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To Patentees.—The Policy of Publishing your Inventions in the Scientific American.

If patentees were wise for themselves, they would get illustrated descriptions of their inventions published in our columns either before or at an early date after their patents are issued; the reason for doing so we will easily render obvious. The character of the Scientific American, as the best Repertory of American Inventions, is established, and those who are about engaging in a new business that requires machinery, and those also who wish new machines, examine our columns for the latest improvements. If the machine or machines they want be described there—and it is an easy way to get the information—they write to the owners of the patent, or the owner of the machine, and if the terms are reasonable they generally purchase. We also, have enquiries nearly every day about different kinds of machines; such as, 'where can I get the best mortising machine? where can I get a cheap and good pump? I wish to get the most approved machine for grinding ore; I wish to get a good and cheap steam engine,' &c. We answer these questions by referring to engravings in our columns, or if the information wanted is not to be found there, we candidly give them all we can on the subject. The Scientific American is now in its sixth Volume, and will, in a few weeks, be in its seventh; and as its circulation is four times more now than it was three years ago, it follows that many are now subscribers who are not acquainted with the contents of our former volumes. From them we necessarily have more enquiries about machines than the old subscribers. Many have unwittingly invented and used patented machines which had been described by us years ago. They would not have done this had they been aware of the patents; they would rather have paid for their privileges. In such cases, both patentees and infringers are losers.

If we take into consideration that our population doubles itself in thirty years, a patent will, in the natural course of events, be nearly one half more valuable in its last than its first year; this is the reason why an American patent is of so much worth. Well, as our people spread so rapidly over such an extensive country, it is reasonable to conclude that many are now (and the number is fast increasing) using patented improvements without any knowledge of their being the subjects of patents. There are few who like to face a law suit for the infringement of a patent, but when a person has a machine in operation for some time, not knowing that it is patented, he is more ready to resist paying even a reasonable tax than he would be if he had known about the patent in the first place. Litigation is injurious to both sides, and we believe, in fact we know, that the patented machines which have been described in our paper have, in more instances than one, prevented law suits.

As the living and enduring testimony of an inventor's skill, the illustration of his invention published in our columns will go down to future generations, and surely this consideration ought to weigh somewhat heavily on the minds of patentees. A useful invention described in the Scientific American, is like a monumental statue; without such a remembrance, without such a testimony to inventive skill, how many inventors have left their genius impressed upon the most useful of our machines, yet the names of those men are unknown in story—their handiworks go down to posterity, but the hands that fashioned them are "unwept, unhonored, and unsung."

Some may say, "we are speaking for ourselves,"—we truly are not disinterested, but whether you will hear or forbear, gentlemen, it is, and will be, our object and aim to make the Scientific American interesting and useful to men of scientific and mechanical tastes. In doing so, the benefits will be reciprocal, if you take our advice. You will be benefitted, our readers will be benefitted, and we will be benefitted; finally, if there be any reason or

any hope in what we have said, we want you to think of these things.

Maryland Institute for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts.

We have received the Circular of this respectable Institution, imparting the information that the Fourth Annual Exhibition will be opened in the city of Baltimore on Monday, the 20th day of next October. The Exhibition will be held in the new Hall of the Institute, now nearly finished: it is the finest Mechanics' Hall in America, and confers no small amount of honor upon the people of Baltimore. It is principally built of brick, 1,700,000 being used in its construction. The front and sides of the end on Baltimore street are of beautiful brown stone. The building is 355 feet in length, 60 wide, and 65 feet high. The large room is 265 by 60 feet, and will accommodate 6,000 persons. We would respectfully ask the attention of all engaged in industrial pursuits throughout our land to the circular of the managers. All are invited to compete for the prizes offered by the Institute. These consist of gold and silver medals for the male contributors, and a variety of fancy and useful articles for the ladies, as premiums to those whose handiwork may prove worthy of distinction. There were 16 gold medals, 90 silver ones, 60 diplomas, and 85 articles of jewelry awarded to the ladies by the Institute last year. The managers of this Institution have deservedly won for themselves, a high character for urbanity and impartiality. The gentlemen connected with this Institution are men of great respectability. It has 1,000 members, and along with the encouragement, or rather its object, "the promotion of the Mechanic Arts," the Institution proposes to establish a "Chemical School" upon a plan of Mr. Campbell Morfitt, a first rate analytic chemist, and author of that excellent work, "Morfitt's Applied Chemistry."

