

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Woodworth Patent Extension.

Previous to the reign of James the Vith, the most enormous evils were perpetrated in England, by the granting of patents by kings to courtly favorites, and to those who paid well, by bribes, for the special despotic grants. There is a vast difference between a monopoly grant, and a grant to encourage improvements. Monopolies are tyrannic, always have been, and ever will be: they check improvements, they tend to repress inventions. At one time monarchs invested court profligates with monopolies of various classes, and these men prevented honest mechanics from following their legal occupations, unless they paid licenses for the same. Perpigna, a French writer on the law of patents, makes the statement, that, under these monopolies of the despotic kings of France, "the spirit of invention and enterprise could never rise to high conceptions." It was the same in England; the spirit of invention was pressed down by the iron heel of monopoly, and the spirit of hope and improvement in the arts and sciences, "for a season bade the world farewell." It is one of the most glorious triumphs of the pedantic James Vith's reign, that he abolished the old system of monopolies and laid the foundation of our modern patent laws. From that moment improvement began to dawn upon the arts—it was the advent of the arts from the trammels of the dark ages. All the dark lines, however, were not blotted out, some of them still blacken the legal records of England; and, alas! we must say it, our own country too. The history of Connecticut, and also of some of the other States, even after the Revolution, is dark with the grants of manufacturing monopolies "for making snuff, cloth, dyeing," &c. These monopolies, instead of encouraging manufactures, in every case repressed improvements. This was the case with the patent monopoly granted by the New York Legislature to Fulton and his associates; for, although Fulton was the first who made the steamboat successful, if his patent had not been broken, we would now, as a nation, be behind all the nations in Europe in steamboats, instead of being in advance of them. As soon as that unjust monopoly was broken, a steamboat was built by Mr. Stevens, which moved twice as fast as Fulton's boat. The reason why we oppose the extension of the Woodworth Patent, is, because we honestly believe it is an unjust monopoly. We advocate the protection, by patent, to every man of his own specific invention, but the great evil of all monopolies is the crushing tyranny they exercise towards honest inventors who are so unfortunate as not to possess wealth. If an inventor designs some improvement in the same line as that of the monopoly, although a perfectly distinct invention, he at once receives a notice from the lords of the monopoly to proceed and use his own invention at his peril. If he is poor, he is at once frightened into compliance; if he has a little money, and dares them to do their worst, he is approached by other means, and in a short time he is found to drop his own invention and become a satellite of the monopoly lords. Money can do anything with some men, and the Woodworth patent power has a most potent influence. How is it that we see those men who once opposed this patent, only by standing like men on their own rights as distinct patentees, now using their influence to promote the extension of this patent? How is it that as soon as a determined inventor and improver in planing machines, resists the claims of this monopoly, the call from the Triumvirate goes forth, "bind him, lictors," and a host of old patentees, who once solemnly kissed the Holy Evangelists, and swore that their own inventions were different from Woodworth's, come forth and give so decided an influence to maintain the monopoly, and thereby crush the honest patentee who, Milolike, dares the power of the Clodian tribe. These things are humiliating to every independent-minded American.

The petition to extend the Woodworth patent is now before Congress; the present grant does not run out until 1856. This should excite suspicion at once, and the Patent Committees and every Member of Congress should

give this question a candid and important examination. They should endeavor to ascertain how many of the monopoly machines are running in the United States, and the annual amount of lumber dressed by them. Citizens in every part of the country should write to their Representatives, giving them all the information they can on the subject, and they should send petitions to Congress, as soon as possible, on the subject. All persons who have been litigated against should set forth their grievances to the Senators and Members of Congress with whom they are acquainted. The persons comprising the Lords of the Monopoly, who pray for the extension of this patent, say they have been rendered poor by suits at law,—but they have always been the cause of these suits themselves, and their conduct is like that of the British Government which, itself being the cause of the war of 1812, yet wanted us to pay the expenses of it—the name for this principle of action is "modest assurance." The present patent now owned by the monopoly, and which is used by them in courts of law, is a re-issued patent by the Patent Office; which re-issue was obtained after Congress extended the original patent; and obtained, as Mr. Burke, the then Commissioner says, in a clandestine manner whilst he was absent from the Patent Office. It claims more than ever was claimed by William Woodworth, the inventor, and was obtained six years after he was in his grave, and seventeen years after his patent was first issued. This dark transaction has something fearful about it, for William Woodworth, whilst alive, was too honest and earnest a man to claim that which he never invented. The re-issue was obtained on *ex parte* evidence, for there is an oath of William Woodworth in the Chancery Records of New York, which is complete proof that he did not claim those principles embraced in the re-issued patent, which has been obtained since he was dead, and since Congress extended the original patent. This very fact is enough to make every honest Member of Congress stand back for a while, and look intently upon the attempt now being made, five years before the present grant expires, to get the monopoly extended. Every Member of Congress who loves justice, who spurns with loathing the assertion that "every man has his price," will surely give this subject a calm survey, and after having done so, we venture to say that his patriotism will find utterance in burning words to frown down a monopoly that now treads upon the necks of many honest inventors, who cannot use their own machines (which are entirely distinct from the Woodworth machine), because the Monopoly waves over them the terrors of expensive law suits.

