

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. L. A., of D. C.—Yours will appear next week. F. M., of N. H.—We answer in the negative your inquiries about self-acting machines. R. E., of Miss.—We have carefully examined the sketch of your improved lathe, and regret to inform you that it is not patentable. Lathes for cutting gearing, constructed substantially on the same plan, are manufactured by Messrs. Corliss, Nightingale & Co., Providence, R. I. T. M., of Texas—We are much obliged to you for Ogles' Reaper. We shall give the matter a careful analysis. J. H. B., of Ohio—We do not think a patent on the churn could be obtained; we have seen them constructed upon essentially the same plan. The improved mill stone is new, so far as we know. J. R., of N. Y.—A screw placed on each side of the keel is quite old. R. H., of Mass.—The gutta percha interior tube would answer well, but it would so add to expenses that it would not be adopted; this is our opinion. The coating of pipes with gutta percha is not new. J. W. H., of New York—We think your arrangement new and patentable. We have never seen anything essentially like it. You had better send a model of it to this office. N. S., of Miss.—Shear-steel is so called because prepared particularly for making clothiers' shears, and scythes; it is made by laying several bars of common steel together, and heating them in a furnace until they acquire the welding temperature. The bars are then beaten together with forge hammers, after which they are drawn anew into bars. D. A., of Ct.—Mr. Whitechurch is supposed to be the original inventor of the hydraulic ram, and it was afterwards improved by Montgolfier. M. F., of Ga.—By placing a red-hot iron ball in a cylinder containing a vacuum, the heat would be communicated to the cylinder. Light does not require air to conduct it from the sun; it is not possible to form a perfect vacuum in an air pump. We do not know what heat is—we know its effects, that is all. H. T. F., of N. C.—The Daniel's Planing Machines are manufactured by Ball & Rice, at Worcester, Mass; S. C. Hills is agent for this city, and will furnish you with one of any dimension you may require. J. N., of Va.—You are right; and your very idea for preventing people turning off and letting on the gas, is attached to the gas burner just before our desk. It is not, we believe, generally applied. R. A. G., of N. Y.—Your views of the causes of the strike are not stated clearly; we think you attribute the cause to piece work; if so, the men are entirely to blame. W. C. McA., of N. Y.—We are much obliged to you for the documents, they are of great service to us, and we shall make a good use of them. A. C., of Tenn.—We have received yours in answer to S., and will soon give it attention. S. L., of Me.—Parker's claims can be exacted for the use of the wheel at any time since 1828, to Jan., 1852—not otherwise. The question of the claims of the different water wheel patentees is a complicated business; refuse to pay them all, and stand an action for damages—that is our advice. B. B., of Ohio—We do not think there is any such work in existence. A monthly publication would be required to treat with the progress made in that branch. G. B. B., of Me.—When it is apparent that a party remits a dollar, ostensibly for the Scientific American, but really for the purpose of availing himself of our time and services, in giving him ten times that amount worth of information gratis, he is liable to be disappointed. P. C., of Mo.—The Patent Laws were duly sent. D. S., of Ala.—\$22 received; will ship a mortising machine in a few days, and insure as you direct. S. L. P., of Wis.—Your lathe was sent by the Troy Line on the 23rd. H. & S., of Harrisburg—A mortising machine was forwarded to you, by Adams & Co.'s Express, on the 23rd ult. W. C., of N. Y.—It is a fact that fowls do oil their feathers; the oil they obtain from a receptacle secreted under the feathers near the tail. M. W. St. J., of N. Y.—We are not aware that any manufactory of those scales exists in the city. P. F., of Vt.—Your mode of fastening scythes to the snath is believed to be new and patentable. W. K., of O.—Your excuse for not having continued the Sci. Am., is indeed a good one. The numbers shall be preserved for you as you direct. Money received on account of Patent Office business on the week ending April 24: J. H. G., of O., \$30; F. N. C., of Ill., \$20; M. B., of N. Y., \$30; B. T. N., of Mass., \$32; R. & H., of N. Y., \$45; D. S., of N. Y., \$35. T. G. B., of N. Y., \$45; J. B. C. & Co., of Mass., \$37; E. M. & Co., of Pa., \$62; J. D., of Pa., \$30; W. S. W., of N. Y., \$52; J. O., of N. Y., \$20; D. B., of Pa., \$30; A. B., of O., \$20; J. H. S. & Co., of Pa., \$500; C. H. P., of N. Y., \$50. Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending April 24: S. & H., of N. Y.; F. N. C., of Ill.; J. P. D., of Pa.; H. B., of Ct.; T. G. B., of N. Y.; J. T., of Mass.; H. & H., of N. Y.; C. H. P., of N. Y.

City Subscribers.

Those of our subscribers who receive their papers from Carriers, and change their location on the 1st of May, will please leave their new address at the office.

Literary Papers.