We give the Baltimore Mechanics double credit for this move. No man can be a finished engineer unless he is acquainted with chemistry. The mechanics of Baltimore enjoy a high character, and we must say they have gone far ahead of our mechanics in New York City in respect to their new Institution.

As we wish to be particular in giving all the necessary information about the Fair, we would say that there is a Standing Committee appointed, with whom intending exhibitors may communicate, post-paid. This committee consists of the following gentlemen:—Adam Denmead, Chairman; George R. Dodge, Thomas Trimble, Woodward Abrahams, Wm. A. Boyd, John F. Meredith, Charles Suter, C. W. Bentley; Samuel E. Rice, Secretary. Mr. John Selby, the Agent of the Institute, may also be addressed.

The hall will be open for the reception of goods, on Monday, 13th of October, and on the evening of the succeeding Monday, 20th October, at 7 o'clock, the exhibition will be formally opened for the reception of visitors. The exhibition will positively close on Wednesday night, 10th November.

The articles deposited for competition will be carefully examined by judges, selected for their capacity and impartiality; and in order to silence all suspicion of collusion, no judge, nor any member, either of the committee on exhibition or awards shall receive any premium whatever.

Contributors are assured, that the most scrupulous care will be bestowed by the managers, and particularly by the committee on exhibition, in displaying their productions to advantage, and in securing an impartial and judicious examination of them, both by the public and the judges.

The exhibition will be visited during its progress by the president of the United States, and Cabinet, His Excellency, the Governor of Md., and suite, His Honor, the Mayor, and the City Councils of Baltimore, and many other distinguished and official persons.

New Air-Gun.

A Mr. Arstale, of Birmingham, England, has invented an improvement on air guns by means of which from 150 to 200 bullets may be discharged in rapid succession, without oth-

er ammunition than a small reservoir of air carried by the "operator," attached by a gutta percha tube to the stock of the gun. The whole apparatus is lighter than a common musket, but it does not propel the bullets with the force of gunpowder.

A Pirated Invention at the World's Fair.

PATENT TURNING MACHINE.—We learn by the Lowell Advertiser, that a machine for turning thread bobbins, patented by J. & T. Coats, the celebrated thread manufacturers, Paisley, Scotland, is exhibited at the World's Fair, and has attracted a great deal of attention, even the particular attention of the Island Queen. Well it seems, after all, that it is an American invention, whether by a domiciled Paisley body or not the Advertiser does not tell us. It seems that this Thomas Coats, sometime in 1841, was in Lowell, and had an opportunity of examining one of these machines in Douglass' bobbin factory, between the Carpet and Machine Shop. At his urgent solicitation Alexander Wright, Esq., the superintendent of the Carpet Mill, gave his permission, that a machine should be made for him, to carry to Scotland, on condition that a Mr. Clark, a friend of the superintendent's, in Scotland, should be allowed the privilege of making one of these machines for his own use. (Clark, the thread manufacturer of the same ilk, we suppose, and a fine fellow.) Well, what does Mr. Coats, canny Tommy Coats do, but file a caveat in London, after he went home; when applied to by Mr. Clark for a model, he refused to accommodate him, denying that the machine brought by him from America, was good for any thing. Mr. Clark having assurances from Mr. Wright, that the fact was otherwise, persisted in his demand, and finally commenced a legal process against Coats in order to obtain what had been denied him. In order to sustain his claim against Coats, Clark sent to Lowell for the deposition of Claud Wilson, overseer of repairs on carpet looms, through whose kind attentions Coats had been enabled to obtain the machine. Mr. Wilson's deposition was forwarded, and also another machine by Mr. Wright to Mr. Clark, in 1842. Mr. Clark thus obtaining a machine, probably felt no great inclination to push his lawsuit farther, and how it terminated precisely we have never ascertained.

