ed and maning in conjunction with each other, substantially as de-scribed and set forth. I asso chain the forming of continuous jaws or lips of railroad chairs by rolting into the solid iren of the flauge, on the blank bur of which the said lips are composed, and which flauge for said jaw or lips is raised upon the blank bur, assidoresnid, by means of said rolters, do scribed and set forth, or by means of any rollers substantially the same.

DESIGNS. 1,600.—A. C. Barstow, of Providence, R. I., for Design for a Parlor Stove. 1,601.—T. G. Bering, of Philadelphia, Pa., for Design for a Fence.

1,602.—J. G. Folsom and B. D. Whitney, of Winchendon, Mass., assignors to J. G. Folsom aforesaid, for Design for a Sewing Machine Frame.
1,603.—P. H. Jackson, of New York City, for Design for a Fire-place Frame.

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the United States-thus allowing English. French, Belgian, Austrian Russian, Spanish, and all other foreigners except the Canadians, to enjoy all the privileges of our patent system (exceptin cases of designs) on the above terms.

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Preliminary Examinations at the Patent Office The advice we render grathitously upon examining an inv notextend to a search at the Patent Office, to see if a like invention basbeen presented there, but is an opinion hased upon what knowledge we may acquire of a similar invention from therecords in our Home Office. But for a fee of \$5, accompanied with a model or drawing and description, we have a special search made at the United States Patent Office, and a report setting forth the prospects of obtaining a Patent &c., made up and mailed to the Inventor, with a pamphlet, giving in structions for further proceedings. These preliminary examinations are made through our Branch Office, corner of F and Seventh-streets, Washington, by experienced and competent persons. More than 5,000 such examinations have been made through this office during the past three years. Address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park-row, N. Y.

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H. K., of Wis .- Your application for a patent is now pend ing before the Patent Office. We cannot, therefore, introduce into the paper any such additional matter as you describe. If the ad-ditional improvement is important, you had better make a new case of it : in fact, you can proceed in no other way.

J. G. S., of Conn.-Whether a third party could patent, or use a combination composed of elements existing in two prior pat-

ents, depends altogether on the nature of the patented clai S. M., of Del .- The changing of one fluid for another in a chamber, for keeping cool the tube of a kerosene lamp wick not be patented. For a description of Adamas see page 340 of this

W. A. C., of Mass.-We can supply the back numbers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN to January last. We shall be bappy to errol your friend's name amongst our list of subscribers. It is not new to provide a cannon with a central twisted or rilled rod, and construct projectiles for the same with twisted or rifled central openings to fit the same rod, for the purpose of obtaining rotary mo-

W. S., of Ill .- You do not require any ingredient in boiling water to soften the timber that may be boiled therein, such as plow handles, for the purpose of bending them. Steaming timber will nswer just as well as boiling it.

R. H., of Pa .- Cement to stop the seams of a boiler from leaking, should always be applied inside. In a locomotive the usual high pressure steam, the best cement is of little

O. O., of N. Y .- Water may be admitted into the Stevens floating battery by pumping or by a valve in the bottom. It is discharged by a pump. Water ballasting is employed in some of the al carrying vessels in England.

J. W., of N. J.-Gem salt must be a local term. If it is used for petrifying substances, as you have stated, it is probably the fluate of linie.

- J. L. H., of Minn .- There is not any metallic alloy that will expand and contract, as packing in a cylinder, in the same latio as the cast iron of the cylinder. One square foot of grate surface, and nine square feet of effective heating surface, are allowed for the horse power of a boiler. Only one half the flue or the tube surface is considered effective heating surface.
- J. H. G., of Iowa .- So far as we have been able to ascertain, American sweet potatoes have not yet become an article of ex-port to Europe. If packed in dry saw dust and kept dry, we think they would keep on a voyage across the Atlantic.

H. R., of N. Y .- There is no published work extant which contains illustrations and descriptions of the improved apparatus lately introduced for heating buildings with dryfire heat, hot water and steam. You can only obtain a practical knowledge of these by examining them in buildings where they have been put up. We thought you wished to get a work like Griscom's or Reid's, chiefly devoted to ventilation.

