occasion requires, they could be put into working orderwith all their equipments in thirty days, more or less, according to the emergency.
The discrepancy between their respective powers of offence and defence, may be presented in a few words. The forts are to be absolutely impregnable against any and all shot that can be hurled against them; each one armed with a battery of eight or more guns, double, or perhaps quadruple jectiles in proportion, delivered with almost the accuracy of a rifle marksman, at the rate of one every minute, against the sides of a ship made of iron and wood, probably in its strongest parts equivalent to eight inches of iron; for it must
be remembered that ships of this type are not entirely clad with iron, the exposed parts being of about the same value for defence that a cigar box would be to a minie ball. Nor would their iron plating amount to much more in resisting projectiles of 500 or 1,000 pounds, propelled with from 100 to 200 pounds of powder; and it remains to be seen what effect a thousand pound shell would have, exploded alongside of an
iron-clad, charged with fuminating powder, gun-cotton, or nitroglycerin. Doubtless the ship would be relieved of some of its iron plates. Of course no nation will ever send ships to fight such forts, but only to pass them, if they could.
Furtherinformation may be obtained by addressing James T. Ryan, St. Nicholas Hotel. Patent pending.


## Cuterimathe.

## The Editors are not responsible for the Opinions expressed by their Cor

## Is the Age of Invention at a Stand Still?

Messrs. Editors:-A period of forty years past may be termed the "Age of Invention." We can compare the present with the past : the old stage-coach, or diligence, in Europe, with the steam locomotive of to-day; the old sail ships with the present steamships. We can find in our mother's list of old letters large foolscap sheets, sealed by wax-no envelopes-and bearing date four or five weeks from that at which they were received; and we can compare these missives with those transmitted
by our present postage system and the telegraph. We call to mind, also, the greatimprovements in the art of printing. Then glance at the machinery used in the department of agriculturemowing machines, horse rakes, reapers, thrashers, plows, cultivators, etc.-and consider the manual labor of forty years ago. The department of war, with ironclads, breech loaders, etc., furnishes a striking comparison. The household, with sewing machines, washing machines, and a number of minor laborsaving machines, still adds to the comparison. We could con-
tinue in this strain indefinitely, but we are led the question : tinue in this strain indefinitely, but we are led to the question:
" Is the age of invention at a stond still ?" That is, will there be, in the coming forty years, so great an improvement in the modes of transit as there has been in this past forty years? Will there be as wonderful an improvement in the means of transmitting messages? Whatimprovements are we to have in the arts? Is the science of to-day to be still more revolutionized? Will the farmer be aided as much in the future as he has been in the past? Is the age of invention at a stand still? you a Stephenson, a Watt, a Jacquard, a Morse, a Fulton, and a Howe? Will there be with you, forty years to come, an a Howe? Will there be with you, forty years to come, an
Ericsson or a Hoe? Your deeds are to be inscribed on the tablet of time. Will your names stand in the list alongside of
these illustrious ones? The field is large, and it is merely

## tilling !

We hazard an answer that the coming forty years will witness some marvelous improvements. That wonderful agent electricity, is only yet half harnessed. We now, for a few cents send word to, and hear from friends a thousand miles away, it being inconvenient only as regards time. Will we not, some day, sit down to a family telegraphing machine and send messages by lightning, without the bother of the mail, and the nconvenience of writing at all?
We speed over the ground, "rattling over bridges," whizzing through the forest, journeying from New York city to San Francisco in seven days; but will it be done in seven hours? No! is the answer of to-day. An old authority on railroads, Wood, in 1825, wrote in his able work: "Nothing can do more harm to the adoption of railroads than the promulgation of such nonsense as that we shall see locomotive engines traveling at the rate of $12,16,18$, and 20 miles per hour!"
later authority on this subject has added, " an express train on the Great Western Railway, drawing 59 tuns, has traveled, for three hours, at the rate of 63 miles per hour !"'(Ritchie on Railways). Comment is unnecessary. Will the Pneumatic process of transmission effect the coming great stride from seven days to seven hours, for time across the continent? Why not? No running off the track ; no collisions! Really, the "coming man" need not drink in going from New York to California! Look around you, inventors, and see the endless labor yet to be saved. A thousand and one wants stare you in the face. Steam ${ }^{\circ}$ is yet to be half utilized. Who is the coming man for this? Is it Ericsson with the solar heat and "Sun engines?" Why, almost at the moment of writing, a sewing machine is being bothered with, because it pulls the work, from the fact that all machines are defective in that the feed is only t one side of the work. Who is the coming man for this?
There is no end to the wants of the prest
There is no end to the wants of the present day. Will the Pt forty years supply them all? Time will tell. N. F. P. Paterson, N. J.

