



Patent Cases.—Extension of a Patent by Act of Congress.

A bill has been introduced into the U. S. Senate for the extension of a patent (in fact it may be called a real grant) to a Mr Green for improvements in the sheet iron manufacture.

On the 16th inst. the case of Parker vs. Perkins (noticed in our last) before Judge Kane, at Philadelphia, for infringement of a patent, wherein the patentee suffered a nonsuit, was again added to the list.

The Gold Region.

The latest accounts from the gold regions, jingle more of the Golden Rocks than all others which have preceded them. Commodore Jones has written a long despatch to Washington, stating that rocks of Pure Gold weighing 4, 5 and 16 pounds, are frequently picked up by the gold washers on the Sacramento. It really appears, as if away down below the California mountains there had been a bed of gold, something like a Pennsylvania Coal bed, and which had been heaved up by some internal convulsion.

Neither soldiers nor sailors can be held by military rule. All run away to the placers.

Tax on Foreigners.

The Supreme Court of the United States, has declared, the Law of this State unconstitutional in taxing emigrant passengers. This will prove disastrous to our benevolent organizations for the protection of passengers. Something must be done to support our Hospitals and carry out the schemes for which the taxes were levied. Let all our citizens like one man petition Congress for yearly grant of about the sum required. This cannot be refused if we persist in the demand. It is said that the State will have to refund two hundred thousand dollars of passenger money to the merchants. Will the merchants be made to disgorge to the passengers who paid them the tax? We trow not.

Impeachment of a Judge.

The impeachment of Judge Munroe, of the U. S. District Court of Kentucky, for his late decision in the Telegraph suit between Morse and O'Reilly, is suggested in a memorial which Mr. O'Reilly has presented to Congress.

We are doubtful of the above. We do not think that any of our Judges can be impeached. They are men of character, although sometimes we believe, they make wrong decisions by mistake.

Pianos and Factory Girls.

The Lowell agent of the most celebrated Piano Forte manufacturers in Boston, states that he had sold no less than eight pianos during the last six months to girls now actually employed in the factories in that city. The prices ranged from \$250 to \$350 each.

Well, have the factory girls not as good a right to pianos as lawyers or merchants daughters? The luxuries and comforts of life are not incompatible in their enjoyment with physical toil. This truth we think is not appreciated by the community.

Fish Frozen to Death.

We learn that during the recent cold weather immense quantities of fish have been frozen and floated on shore at various parts along the coast of New England. Accounts of large quantities of bass thrown out have been published and we learn that smaller fish and eels by the barrel full have been thus affected by the ocean at Stonington and other places. The "anchor frost," as it is technically termed, is of rare occurrence—so rare, as to lead persons residing away from the sea to doubt the truth of the stories told of it. But this is by no means the strangest fish story, of which the truth can readily be proved.

Franconia in N. H. is undoubtedly the coldest quarter in the United States. On the 11th inst., the mercury was down to 30 degrees below zero.

LITERARY NOTICES.

Ladies National Magazine.

The February No. of this popular monthly has been sent us by the publishers. We always extend to it a hearty welcome. The illustrations are "Our Alice," and the Clondalkin round tower situated 4 miles from Dublin accompanied by a tale by P. H. Shelton. But the most interesting feature in this No. is the Palaces and Prisons, or story of the Fruit Girl, dedicated to Mrs. Zadoc Pratt by Ann S. Stephens the author. There is always something original and peculiarly attractive in this magazine and we cheerfully recommend to the attention of our readers. Terms \$2. Published by C. J. Peterson Philadelphia.

Godey's Lady's Book.

The February number of this beautiful and able Magazine is rich in illustration and displays a great amount of good matter. It is one of our popular light literary works, some of which are not our favorites by any means, but Godey sparkles with wit, wisdom and good breeding. It is like a clear full streamlet sometimes seen meandering among the wild woods—and sometimes dancing and laughing between green grassy banks fringed with water lilies and bright blue sedges, and although the able T. S. Arthur gives a Merry Sleigh Ride, yet it has spring in its eye and summer in its bosom.

The Cholera, its Causes, Prevention and Cure.

