## 

J. A., Jr., of Ill.-As a general rule we have very little faith in the published modes of destroying insects. Any fertilizer which induces a vigorous growth in the plant aids in enabling it to overcome the effects of insect bites, and in this way sulphate of ammonia might be useful, but it would be too costly for Illinois, where you do not cart your barn-yard manure to your fields.
D. E., of N. Y.-We know of no plan for making friction matches commercially for market without phosphorus. Thorough ventilation is the best preventive yet discovered for the terrible disease which is induced by exposure to the fumes of phosphorus.
P. D., of Pa.-You will flnd the comparative value of petroleum and coal for fuel fully discussed in another column, The right to a patent can be assigned before the patent is obtained We prepare such asig is $\$ 3$
G. W. II., of N. Y.-Rock-oil naphtha is not adapted for making varnish, as it is a very poor solvent for gums. Coal-tar naphtha is an excellent solvent for some gums, though not for gum shellac. This would answer your purpose if you could obtain it. It has been sold somewhat below the present price of alcohol.
J. M., of Iowa.-When strata of rocks or clay slope down from hills or mountains, the water sometimes gets between the layers, which hold it from rising up in the valleys. If the strata above the seam of water are bored through, the water is
forced up through the hole by the pressure of that in the upper portion of the seam. Arteslan wells can be made therefore only in the vicinity of higher ground. Address Prof. Henry at the Smith sonian Institution in relation to their publications.
P. E., of N. Y.-The resistance spoken of in a falling body is that of inertia, which is in proportion to the welght. This is the principal resistance in dense bodies. The resistance of the air would be greater, as you say, in small spheres than in large ones in proportion to the weight, and would cause them to fall with
less velocity. F. G. W., of Mass.-The Giffard's injector is manufactured by $W \mathrm{~m}$. Sellers \& Son, of Philadelphia, and if you will write to them they will doubtless give you all the information that you want.
D. K., of R. I.-We have received your communication on." the drill and its office," but we have already published so many articles on that subject that we must decline your favor.
Your ideas are good. Write again on some other subject and we Your ileas are good. Write again on some other subject and we shall try to give you a hearing.
A. V. S., of N. Y.-The Rubber Company to which you refer control the right to make, use, and sell and vend to others the same rights, the particular article protected by their patents; whenever the article passes into the market and is sold, the corll have realized their legal tariff upon it, and any subsequent purchaser has a right to use it freely. The Company can collect but one tariff, and this they did at the first sale of the article.
S. C. \& Co., of Ohic.-The travel of piston in feet of a steam engine istwice the stroke multiplied by the revolutions; or the length of stroke multiplied by the number of single strokes. Your tive. The pipe should be five inches at least, and well covered to guard against radiation. It is more probable that the valve motion of your engine is defective, and if you will send us a diagram of it and the work the engine has to do, we can probably remedy the trouble.
E. W. S., of R. I.-You could not obtain a situation as an assistant engineer unless you had some knowledge of the business.
I. B. B., of N. Y.-A balloon rises in the air because the gas in the balloon is lighter than the air around it; the attraction of the earth draws the heavier air down under the balloon and hus pushes it up. The buoyancy of a balloon consequents feThe lightest gas is hydrogen; it is $141 / 2$ times lighter than air. About 13 cubic feet of air weigh one pound and about 188 feet of hydrogen. In round numbers 14 cubic feet of hydrogen will raise one pound in the air, and it will take 7,000 cubic feet to raise 500 pounds. As the density of the air diminishes rapidly with the altitude, the size of the balloon must be increased for any considerable ascent. A horse-power is that which will raise 33,000 pounds one foot per minute; a half-horse power woul therefore raise $82 \frac{1}{2}$ pounds 200 feet per minute. It is possible that a steam engine might be made weighing less than 200 pounds, which could be worked up to a half-horse power.
G. J., of N. Y.-Your criticism of our views in regard to some English notions may appearito you to be just. Upon this point we will not enter into controversy. Your style of refuting our ideas is, to say the least, somewhat below the standard of
genuine politeness. When, however, you seek to correct our orthngraphy, we have only to say that you are certainly not well informed. In our frequent use of words we are quite as likely to informed. In our freguent use of words we are quite correctly, as one whose business does not necessarily spell them correctly, as one whose bood spelling. If you will take the trouble to turn to Webster's Dictionary, which is the standard here, you will find that tun, traveler, center, theater, etc., are spe lled correctly by us.
S., of Pa.-The Commissioner does not return the first installment of the patent fee in case the application is rejected. When the patent is allowed, $\$ 20$ additional must be paid within six month,
J. C. T., of Minn.-We are not aware that Paine's en Archibald, at the British Consul's office, in this city.