## Burning of Powder in Fire Arms.

Messrs. Editors:-I notice in No. 21, current volume of Scientific American, page 330, an article headed "Carefulness in the Management of Fire Arms." Now, I perfectly agree with you as to the necessity of keeping a gun clean, but differ with you in other respects. I am over fifty years old and
have made gunnery my business, making many experiments. have made gunnery my business, making many experiments.
The dirt that collects in a gun barrel will not explode or burn, even by bringing a red hot iron in contact with it. You carry the idea that only a limited amount of powder will burn, and that a gain twist will foul more at the muzzle than at the breech. This is the case with the breech loader, but with the muzzle loader the dirt is driven down at each loading, and if you are able to get your ball down to the powder there will be no danger of bursting the gun.
Now I will give a detail of an experiment that I made about ten years ago in Marshall, Michigan. I spent one day with three men to assist ne. I had a heavy target rifle, cast steel
barrel, weighing 32 lbs., and carrying 120 round balls, or ©0 conical slugs to the 1 lb ., and the slugs were one inch long. was a fine, still morning in the winter, after a snow that fell that night without drifting. I measured accurately one half mile on the ice of the Kalamazoo millpond, and commenced through the barrel with the breech pin driving a slug bal ball in order to compare it with those fired at the target, but not hitting anything but skipping along in the soft snow until finally they would stop without a scratch or a bruise, just as they left the rifle. After finding one from the first or small charges, I increased my powder half an inch more in depth in the barrel, and throwing clean snow in front of the gun in order to detect if any powder was thrown out unburnt, and then adjusting my sight until I could hit the target. Ikept on in this way until I used six inches of powder in depth, measuring from the breech at each charge. The result was that each half an inch of powder raised or carried the ball about three feet higher at each increase of charge, and no more dirt in front of the gun; and each successive ball or slug was stove up, or more properly "upset," and showed the impression of the grooves or rifling still further up, until the last filled them from butt to point. Now this proves not only that all the powder burns, but burns instantly before the ball starts, or else it would not upset it any more with a large charge than a small one. I think it impossible to throw out a single grain of powder if you filled the barrel full with a ball on top of it to confine it; for before the pressure of the gas comes against the ball the fire has found its way between the grains tothe utmost extremity of the place of confinement; and for this reason, in blasting rocks every grain must explode before anything gives or else there would be no need of more powder for a deep heavy blast than for a light one. But powder when not confined acts differently, for when the first grain ignites it has plenty of room to escape without being forced through the other until it catches from one grain to another, except what resistance
the atmosphere produces. There is
There is one thing I forgot to mention, viz., that by using a very small charge of powder and by wetting the wad or patch very wet there will a few grains stick to the wad or patch unburnt, for the heat is not intense enough to dry it before it gets out of the gun, but with a large charge it will not only dry the wet powder but burn the patch as if a red hotiron had been pressed against the butt of the ball with a patch drawn Denver, Col
THE strain of belts is always in the direction of their length ; hus holes cut for the reception of lacings should be either oval, the long diameter in line with the belt, or placed in the line of a double or $V$-shaped angle across the width.

## OFFICIAI REPORT OF Patents and Claims Issued by the United States Patent Office.

for the week ending december 8, 1868.
Reported oncically for the Scientifc American.
Patents are granted For seventeen rears, the following
 In addition to whicb there are some small revenue
of Canada and Nova Scotia pas 8500 on application.

Pamphletscontaining the Patent Laws and rull particulars of the mode of applying for Letters Patent, spec:fy, ng s,ze of model required, and much ther information useful to Inventors, may be had gratis by addressing 84,670.-Punching Machine for Tin and Sheet Mevil.-
 abie frame. A B, substantially as and for the purpose described. GENERATORS.-Rohert Breckenridge Baker and Charles James Adolphus
 84,67. ${ }^{\text {fith }}$.-Shaft Coupling.-Charles Bennitt, Bristol Station, 1 claim the combination of the hand, H, journal, G, pulleys, E E, jaws, C
and D, with the rods, BB,as and for the purpose here, specifice and shown
84,673.-MACHINE FOR CUTTINQ EY\&LETS.-George B. Bray-





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sid
The use of the flsh tail slit burner head or insertion, $c$, constructed and applifd substantualy as bertinset forth.
84, 676 . RUNFLING DEVICE FOR SFWING MACHINE-- Reuben
Broeks, Jr., and WillamN. Manning, Roekport. Mass.









 and hown, and for the purpuses specited.
84, 681 .-Fricrion CLuTCH Pulley.-Andrew B. Clemons,
















 84,689.-GAS-LIGHTING DEVICE.-E. F. Gleason, New York
(1ty.