"Our Lowell mechanics, says the Advertiser, especially Mr. Claud Wilson, an intelligent gentleman, himself from Scotland, are not a little amused, on perceiving Royalty itself imposed upon by an invention claimed by one of her own subjects, but which is really of American growth—the discovery of one their own number. It is almost time that the lion's skin should be stripped from this ass of an inventor and that he should be exhibited before the British public, dressed in no other Coats than those which rightfully belong to him."

Well, this is just the way with the world. There are men who would be really ashamed to be found telling a lie or stealing, who would think these things to be great crimes, but who would make no bones about stealing an invention or robbing another of scientific or literary fame. We like to show up such characters; and the way our people can show their appreciation of right and wrong, is to buy less of Coats' thread and more of Clark's, or why don't the Lowell folks go into the thread manufacture, they surely can get plenty of hands from the banks of the Cart to put up machinery and make as good thread as they do in Scotland.

Bomb Lance for Shooting Wales.

A very large assembly, says the New Bedford Mercury, was gathered at Fish Island yesterday to witness the experiments with Allen's whaling gun and patent bomb lance. Many of our merchants and captains were present. The lance was discharged from a gun weighing about twenty-four pounds, with the usual charge of powder, and was projected a distance of some forty yards, burying itself in the earth to a distance of some six feet, where it exploded, tearing up the ground in large masses. A further experiment was tried of throw-

ing a lighted lance into the water, when it sunk to the bottom and exploded, showing that it can be used under water with equal success. The gun can be carried to the shoulder with ease. The opinion of the spectators was unanimous that the experiments were perfectly successful, and demonstrated beyond cavil the practicability of using these guns in the capture of the whale.

Patent Cases.

U. S. Circuit Court, Northern District New York, at Canandaigua, July 11th, 1851. Before Judge Nelson and a Jury.

Elisha Foote, vs. Horace Silsby, and others. This suit was for the infringement of a patent granted to Elisha Foote, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., on May 26th, 1841, for a Self-Regulating Stove. The defendants pleaded non-infringement denying that the patentee was the first and original inventor, that the invention was not new, that it was in public use before the patent was granted, and had been described in public works.

The following questions were submitted to the jury, viz:

"First question. Was the plaintiff the original and first inventor of the application of the expansive and contracting power of a metallic rod, by different degrees of heat, to open and close a damper which governs the admission of air into a stove in which it may be used, by which a more perfect control over the heat is obtained than can be by a damper in the flue?"

"Second question. Was the plaintiff the original and first inventor of the combination described in his patent, by which the regulation of the heat of a stove in which it may be used is effected?"

The jury in answer to each of said questions, responded in the negative.

On motion of the counsel for the plaintiff, the jurors were then polled by the clerk, and they severally answered that this was their verdict.

The plaintiff and defendants belong to Seneca Falls.

Colt's Pistol Case.

Col. Colt has an important suit now pending before Judge Woodbury, at Boston, under the patent laws, Leavitt & Co., having as he avers, infringed upon his patent repeating pistol. The case was adjourned from last Monday, the 21st inst., to the first of August.

Compound Rail of the Mount Savage Iron Works.

We are glad to learn, says the American Railroad Journal, from various quarters, that the subject of the use of the compound rail, manufactured at the Mount Savage Iron Works in Maryland, is attracting a great deal of attention, and that the proprietor, J. F. Winslow, Esq., of Troy, is engaged in filling large orders with American iron. All the experience of its use thus far gives entire satisfaction. It realizes the great advantages predicted of it in the abstract, while at the same time the objections which are usually made to it are shown not to exist. The compound rail is as strong as the ordinary pattern of equal weight. If such is the fact, then the saving alone over the old track will in a very few years pay the first cost of the iron, to say nothing of increased speed, greater safety of passengers, etc.

The above pattern is now in use upon the Utica and Schenectady, Hudson River, Erie, Reading and some other roads, and has received the approbation of all the companies.

The Largest Steamer in the World.

The Eclipse, Capt. E. T. Sturgeon's new steamer, now on the stocks at Louisville, Ky., is to be three hundred and fifty-nine feet in length. She is to have eight of the largest boilers, and her water-wheel will be forty-two feet in diameter. She will be completed in the fall, and it is expected that she will make the trip from New Orleans to Louisville in four days.

Next week we will publish a splendid engraving of Barlow's New Planing Machine, and shall illustrate a number of other useful inventions.