This is a work just published by those enterprising gentlemen, Messrs. Fowler & Wells, Clinton Hall, this city. The author of it is Dr. Joel Shew, who in this work shows the superiority of the Water Cure in the treatment of disease—and the prevention too—over all other modes of treatment. This is a capital little volume, both on account of the manner and matter. Its moral tone is very elevated.

Coast Survey.

We are much obliged to J. M. Wampler, Esq. of the U. S. C. Survey, for a copy of the Coast Survey, by Lieut. C. H. Davies, U. S. N. We shall revert to this pamphlet again, and the principles upon which the Scientific gentlemen of the U. S. N. conduct their operations.

Camera Lucida.

The demand for these beautiful instruments has been so great for a few weeks back that we have been unable in some instances to supply orders. But we have now received a large and superior lot which we can sell at the remarkable low price of \$6 (our former price for inferior ones) we have also made extensive arrangements for their manufacture in future so that no delays in supplying them will again occur. Some that have purchased them are so pleased with their operation that \$50 would not purchase one if another of our kind could not be procured. Every person engaged in sketching or painting should have one of these instruments and by placing one in the possession of a child it will foster a taste for drawing which seems to be natural to all, but which is too often neglected. Every person should be able to sketch and certainly there is no better assistant to an acquirement of the art than being in possession of a Camera Lucida. Address Mann & Co.

Our Prize Essay.

The New York Path Finder, a keen, clever and able paper, in reference to the prize offered for the Essay on the Patent Laws, says "there are few men comparatively in our country able to furnish an Essay of any worth on the above subject. Writing essays on the Patent Laws of this country, is something like writing specifications descriptive of complicated machinery,—a work we suggest that not one lawyer out of every twenty five in our country, is competent to perform."

This a touch to the Boston Times, which thought that no person but "a lawyer in good practice" could write such a work. When lawyers make out any document, they always put in too, many *I declares and says*.

Mr. Isaac M. Singer, of this city, has invented a new Gold Washer, which for cheapness, simplicity and utility far surpasses any yet in the market. A full description will be given in a week or two with an engraving.

Seed Grain steeped in Arsenic.

A late number of the London Lancet mentions a practice which is common among the English farmers, of steeping their wheat in a solution of arsenic before sowing it, with a view of preventing the ravages of the worm on the seed, and of birds on the plant when grown. The plan is stated to have proved eminently successful, and of course exerts no deleterious effects on the plant. In Hampshire, Lincolnshire, and many other districts where the practice prevails, numbers of partridges, and pheasants have been found dead in the wheat fields, poisoned by eating the seed, which they had abstracted from the earth. So thorough were the effects of the poison, that some of the flesh of these birds administered to a cat, caused her to vomit, and to exhibit the usual symptoms attendant on poison.

This is certainly a practice to be condemned. We hope that none of our farmers will try the same trick. We can afford to feed both men and birds.

How to Raise Good Beets.

Manure pretty well with stable dung and the scrapings of the hen-house floor early in the winter with enough ashes to ensure the decomposition of the stable dung. This is as powerful and as effectual as any system of manuring that has been ever yet invented. In May sow the seeds in drills, 18 inches apart. As soon as the beets make their appearance pour on them from time to time all the soap-suds raised in the laundry. This is also an excellent practice; and in our opinion every good gardener will save every drop of soap-suds raised in his establishment. The proper time for their application is in the evening after the sun goes down; if they are applied while the sun is shining hot they are very apt to kill the plants. Of course they should not be applied while the ground is wet from fresh rain—for the ground will thereby be reduced to a mortar by too great a supply of moisture. One beet only should be left to every eight inches. By these means Mr. Wright has been able to bring the common red table beet to perfection.

Railroad Speed and Safety.

When the celebrated engineer Brunel, who accomplished the desperate experiment of tunnelling the Thames river, was brought before a committee of the British Parliament, he was asked if a speed of eighty miles per hour on a certain railroad would be much more dangerous to the traveller upon it than a speed of forty.

"It would be just the same," said he

"And a speed of ninety?"

"Just the same."

"And a speed of one hundred?"

"Just the same! For," said he, "if the cars should run off the track at the rate of forty miles per hour, the passengers would all go to ruin, and at one hundred miles per hour they could not conveniently go any further."