For the Scientific American.

Clock Telegraph.

On looking over No. 20 of the present volume of the Scientific American, I find an article headed "New Clock Telegraph;" this invention, according to the statement in your journal, is of English origin. Permit me to inform you that I claim priority of said invention, from the fact that I made my first attempts, in the early part of 1845, to transmit two or more messages over one and the same wire at the same time, since which time I have brought my machines through various forms and improvements, until I am now able to present the public with an instrument but little more complicated than the Morse machine, and which is capable of transmitting from 500 to 1000 letters per minute. I therefore send this communication, wishing thereby to establish my rights as the inventor of said principle. My machines, according to the description of the English invention, as given in your journal, differ in their modelling, mine having no pendulum, nor anything relating to one, but works with a straightforward rotating motion, and possesses one decided advantage over every other Telegraph yet invented, it consists of an apparatus attached to the one machine whereby the other is corrected, without the hand of the attendant. The number of corrections in a minute, in case of bad and stormy weather, can be varied from 20 to 500 times, thereby obviating the necessity of repetition, as commonly practiced upon the present established telegraph lines.

I have withheld my invention from the pub-

lic for the sole object of allowing myself time to improve it, and also to overcome the use of the electro-magnet; in this latter I have been partially successful, but not to my entire satisfaction, on account of its being expensive. I was in hopes that the combination I presented with my gas lighter, for your inspection, would have had the desired effect, but your opinion was that a patent could not be granted for it, when employed as a prime mover for telegraph purposes; I consequently abandoned the idea for the time. It was my intention to have exhibited my machines at the great Annual Fair, last Fall, for the purpose of establishing my rights, without prejudice to the above invention, but owing to some improvements added to them, I was unable to get them finished in season. The time is not far distant when I shall place my improvements on exhibition, when the scientific public of this country will be better able to judge of their merits.

DAVID BALDWIN.

Paterson, N. J., Feb. 2, 1852.

The First American Cloth.

Rev. Mr. Littlejohn, of New Haven, in his lecture before the Arts' Union, in this city, on Monday night, remarked that the first piece of cloth ever made in the United States, was manufactured in Hartford, Conn., by Jeremiah Wadsworth, in 1790, and that Gen. Washington was dressed in a suit of clothes made from this cloth.—[Hartford Courant.

[There must be some mistake about the above, for cloth was made in the colonies at a period nearly coeval with their settlement. In 1786, four years before the above period, patents had been granted for improvements in spinning and carding machines, to Robert Lemmon, of Baltimore, Md. In 1782, Elijah Lothrop, and Timothy Donevan, of Norwich, Conn., petitioned the Legislature of Connecticut, to allow them to carry on the business of clothing and blue dyeing. This the Hartford Courant should be acquainted with.

Garden Walks.

In England it is a matter of great importance to prevent weeds or grass growing on gravel walks, for such is the dampness of the climate, that mosses and weeds of several sorts fasten upon and completely overrun them. The keeping of such walks clear is measurably important also in this country. It has been found there, according to the Gardener's Chronicle, that gas tar is absolutely fatal to vegetable growth, and a coating of it spread over a walk keeps it clear as long as the tar remains. To apply it in the best manner have the walk made and rolled hard, then put on the tar with a brush, and as it is offensive to the eye and olfactories, cover it with a thin coat of gravel which becomes incorporated with it and forms a hard, dry, unincumbered walk.—[Prairie Farmer.