We have entered into an arrangement with the publishers of the "American Model Courier," of Philadelphia, and the "American Union," of Boston, which will enable us to furnish either of the two, with the Scientific American, for \$3 per annum. They are literary journals of the first order, and are widely circulated in all sections of the country. Parties cannot be allowed an addition of one of the Literary papers, as above, by remitting a single dollar after paying their year's subscription to the Scientific American; neither can they be permitted to avail themselves of the above conditions for a less term than a full year, and on the precise terms advertised. Money received under other circumstances will be credited in continuance of the Scientific American.

An Important Paragraph.

Whenever our friends order numbers they have missed—we always send them if we have them on hand. We make this statement to save time and trouble, to which we are subjected in replying when the numbers called for cannot be supplied. The Post Office Laws do not allow publishers to enclose receipts; when the paper comes regular subscribers may consider their money as received. Subscribers ordering books or pamphlets are particularly requested to remit sufficient to pay postage.

Inventors and their Models.

There are several small cases remaining at the various Express offices in this city, marked to our address, on which the expenses have not been prepaid. We would respectfully inform inventors that the Express charges on ten or a dozen cases daily, from every part of the Union, amounts to no inconsiderable expense, and that we shall, in future refuse to receive packages unless the Express fees have been paid, or the expense otherwise provided for. Parties who reside at a remote distance from the city, and cannot arrange for pre-paying the Express charges, should enclose a sufficient amount in a letter and send by mail.

Patent Claims.

Persons desiring the claims of any invention which has been patented within fourteen years, can obtain a copy by addressing a letter to this office;—stating the name of the patentee, and enclosing one dollar as fee for copying.

Persons writing us without signing their names to the communication, are considered as not acting in good faith, or as mistaking the rules which govern all newspaper establishments, and are therefore not attended to.

Back Numbers and Volumes.

In reply to many interrogatories as to what back numbers and volumes of the Scientific American can be furnished, we make the following statement: Of Volumes 1, 2 and 3—none. Of Volume 4, about 20 Nos.; price 50 cts. Of Volume 5, all but 4 numbers, price, in sheets, \$1,—complete sets, bound, \$2.75. Of Volume 6, all; price in sheets, \$2; bound, \$2.75. Of Vol. 7, all back numbers at subscription price.

Patent Laws, and Guide to Inventors.

We publish, and have for sale, the Patent Laws of the United States. The pamphlet contains not only the laws but all information touching the rules and regulation of the Patent Office. Price 121-2 cts. per copy.

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American and Foreign Patent Agency

IMPORTANT TO INVENTORS.—The undersigned having for several years been extensively engaged in procuring Letters Patent for new mechanical and chemical inventions, offer their services to inventors upon the most reasonable terms. All business entrusted to their charge is strictly confidential. Private consultations are held with inventors at their office from 9 A. M., until 4 P. M. Inventors, however, need not incur the expense of attending in person, as the preliminaries can all be arranged by letter. Models can be sent with safety by express or any other convenient medium. They should not be over 1 foot square in size, if possible. Having Agents located in the chief cities of Europe, our facilities for obtaining Foreign Patents are unequalled. This branch of our business receives the special attention of one of the members of the firm, who is prepared to advise with inventors and manufacturers at all times, relating to Foreign Patents. MUNN & CO., Scientific American Office, 128 Fulton street, New York.

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STEAM ENGINE FOR SALE.—One of Hoe's upright square Engines for sale, of about five horse-power, price \$150; can be seen running daily. Apply at 47 Dey street, N. Y., in the rear, to C. H. ANDRUS. 33 2*

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MORTISING MACHINE.—Dear Sirs: I received the Portable Mortising Machine about 3 weeks ago; I have used it, and am very well pleased with it. It is the best plan of a machine of the kind I have ever seen. W. R. MCFARLAND. Nashville, Tenn., 1851. This machine is simple, durable, and effective, and is boxed and shipped for the low sum of \$20. MUNN & CO.

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TO LUMBERMEN—E. H. & S. E. PARSONS, inventors of the Self-straining and Self-ranging Saw Frames, for saw-mills, combining the advantages of both the muley and gate mills and superior to either, reducing the wear and tear to about one-fourth. The saw will bear as much feed, and is as easily kept in order, and is warranted to saw the same amount of lumber with one-fourth less power. They may be seen in successful operation at the Empire Works, Binghamton, Broome Co., N. Y., where they are manufactured, and at Frankfort, Ky., and Cass, Tenn. For further particular address (post-paid) Wilkesbarre, Pa. 29 5*

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WOOD'S IMPROVED SHINGLE MACHINE—Patented January 8th 1850, is without doubt the most valuable improvement ever made in this branch of labor-saving machinery. It has been thoroughly tested upon all kinds of timber and so great was the favor with which this machine was held at the last Fair of the American Institute that an unbought premium was awarded to it in preference to any other on exhibition. Persons wishing for rights can address (post-paid) JAMES D. JOHNSON, Bridgeport, Ct.; or WM. WOOD, Westport, Ct.; All letters will be promptly attended to. 22tf

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