84,691.-Manure Hook.-Michael Stoll and Henry Gross,
 and for the purp
ad, The lever, poses specified.
84, 692. Implement for Trenching around Plants to
Prevent the apronch of worms.-W. H. Halleck, Ann arbor
 the same purpose square, sinitig) any any shape substantially the same, io the same purpose as liprein set torth
84, 693 . -GMAIN $\operatorname{BiNDER}$.-Virgil Hayes, Campbell G. Waldo, We claum, 1st, The stationary arm. M, $J$, and the tilting rack, $K$, with its dis.


 and for the purposes setforth. -I. Hogeland, Indianapolis, Ind.
84,694 - CLOTHES RACK
 spectitied.-Shearing Machine.-Samuel W. Huntington 1 clainasta, 1st, The construction and arrangement of the fixed blade, a, the





 and cut ter, 1, whrpose spectifed. Anson Judson, Brooklyn, N. Y.
and tor
84, , 98 .- La

 34,699.-Mode of Applifing Crystal Frosting to Glass.
 ne provecing the efflorescence, wheu fully dry, with copal or other suira84, Fi00.- Car Coupling.-Christian Kohler, Galena, Ill.
 84,701.-Bolt Trimmer.-G. W. Lewis, Dansville, N. Y.
 ers, b c, sabsantia:ly as described for the purpose speciiged.
2d. In combination with the above, the spring,
h, substantially 84,702.- Water Proof Paint.-John A. Moffitt, Boston
 versal oueouorizing or napht, powa, anders, in manner and for the purposes here
nbetor de serbe.

 84,703. - CHMITD's DraP D:R.-Mlary A. More, Lisbon, Ill.-

 84, 705 -Grain SEparasior.-S. E. Oviatt, Richfield, Ohio I claim, str, The finger nar, D, and copveyer, C, in comblnation with the
rol.er, $H$, 18 ,
pose





 4,707.-A AVERTISING Device.-Cyius Peabody and Patrick

 substantialy as and for the purposes set forth. Roberts, Austin, Ill.-
 84,710.-STEAM GRADUATOR. - William Aspley Robinson
 focaim the oscillating catch, chnhned to the getepost, and provided with ating sibstantialy in the manner and 1or the purpose see itorth
$84,712 .-H_{A Y}$ Fork.-E. G. Dorchester and Uri Scott, Gen


 ranged. and operated substantially as and $f$ or the purpose set forth. Amos
84,714 . - IIachine For Bending Sheet Metal. - Amo
 scrib-d.
2d. The combination of the plate, C , bars, A A, slides, B B, and set screws
c c, the wnole connected and operating suvstantially as ana for the purpose

 84,715.- W AsH BoILER.-M. W. Staples, Catskill, N. Y., as
 a tube, , isisig a above the bottom, c , through whicn the rising witter circu-
lates, substanially as set forth.
84,716 , I claim, 1st The link. $G$, made with hook, b, and gulde shoulders, ©, there
 84,717. TACK HoLDER.AND CARPET Stretcher.-J. E Sturdy, Augusta, Me.
t claima a anew articie ofmanufacture, a combined carpet stretcher and
bolder, composed of t wo inged jaws, notched upon either or hoth ot
their contlguous edqes, so as to reeeive and hold the tack, and having their
carpet stretconine teeth turned inwaraly or towaris the center, as set forth
 84,718 .-Berf Steak Cutter and Mangler.-De Witt C.


 cyiliders, and are atrached to the opposite arms of a walking beam, substan-








Inbetorese forth.
$84,720 .-M E T A L$
LAST.-G. G. Townsend, Rochester, N. Y.









 4,723.-Hominy and smut hun






 operated in the manner described and tor the purposes see forth.
$84,725 .-H_{A} \mathrm{~F}$ SPREADER.-A. B. Barnard, Worcester, Mass.