T. E. M., of Phil.-Plaster of Paris figures may be bronzed by giving them a few coats of size, allowing each to dry, then apply-ing the bronze as a varnish. Bronze powders of all colors can be purchased at almost every store where artists' materiais are sold. You may mix these powders with glue, or with lac varnish, and apbut may find these products with give, or with a bronze may also be dusted on when the size is damp. Melted pitch is about the best cement known to us for an aquarium. Cocoa nut oil is obtained by grinding the kernel of the nuts and submitting this to pressure in bags It is said to be inferior to olive oil for the hair

consists that the published volumes of the Scientific Arganican. These contain illustrations of most of the improved governors. The gyroscopic governor is illustrated on page 193, Vol. III, (new series.) We do not know where A. Judson, the investor of the Judson Valve resides at present.

W. P., of Md.-The law is silent as to the time when the \$20 additional fee should be paid on the issue of Letters Patent. If you have no good reasons for delay, we advise you to forward the fee at once and have your patent issue, as you are less likely to encounter an interfering application.

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shear period by conversion with the mode of doing business at the United States Patent Office, and with the greater part of the inventions which have been patented. Information concerning the patentability of inventions is freely given, without charge, or sending a model or

drawing and description to this office. Consultation may be had with the firm between NINE and FOUR o'clock, doily, at their PRINCIPAL OFFICE, NO. 37 PARK ROW, NEW Verk. We have also established a BRANCH OFFICE in the CITY of WASHINGTON, on the CONFER 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

the rates of the instances is a single require it. Inventors and others who may visit Washingten, having business at the Patent Offices are condially invited to call at their office. They are very extensively engaged in the preparation and securing of Patents in the various European countries. For the transaction of this business they 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 Adversion, officers are proceed through our Patents secured to American citizens are procured through our Agency.

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The annexed letters from former Commissioners of Patents we com-nend to the perusal of all persons interested in obtaining Patents :--All so we done per used of an periods independent of the standing of a consistent all so we done per an an end of the periods of the second second of the done of the done we done of the standard provided of a second second second construction of the standard of the staffacture base been fully derived, as a barke always observed in all your informations with the periods, as a barke always observed in all your informations with the other that has a barke always observed in all your informations with the other that has a barke always observed in all your informations with the other that has a second second second second has any to the infor-tise of your ungraphyses. A same very bark your Olass, MASON information of the united States has addressed to not be sublimated.

master General of the United States, he addressed to us the subjoined very general testinoscuch-

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TRON PLANERS, LATHES, FOUR SPINDLE DRILLS, Milling New York, and other Machinesy sTools, of superjorginality Milling Sections, and other Machinest stools, of superior quality on hand and these and for sale low. For description and process address NEW HAVEN MANUFACTURING COX PANY, New Ha-ven, Conn.

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Bur Aufnahlung nie Gentrate Greitiche Greiticher, The Unit-ordiarten beben ihr einz ihren, die Genern von Berbat-bei er ihr, um ich ihre Barner ju fichen, recauseigebet, une wenderst-ten felder greite un erstellten. Brieftreichungen beschmitten dersche befannt für finnen Breitichten und bereichten dersche Befannt für finnen Breitigebeitigebeite geschebenen Ortstellen. Eine note wen hien un an mit hieren benten geschebernen Ortstelle mit ihreite mit gesterstellten auf Auf ber Office wird deutsch gesprechen. Die Stere, tene Prerf. Dafelbit it zu haben .

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Improved Folding Army Chair.

The accompanying engravings represent a folding chair designed especially for camp use, though it will be found remarkably comfortable and convenient in any house.

It is constructed with hinge joints so that it may be arranged as shown in Fig. 1, or folded in the corapact form represented in Fig. 2. The frame is made of hard tough wood, and the back and seat are covered with cane or may be upholstered. The back is joined to the seat by a hinge at a, so that it may be folded flat down upon the seat, or inclined at any angle desired. In order to hold it at such an angle as to make a comfortable seat, the arms are attached to the back by hinged joints, and their forward ends and sand.

one hundred and eighty miles, parts of its surface heing below our boundary line in Sonora. Its area is some nine thousand square miles; and excepting the Colorado, which cuts across its lower end, is without river or lake. It stretches off to the horizon on all sides without one glimpse of vegetation or life. Its surface is ashy and parched; its frame of mountains rise in rugged pinnacles of brown rock, bare even of soil. Words are unequal to the task of describing its apparent expanses, the purity of its air, the silence of its night, the brilliancy of the stars that overhang it, the tints of the mountains at daybreak, the looming up of those beyond the horizon, the glare of the midday sun, the violence of its local storms of dust