Steam Engines in Schuylkill County.

There are in Schuylkill Co. Pa., 142 steam engines, with an aggregate horse power of 4,500, performing the labor of 45,000 men.—This is the great coal region of the United States, and it is nothing now to what it will yet be in regard to steam engines and a mining population.

Another Steamer Blown Up.

The Charleston News contains rather a melancholy account of the loss of life on board the Steamer Richland, which was blown up and destroyed, near Britton's Ferry, on her way from Cheraw to Georgetown. She had on board one thousand bales of cotton which were all consumed. There were eight or ten lives lost. The body of the Captain (Brock) was burnt with the boat. A Mr. Davis and wife were killed, while two little girls, whom they had with them, were saved. John McFarland and Mr. Taylor are the names of two persons known to be lost.

When will we see an end put to this wholesale system of murder

What becomes of all the pins? One firm in Massachusetts manufactured two barrels of pins per day, numbering about 8,000,000, or, at the rate of 48,000,000 per week.

Worm in the Eye.

A singular case occurred a short time ago at the Glasgow Eye Infirmary Scotland, in the person of a young girl 16 years of age who had lost the sight of her left eye. The cause was ascertained to be the presence of a living worm hydatid (the cysticercus of scientific naturalists,) in the eye, close before the pupil, which is completely obstructed. This species of animal consists of a round bag about the size of a small pea, from which on one side springs its body, which is a filament, consisting of numerous rings, and capable of being elongated and retracted at the creature's will. The body ends in the neck and head, and the latter is supplied with four lateral suckers. All this was plain to the naked eye in this instance, but appeared still more so when the animal was viewed through a microscope. As the existence of such a creature in the interior of the eye not only prevents vision, but ultimately destroys the whole textures of the organ, it was resolved to remove it by operation. This was successfully effected. The patient behaved with perfect steadiness, and found her vision immediately restored. The hydatid continued to live for more than half an hour after being extracted. As only four similar cases are on record, the worm excited much curiosity, and was examined by numerous visitors, both lay and medical.

An Old Boat.

"At the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries held on the 8th ult., (says the Edinburgh Witness,) there was presented to the Society, through the liberality of the trustees of the river Clyde, an ancient boat, dug up in 1847; at Springfield, opposite the Broomielaw. This most interesting relic is hewn out of a single tree, and is so rude a fashion that we can hardly assign too remote a date to it within the era of our island's history."

This ancient boat would seem from the description, to have been a very respectable canoe or dug-out, and would not be considered so great a curiosity perhaps in this part of the world. The Romans, however, in the days of Agricola, describe the Caledonians as sailing on the Firth of the Clyde in boats made of willows and leather, very much like those employed by the Scythians. This canoe may have belonged to an era antecedent to the employment of leather to make a boat. The mounds in Britain are exactly like those in our own country. Were they made by the same people?

American Tea.

Junius Smith, Esq. who has wrote some able essays on the cultivation of the tea plant in the United States, has returned from South Carolina, and states that from numerous experiments he is confident tea can be grown in any of our Southern States, of as excellent quality as the Chinese, and he believes that before many years the culture of the tea plant will add vastly to the wealth of this country. Plants set out near Charleston by Mr. Smith grew and flowered beautifully.

THE CHOLERA has proved comparatively harmless to the population of London. It is much less destructive in its ravages than it was during its previous visit. There are now FREE BATHS in all parts of London, a fact which no doubt accounts for the harmlessness of the cholera this time, compared with its virulence in 1831-32.

The Smithsonian Fund has increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000. The Regents have thus far only taken \$30,000 of the interest, for building and other purposes. The buildings are to be completed within three years, and they hope to have \$150,000 of the appropriated interest left, to add to the principal when all is done.

Rossi, Prime Minister to the Pope, who was assassinated in Rome, was married to the daughter of Guizot, late protestant minister of Louis Phillip.

There is nothing purer than honesty; nothing sweeter than charity; nothing warmer than love; nothing richer than wisdom; nothing brighter than virtue; and nothing more steadfast than faith. These, united in one mind, form the purest, the sweetest, the richest, the brightest and most steadfast happiness.