

New Inventions.

Improved Parasols.

A patent has been secured lately for an improvement in ladies' parasols whereby a circular spring of india rubber is applied to the ribs, which performs wonders in the fashionable world. A small ring of the vulcanized india rubber is placed around the ribs at the point at which they meet at the apex of the parasol; when the ribs are expanded the elastic power of the ribs enables it to be stretched, so as to suit the exigency, while its power of contraction is so great that it forces the ribs together and keeps them compressed. By touching a spring at the handle, the ribs expand to the utmost tension in a moment. The peacock has long bore away the palm of victory for a sudden show of his fan like showy plumage, but here comes art in the shape of a new parasol, and eclipses the oriental bird in a twinkling.

New Coffee Pot.

A new coffee pot, named a French coffee maker, has just appeared, and for warm weather is a most useful and beautiful invention. It consists of a cup of the capacity of a pint, placed upon a metal plate, upon which spirits of wine being ignited will boil the coffee in a very short time, the cup having been supplied with water, and a small quantity of ground coffee. The effects of the heat not only produces coffee, but actually causes it to run in a small spout issuing from the side.

We do not know where these coffee pots are made, having only heard of their existence. We are positive that improvements in cooking utensils might be made so as to cook with flame of gas, and if gas could be supplied at a cheap rate to private families, a great saving would be effected. The gas consumed for cooking would be no more expensive than charcoal, and the trouble and disagreeable kindling of furnaces would be entirely dispensed with. In point of cleanliness, the gas would certainly supersede the coal, although it might cost more. There are great improvements yet to be made in domestic economy.

New Knitting Machine.

Mr. O. C. Phelps of Mass., has recently made some very important improvements in the knitting machine, whereby stockings may be knit whole, legs and all, without seam.

Improved Strainer for Pails.

Mr William Cooley, of Geneva, N. Y. has invented and applied for a patent for new and useful improvement of attaching a strainer to milk pails, which appear to be as valuable as the improvements which have lately been made on churns. His plan is to have the strainer fit on to a tube or spout on the pail by a screw or slide, so that it can be put on and taken off at pleasure, thus rendering the strainer easier cleaned and at the same time one strainer will answer a number of pails better than a sieve and at one fifth the expense.

New method of Silvering Glass.

The London Athenaeum states that a Mr Drayton of Regent street, that city, has discovered a new process of silvering glass which will entirely do away with the old, injurious, and dilatory process of silvering by mercury and tin. Nor is this its only advantage. The silvering is richer in its texture than that produced by the old process; and it may be touched with the finger and still left untarnished. This important improvement is produced by a solution of nitrate of silver in water and spirit mixed with ammonia and the oils of cassia and of cloves. Some of the glass thus silvered is extremely beautiful.

A floating Tunnel.

One of the most extraordinary plans submitted for the approval of the French Academy of Sciences is that of M. Ferdinand, engineer, who proposes to construct a floating tunnel from Calais to Dover, for the wires of the electric telegraph, and large enough to be traversed by small locomotives, for the conveyance of passengers. The plan was referred to one of the members of the academy for examination.

A tunnel for the wires of the electric telegraph across a channel only 25 miles broad, we believe to be perfectly practicable and require no great genius to conceive or construct, but a floating tunnel for locomotives is as preposterous as it is useless.

Process for preserving Milk for any length of time.

This process, invented by a Russian chemist named Kirkoff, consists in evaporating new milk by a very gentle fire, and very slowly, until it is reduced to a dry powder. This powder is to be kept in bottles carefully stopped. When it is to be employed, it is only necessary to dissolve the powder in a sufficient quantity of water. According to M. Kirkoff, the milk does not lose by this process any of its peculiar flavour.

Artificial Preparation of Ice.

After numerous trials made by M. B. Mujlink with different salts, for the purpose of converting water contained in a tin vessel into ice, during their solution, he ultimately gave the preference to a mixture of four ounces of nitrate of ammonia, four ounces of sub-carbonate of soda, and four ounces of water. This mixture in three hours produces ten ounces of ice, while with the mixture of sulphate of soda and muriatic acid, he obtained ice only after seven hours.

Improvements in Blasting.



This engraving represents an iron wedge wad, invented for the purposes of blasting by Elizur Wolcott, of Thompsonville, Connecticut. Those who are acquainted with blasting will immediately perceive that it is a new and beautiful improvement.

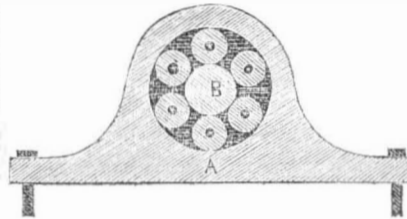
The improvement consists in employing a circular wad with side wedges which fit into grooves—one on each side. A, is the iron wad, and B B, are the side wedges. C, is the handle of the wad. When the wad is seated upon the blast the wedges and wad fit the bore exactly, for the grooves are so cut, as will be seen by the dotted lines, that the wedges fit the dotted lines correctly. But whenever the charge is ignited, A is driven up as seen in the engraving—and the wedges expand, acting in an inverted manner from the way in which the common wedge is used, and the blast by this means rives and splits the rock in a lateral direction, in a most effectual manner. The higher A is driven upwards the greater is the expanding power exerted on the wedges, for the space between the lever ends of the wedges decreases as the wedge ends expand. Measures have been taken to secure a patent.

New Steam Frigate.