 Triesting Ma oifines. P. G. Biggs, H. A. Butler, and H. Granger, Ma.
 herein shown and cescribed and for tha parpuye set forth,



 I Neiv rort city.
 et forth. - Gate-Edward Buckman and Alexander Buck-







 84,731.-Poultice Cloth--Maximilian L. J. Chollet and
 84,732. - WAsB BorluER.-L. T. Conant, New Lisbon, Ohio, 84,733 - Preserving Wood.-Eben L. Cowling, Boston,


 84,755 .-Rallroad Car Heater.-Arnold Davidsohn, St.




 set forni.- Paper File - J. M. D. France, Washington, D. C.






 ating and heaung chamber ot a ralway car, as and for the purpose above
 84, 741.- Fortato Digger.-J. E. Giles and W. Ferry, Mead's




 prevert its engaging with the vines, substantially as and or the purpose set
fortho
Also , the brace, A, when arranged as shown and deseribed for the purpose set forth. -Shirs' Davirs.-Seth Gill, San Pablo, ănd D. C.


 posite side, substantalaly as and for the parpose herein desecribed
$84,743 .-$ Boor
CRIMPER. -William
B. Gleason, Conneaut-

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a, The hoottrng rope, c, and tack be block J, Jin ombination with the brake







 84.746. Preparation of Steel for Corsets, Hoop Skirts,
 dace the intended effects.
84,747.-CAR Couring.-C. McInturff, Greenville, Tenn.
 84, i48-Gang Plow.-F. McTarnahan, Santa Clara, Cal



 as shown and described.
84,749 . - CoAL CHOTE.-Henry Merriman, Bloomington, Ill.

 84.750.-Plow Attachment (Doubletree).-L. E. Morey,
Vandia, ill.
 raneed substantialy asherendaseribea for the purpose set forth. Cumber-
84,751.-SEED PLANTER.-James Musgrave, New

 stantiasy as ueren shown and described and for the purpose set turth.
8 ,, T52.-LAMP BCRNER.-George Neilson, Boston. Mass.

























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 84, t59.-WAMH BorlLER -D. A. Porterfield, NewParis, Ohio.
 the battom, as set torth




 84, feth.






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 80sef set fortu. Trose-Woodbury Sanborn, Chelsea, assignor to





















 84,778.-AUTOMATic Stop for Mining Cars.-James Tam-
 84,779-- Prime For Raill Road Rails - Thomas R. Taylor,

 84,780.-Timber Gpapple.-Moses N. Ward (assignor to







combination with the attachment, $B$, arranged and operating as described,
for the purposes specinted.








 and ueseribed and for the parpose ese torth.
 grain-cntiting machines. Brace.-Alexander Adamson, Washing-




 Conn- Mowivg Machine.-L. D. Bidwell, Birmingham,










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$84,790.1 i z o d . ~$
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 stantialy a here:


 84,798.- PLowsHare.-George W. Cooper, Ogeecbee, Ga.















 in siown and described.







 84,807.-HARRow.-U. W. Edwards. Bluffdale, Ill.




 84, Yo9.- FEATHER Renevator.-William H. Elliot, New





 manner andtor the eurpose herein deseribed. ${ }^{\text {Bin }}$.

 structed to operate substantaily as and or the parpose sey forth.
82,812. -BEEHTVE.- James T. Fife, Tynerity, Ind.















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 I Mard. Garvin, M.D., Nei York city. tabe, a, with two or more slots,










 S4,818.-HAREESTER RAEE.-Mason Gibbs, Homer, Mich.
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 It leaim a natch, constracted suostantially as described.
 dation and cement coovering, substantialy as here in set orth. Ind.


 tially as heron siown and described, and forthe purpose set forthe
$84,824 .-$ BED SPRING.
H.








 84, lett, Natabara. . Thackle for Bridges.-Theodore G. Hurally as aescribed. In llis the arrangementoct the - Mowrion Jacobs,


 84,830.- Cor FEr UrN - George Jones, New Haven, Conn.




























 84,836.- Botrlee-filling Apparatus.-John Matthews, Jr.,



 84 , , 1 owh.