## Money Reccived.

At the Scientific American Office, on account of Patent Office business, from Wednesday, June 22, 1864,ito Wednesday, June 29, 1864:-
A. J. P., of N. Y., $\$ 25$; D. F. M., of N. Y., $\$ 30$; F. A. H., of N. Y. $\$ 41$; F. B., of Ill, $\$ 20$; G. H. S. D., of N. Y., $\$ 48$; D. A., of N. Y., $\$ 16$; G. A., of Iowa, $\$ 20$; D. H. S., of Iowa, $\$ 20$; P. \& T., of Pa., $\$ 20$ J. D. B., of N. Y., $\$ 20$; W. M., of Ohio, $\$ 18$; M. A. W., of Cal., $\$ 55$; W. W. P., of III., \$16; F. R., of N. Y., $\$ 25$; L. O. C., of Pa., $\$ 16$; A.
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Specifications and drawings and models belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office, from Wednesday, June 22, 1864, to Wednesday, June 29, 1864 :

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## Improved Flour-packing Machine

The engraving published herewith represents a machine for packing flour recently invented by Albert Brown, of Mifflinsville, Pa. It consists of a frame, A, which supports the packing machinery, and a hopper, B, which has a shaft, C, passing through it; at the lower end of this shaft there are two screw-shaped blades or packers. These are set one over the other, and the object of employing two is, that one shall spread the flour, or distribute it evenly to the lower one, so that the flour shall be evenly compressed in the barrel. The upper end of the shaft has a jaw upon it which connects with a lever, D ; and the gear E , has a sleeve, through which the shaft freely slides. Inside the hopper and below the frame there is a pair of grooved rollers which embrace the shaft between them, so that while they lessen the friction of the parts working together they also keep the shaft true
very valuable for canvas and cordage, but the latter has almost a monopoly of manufactures of its class, and is common in all civilized countries and to all ages, from the Jewish era of "purple and fine linen" to the present day.
The Commissioner of Agriculture has received, recently, from different parts of the country, specimens of fibrous plants, indigenous, and seemingly worthy of experiment. The fiber of one of them, a member of the Asclepia family, is very long, fine, abundant, and exceedingly strong.
It is not improbable that new textiles may yet be added to the present list, and found more productive, more easily worked, or better adapted to particular uses than any others now known. The specimen of Asclepia in question has been submitted to experi ments, similar to those by which flax is cottonized, and the result is a beautiful article, stronger than cot
$11^{\circ} 16^{\prime}$, or south, by $4^{\circ}$ west; continued to a hight of 272 feet, the vortex of the parabola. In the flight it made $1 \frac{3}{T 0}$ turns in the length, and arrived with a velocity of 237 feet per second, from an altitude of $51^{\circ} 30^{\prime}$, in the Penn stable, Market street, just 1,000 feet from home. The drum seemed to have been horizontal with north and south, when it struck the roof of the stable, falling with the south end on a strong beam in the floor, broke through with the north end into the cellar, where it injured slightly one man, and killed a horse, rested in a position of about $55^{\circ}$. The time of flight was about 5.75 seconds."
The design for the Gettysburg monument, awarded to Mr. James G. Batterson, of Hartford, Conn., is as follows:-A solid white marble base with four buttresses, each supporting a statue representing respectively, "History," "War," "Peace" and "Plenty." From the center rises a shaft of marble, crowned with a colossal bronze statue of the "Goddess of Liberty," fifteen feet high. The hight of the monument will be fifty feet, and the cost will be fifty thousand dollars.

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