A new steam frigate of 50 guns was lately launched at Glasgow, Scotland. Her engines are different from any ever constructed there before, at least as applied to steamboats—but are not new here. They are of the horizontal kind of 580 horse power and drive a screw of 16 feet 6 inches in diameter and 18 feet pitch. The cylinders are 84 inches diameter with a four foot stroke and calculated to make 30 revolutions per minute. The engines were made by R. Napier, Esq. and are said to be beautiful in workmanship, but on a trial of her speed she only made about eight and a half miles per hour, so it appears she is a miserable sailer, although her hull is allowed to be the finest in the British navy.

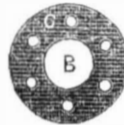
Friction Roller.

FIG 1.



Friction rollers are considered by many to be superior to friction wheels. The rollers must be turned and fitted with the utmost exactness and care. In figures 1 and 2 as seen here, are represented a box and circular plate for friction rollers which shew how they are arranged with the journal and a shaft and the offices they perform.

FIG 2.



A, fig 1., is the iron plate bolted to the frame and the interior of the box is represented by the rollers surrounding B, the journal arranged at equal distance in the box moving with only a small part of their ends in contact with the ring as represented by C.—The rollers must be all of the exact diameter and perfectly true, and must fill up all the space between the journal and the ring.—These rollers roll round with B, their velocity being in proportion to the diameters of the journal and the ring, the journal resting in the centre supported by the six rollers. The plates of this box are useful to prevent the rollers from shifting their position, and the ends of the rollers are made a little convex. This plan of friction rollers have but little perceivable friction when in motion but they are apt to get out of order, if dust get admitted, and if there are inequalities in the hardness of the rollers, they are apt to be wore flat in some places by the gudgeon and then they become an evil instead of a benefit.

Cypress Wine.

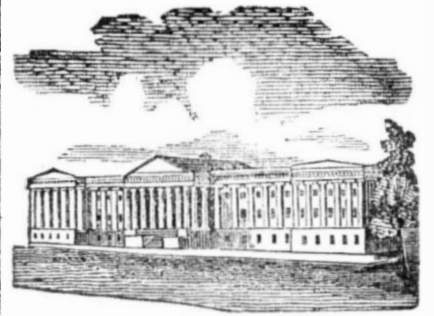
To eighty pints of water add ten pints of the juice of elder berries. The berries are to be lightly pressed: each pint of the liquid will contain three ounces of juice, and to the whole quantity add two ounces of ginger and one ounce of cloves. Boil the whole for an hour. Skim the liquid and pour it into a vessel which should contain the whole, throwing in a pound and a half bruised grapes, which leave in the liquor until the wine is of a fine colour. This wine bears such a resemblance in colour, flavour, and aroma to the best Cyprus wine, that the most experienced Parisian connoisseurs have been deceived by it.

New Kind of Fence.

In some parts of Wisconsin they are making fences as original and new as the state itself: and the material is gravel of medium coarseness, and sand, with the addition of sufficient lime to convert the mass into mortar; and this in the state of mortar is poured between boards confined so as to form a mould for the ascending wall. It is a cheap building material for houses, and it is the prevailing impression that it will be durable.

A Good Disinfectant.

A liquid made up of four ounces of the nitrate of lead and two pounds of water, is said to be excellent for the purpose of disinfecting the emanations from animal matter.



LIST OF PATENTS

ISSUED FROM THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

For the week ending Sept 5, 1848.

To Joseph J. Barronowski, Empire of Russia, for improvement in calculating machines. Patented in the U. S. Sept. 5, 1848. In France Nov. 25, 1847.

To Joseph Fillemier, of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in cutting Veneers into figures. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To Warren Jenks, of Schroom, N. Y. for improvement in method of setting Steel Traps. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To Benjamin H. Latrobe, of Baltimore, Md., for Compound Rail for Railroads. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To John Ormiston, of Waterford, Ohio, for improvement in Ploughs. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To Alonzo D. Perry, of New York City, for a Portable Lock. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To Edward J. Stearns, of Ellicott's Mills, Md., for improved Self-acting Rail and Switch. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To Jonathan W. Whitney, of Buffalo, N. Y. for improved Axle Tree. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To E. B. Bigelow, of Boston, Mass., for improvement in apparatus for stretching and drying cloth. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To Robert Criswell, jr., of Chambersburg, Pa., for improvement in the Cultivator Point. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To George Sweetland, New Haven, Conn., for improvement in Pulp Machines. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

To John M. Pratt, of Dudley, Mass., for improvement in the mode of incorporating Flocks with Flannel, &c. Patented Sept. 5, 1848.

INVENTOR'S CLAIMS.

Valves of Water Rams.

H. P. M. Birkinbine, Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in valves of water rams. Patented Aug. 15, 1848. What he claims therein as new, is, first, the construction of the valve in the manner described, so as to enclose a water cushion between the moving and stationary parts, and also, the cup or air chamber within the valve to relieve it from the shock it is otherwise subject to. Secondly, he claims the safety valve in a diagram, or in the piston, by which the safety and perfect working of the parts are insured.

Cultivators.

Nathan Baker, Flowerfield, Mich., for improvement in cultivators. Patented Aug. 15, 1848. What he claims as new is the manner of arranging the wheels diagonally to the carriage or main frame.

Bee Hives.

Oren Stoddard, Busti, N. Y., for improvement in bee hives. Patented Aug. 15, 1848. What he claims as his improvement is the manner of preventing robbery by means of the trap.

Screw Wrenches.

Solyman Merrick, Springfield, Mass., for improvement in Screw Wrenches. Patented Aug. 15, 1848. What he claims is the manner of making and arranging the contiguous binding faces of the jaws, consisting, first, in making them not parallel to each other, but so as to form an angle when the jaws are brought in close conjunction; second, in roughening one of the faces and making the other smooth.

Remember this.

The best Patent Agency is at the Scientific American office. All who have occasion to take out Patents will please bear this in mind, as they will thereby save themselves much time and money.