 84,838.--BriDLE.--John McKibben, Lima, Ohio. Antedated

 84, B39.-EXTENSIon LadDER.-Warren Morehead, Parkers-
 84,840.--Envelope.--Charles R. M. Pohle, Richmond, Va.
 stantially as described 8 , 811. WA TER Elevator.-L. Raymond, Greene, Ohio.
 84,842 .-Flotr Coolez. - Joseph S. Reynolds, Waucon-
 84,843.-Bridle Bit.-William S. Robbins, New Bed-

 84,844-Hand Supporter for Pianos, etc.-Charles San-



 84,846.-PCupp-OScar Snell, Williamsburg, Ohio.
 84.847.-Planisg Machine.-Henry D. Stover, New York




 84,848- Hydrant.-Solomon Tice, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 tracted ppassage, P , all substantially as described, and for the object ex
plaine.
84,849-CLoTHES DRYER--Jarvis B. White, Detroit, Mich.

84,850-Apparasus for Cleaning Rags.-Geerge L. Wit-


77,476.-Machine for Making Nuts.-Dated May 5, 1868;









 and sef forth - Apparatus for Carbureting Air.-Dated Feb. 7














## DESIGNS.

3,277.-Snuff Box.-F. C. Heiser, Brooklyn. E. D., N. Y. , to the Lowell Manufacturing Company), Lowell, Mas. Toirten (assignor

## EXTENSIONS

Manufacturing Leather
George Miller, Providence, R. 1 .
Letuders Patent No.

 BuckiE. - Setephen E. Booth, Orange, Conn., administrator























































 W oal I Claim as my nvention and desire

Mrs.A.St. John, of Rochester, says that, during the past ten years, she has Wilson machine, besides doing her family sewing with her Wbeeler ver twelve hundred vests with the needle now in use.

MANUFACTURING, MINING, AND RAILROAD ITEMS.
The Benningtenand Rutland Railroad Company aretoextend their road arble quarries at West Rutland.
A single rubber manufactory in Providence, R. 1., employsfive hundred
The lumbermen at Burlington. Vt., have adopted the ten hour system
Mile posts are now being erected on theline of the Concord Railroad.
The earnings of the Central Paclichailroad tor October exceeded $\$ 300,000$

## Busimps and zersomat.

ñe chargef or znsertion under this head is one dolla
exceed four lines, an extra charge will be made.

A rare chance for business investment is offered in the sale of a foundery and macbine shops at New Haven, Conn. The oldest in the .

Extension table-self-acting. All the leaves and means of operating them, contained in the frame of the table. Rightsforsale, Sen for circular, to Chas. F. Pease, Boston, Mass.
Send $\$ 1$ to Milton Bradley \& Co., Springfield, Mass, for No 6, Zoetrope Picture

Peck's patent drop press. Milo Peck \& Co., New Haven, Ct Wanted to purchase a set of pulley patterns, either in the rough or fluished state,ranging from 6 -in.to 40 -in.diameter,with Sin. facers. Any person having thes

Manufacturers and machinists wishing to purchase planing or shaping machines, drills, lathes, or steam engines, will flnd it tor their

Wanted-A new or 9 d-hand machine for finishing and put ting up merinos and other plece
Teasdale Bros.. Cincinnati, Ohio.

Look out for orders, manufacturers and machinists. Soc manufacturing news of the United States in Boston Bulletin, which will
post you where to solicit them. The Commerclal Bulletin, Boston, $\$ 1$ year. Advertisements 17c a line.
Millstone-dressing machine, simple and durable. Also, Gla ziers's diamonds, and a large assortment of "Carbon" of all sizes and
shapes, tor allmechanical purposes, always on hand. Send stampfor cir shapes, for allmechanical purposes, always on hand. Send stampfor cir
cular. John Dickinson, 64 Nassau st., New York. Wanted-A good man, thoroughly posted in the working of spoke and wheel-making machinery, as toremanin a wheel factory at Mari
etta, Ohio. A good salary will be paid to one who can come well recom mended. Address F. W. Minshall, Sec., Postoffice box 204, Marietta, Ohio See A. S. \& J. Gear \& Co.'s advertisement elsewhere. Keep posted.
For descriptive circular of the best grate barin use, address
For HacklePins, etc., addressJ. W.Bartlett,569 B'dway,N.Y For solid wrought-iron beams, etc., see advertisement. Ad ,
Portable pumping machinery to rent,of any capacity desired and pass sand and gravel without injury. Wm. D. Andrews \& Brotber 414 Water st., New York.
N. C. Stiles' pat. punching and drop presses, Middletown, Ct. Prang's American chromos for sale at all respectable art

The paper that meets the eye of all the leading mannfactu rers throughout the United States-The Boston Bulletin.
Winans' Boiler Powder, N. Y., removes and prevents incrusta