HARDY'S FOLDING ARMY CHAIR.

are forked to receive the curved links, B B, which have notches upon them to catch and hold the arms. By making several of these notches the inclination of the back may be varied at will, and yet held firmly in the position to which it is adjusted. The legs are joined together in two pairs and one pair is hinged to the front edge of the seat and the other to the back edge. The pair which is attached to the front edge is made sufficiently narrow to swing between the other pair, and when in the position shown in Fig. 1, the cross bar of the inner pair rests upon the cross bar of the outer pair, and retains the legs in position.

To support the legs and feet of the occupant, the frame, C, is attached by hinges to the front edge of the seat; the forward end of this frame being supported by legs.

The several joints and hinges described enable the chair to be folded into the small compass represented in Fig. 2.

The American patent for this invention was granted August 20, 1861. It has also been patented in France and Belgium. Further information in relation to it may be obtained by addressing the inventor, Peter J. Hardy, at 150 and 152 Prince street, New York, or at 367 Washington street, Boston.

The Great American Desert .-- A Novel Enterprise. In the acquisition of Territory from Mexico we acquired not only good, bad and indifferent lands, but we got a desert, and so large in its dimensions, so formidable in its withering desolations, that we are as much at a loss to know what to do with it as was the party who drew the elephant. Professor Blake, who, from his position of geologist, accompanying the exploring and surveying expedition of Capt. Williamson, of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Survey, acquired a personal and familiar knowledge of this journado del muerta'' (desert of death), in a recent lecture in San Francisco, in speaking of the Colorado Desert, pronounced it as fine a specimen of the desert as that of Lybia or Sahara. It ex-

Parts are entirely destitute even of sand, being smooth, compact, sun-baked clay; other parts are covered with heaps of sand, disposed like snow-drifts in waves of fifty and eighty feet in hight. Near the mountains along the Colorado there is a terrace as flat as the floor, and paved with pebbles of nearly uniform size, of porphyry, jasper, quartz, cornelian, and agate, all rounded by the action of the water, and polished till they glisten, by the driving sand. In this respect, again, the porch of our Great Desert is like that which outlines the Lybian Desert. Doubtless the northern part of the desert is the dry bed of an ancient lake of fresh water, whose beach lines are strongly marked. Probably, at a comparitively recent period, the water of the California Gulf covered all the clay surface of the desert. It lies below their level now, and if a channel were cut through the natural embankment of the Colorado, it would be doubtless covered again with water. It is very probable that the Colorado Desert region was uplifted within historic times. Earthquakes occasionally agitate its surface, and in 1852 there were eruptions of mud and hot water in the central parts of the valley.

The National Intelligencer says that an enterprise is on foot for converting this formidable desert into a fruitful field by introducing water from the Colorado river on and over it, thus causing verdure to replace sterility, "causing the desert to bloom as the rose.'

The propagator of this enterprise having devoted several years in the preliminary work, and having fully determined the practicability of the measure by actual instrumental surveys, now awaits the action of Congress to make a cession of this Sahara to the State of California, in compliance with the expressed wish of her Legislature. It cannot be doubted that Congress will at once comply with the application made by California, and allow the parties to go on with this novel work, which promises to be of so tends from the base of San Bernardino southwesterly | much benefit to the government and mankind.

GREAT PUMPING ENGINES.—The quantity of water pumped up daily for the city of London is 150,000,000 of gallons. Of this enormous quantity 79,000,000 of gallons are pumped by single acting steam engines. One of these engines when working at full power throws 9,000 gallons per minute to a hight of 140 feet. The water thus raised is conveyed into London by cast iron pipes 36-inches in diameter. The cylinder of this engine is 112-inches in diameter, and weighs 36 tuns.

STEAM ON CANALS .- The Schenectady Locomotive vorks are constructing some engines for canal boats, which are much on the locomotive principle. Machinists on the line of the canal believe that the exertions which have been made to substitute steam for horses on canals, will result in permanent success. A considerable number of steamers, supposed to be nearly a hundred, have been at work, many of them with decided advantage.



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