Old Picture of Genesee Falls.

The Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat states that Thurlow Weed, senior editor of the Albany Evening Journal, now in Paris, has discovered a painting of the Genesee Falls, executed in 1795, by the brother of Louis Philippe, while they were passing through the country to the Niagara Falls. The owner has consented, at the solicitation of Mr. Weed, that this painting, the first ever made of the Falls, shall be presented to the city of Rochester. The view was taken from the east side of the river, opposite the old site of Adcott's cotton factory. The artist made the sketch while his brother, the late king of France, and two others, were preparing their humble exile collation, spread upon a blanket under a tree. What changes have taken place in the world since then.

Extension of a Patent by Congress.

The bill to extend, for fourteen years, to Moore and Hascall, their patent for a grain cutting and gathering machine, has passed the House of Representatives in Washington.

A Sheffield (Eng.) paper says that the venerable poet Montgomery has read the notices of his death, in the American papers, with their accompanying eulogies, with much satisfaction, and, what is more, read them without the aid of glasses.

It is not generally known that Montgomery is a native of the land of Burns, the country of the Montgomeries.

Direct Railroad between Rochester and Syracuse.

The Wayne Sentinel says, that the grading of this road for the first track is nearly completed, and it will be ready for the superstructure early the coming season. The iron rails and the cedar ties are mostly delivered or ready for delivery at convenient points along the line of the road. This work, when done, is designed to be, in its construction and advantages of line and grade, and also in its equipage and management, not inferior to any railroad in the United States. It is very direct, nearly straight through most of the route—will be only eighty miles long, shortening the distance between the two cities, compared with the road now in use, nearly twenty-five miles—and having a grade at no point exceeding fifteen feet to the mile from a perfect level. The first track, it is expected, will be ready for the cars early next summer; and the construction of the second track is to be commenced immediately thereafter and hastened to completion.

Fire Annihilator Experiment.

Another trial of the Fire Annihilator took place last Monday, at 1 P. M., at Melrose, a small village about ten miles from New York. The house was a plain boarded edifice—floored and close all round. Three experiments were made, and were very successful, but the conditions, for a comparative result, were not the same as if the Annihilator were tried on a house on fire in our city. When the fire broke out on the outside, men with wet swabs put it out. The experiments, however, were fair, although the party invited to witness it was quite a select one.

Egyptian Railway.

The Egyptian Railway works are now in active operation, and 10,000 men will soon be employed on the north end of the line. Mr. Stephens intends that, in order to do away as speedily as possible with the inconvenience of the Mahmoudie Canal navigation, the line from Alexandria to the Nile, near Nigeelah, shall be completed at once, and he expects passengers and merchandise will be thus far conveyed within twelve months. It is finally decided that the railway is to pass through the populous and well cultivated delta, crossing the Nile by a floating bridge at Kafr Zayat, a route that will be much more advantageous to the country than that first thought of, through the desert on the western side of that river.

A Strange Case.

Three years ago, a young man named Greensmith, residing in Halifax, (Eng.) swallowed a full sized needle. Attempts were made at the time, by a medical gentleman, but without success, to force it in a downward direction. The young man experienced a painful sensation in the throat for a few days after, but as time wore on, it gradually disappeared, and he recovered and enjoyed his usual health. At an early hour one morning he suffered a painful head-ache, attended with a peculiar sensation on the top of the head. On putting his hand to the part affected he felt the needle protruding, and gradually drew it out.

Gas for Brazil.

A company in Glasgow, Scotland, has made a contract with the government of Brazil, for lighting the city of Rio de Janeiro for twenty-five years. The gas mains are to extend over 30 miles. The company are to pass 140,000 cubic feet of gas per hour and to light 1,800 lamps. This will be the first gas works erected in South America. The material of which the gas is to be made is Scotch cannel coal.

Another Reaping Machine.

The Illinois papers say that Mr. Charles Denton, of Peoria, has invented a reaping machine which surpasses McCormick's, cutting the grain, whether standing or lodged, green or dry, upon rough or uneven surface, laying it in bundles, and doing it well.

Jenny Lind is married to Otto Goldschmidt, the famous pianist. She is 31 years of age, he 24. They were married in Boston, according to the form of the Episcopal Church.