

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 fric tion matches commercially for market without phosph Thorough ventilation is the best preventive yet discovered for terrible disease which is induced by exposure to the furn ered for the phosphorus.
- P. D., of Pa.-You will find 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 assignments; the cost is \$3.
- G. W. H., 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 be 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. Artesian wells can be made therefore only in the vicinity of higher ground. Address Prof. Henry at the Smithonian 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 weight. 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 velocity
- F. G. W., of Mass.-The Giffard's injector is manufactured by Wm. Sellers & Son, of Philadelphia, and if you will write to them they will doubtless give you all the information that you vant.
- 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. ideas 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 ntrol 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 Company (will have realized their legal tariff upon it, and any subse-quent 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 articl
- S. C. & Co., of Ohic.-The travel of piston in feet of a steam engine is twice the stroke multiplied by the revolutions; or the length of stroke multiplied by the number of single strokes. Your 18-inch cylinder with a steam pipe only 3 inches diameter, is defective. The pipe should be five inches at least, and well covered to guard against radiation. It is more probable that the valve mo tion 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
- E. W. S., of R. I.-You could not obtain a situation as ant 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 of the earth draws the heavier an down index the one one earth draws the buoyancy of a balloon consequently depends upon the specific gravity of the gas with which it is filled. The lightest gas is hydrogen; it is $14\frac{1}{2}$ 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 ny drogen. In found numbers 14 cubic feet of a sub-feet to raise 500 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 would therefore raise 82; pounds 200 feet per minute. It is possible that a steam engin raise 821/2 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 appear to 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 une politeness. When, however, you seek to correct our orthography, we have only to say that you are certainly not well informed. In our frequent use of words we are quite as likely to spell them correctly, as one whose business does not necessarily teach him either good manners or good 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 spelled 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 months, before the Letters can issue.
- J. C. T., of Minn.-We are not aware that Paine's en gine has been introduced, but you can ascertain by addressing Mr Archibald, at the British Consul's office, in this city.

Money Received.

At the Scientific American Office, on account of Patent Office business, from Wednesday, June 22, 1864, to Wednesday, June 29, 1864:-

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, \$21; 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 Ill., \$16; F. R., of N. Y., \$25; L. O. C., of Pa., \$16; A.
M. G., of N. H., \$16; D. W., of Pa., \$16; S. J. M., of Mo, \$15; H. S.,
G. Taon, \$21; W. I. of N. Y., \$26; P. B. M. of Ohio, \$15; H. B. of Tenn., \$31; W. J., of N. Y., \$26; R. B. M., of Ohio, \$16; P. H. R., of Ind., \$16; N. S. W., of N. Y., \$25; I. B., of N. Y., \$25; J. M. McI., of Mich., \$16; J. B. G., of Ky., \$40; H. U., of Conn., \$50; J. S. T., of N. Y., \$30; P. W., of Ill., \$25; F. G. A., of Mass., \$25; S. H. K., of Pa., \$25; J. G. L., of Ohio, \$17; A. W. H., of N. Y., \$25; C. L. G., of N. Y., \$100; W. C. M., of N. Y., \$20; C. C. C., of Iowa, \$41; J. H., of N. Y., \$22; L. H., of N. Y., \$30; P. C. R., of Mass., \$20; J. L., of N. Y., \$16; W. L. P., of N. Y., \$45; B. M. F., of N. Y., \$20; F. J. B. H., \$35; J. W. N., of Mass., \$44; F. C. L., of Iowa, \$25; S. & B., of Ohio,
\$24; J. E. T., of Pa., \$16; P. & K., of N. J., \$16; D. & N., of Maine,
\$25; C. A. B., of Cal., \$16; N. V., of N. J., \$16; C. W. & B., of Pa.,
\$35; C. B., of Pa , \$25; I. L., of Russia, £3; B. W., of Ill, \$25; H. \$35; C. B., of Pa, \$25; I. L., of Russia, £3; B. W., of Ill, \$25; H. C., of N. Y., \$16; R. T., of Wis, \$16; C. A. M., of Ohio, \$15; H. S., of N. Y., \$20; W. K., of N. Y., \$20; A. M. W., of Mass., \$20; T. W. C., of N. Y., \$20; W. K., of N. Y., \$20; T. V., of Cal., \$50; O. C. P., of N. Y., \$20; B. E. M., of Ill., \$20; H. J., of Mass., \$45; E. W., of N. H., \$16; R. B., of N. Y., \$22; B. E. M., of Ill., \$20; H. J., of Mass., \$45; E. W., of N. H., \$16; R. B., of N. Y., \$25; S. & H., of Ohio, \$25; J. P. (of ohio, \$31; A. & T., of Mass., \$35; H. H., of Iowa, \$25; T. L. P., of Ohio, \$25; F. G. S., of Mass., \$15; H. N., of Pa., \$20; E. M. K., of Ohio, \$25; N. S., of Mass., \$15; H. N., of Pa., \$20; E. M. K., of Ohio, \$25; N. S., of Mass., \$15; H. N., of Pa., \$20; E. M. K., of Ohio, \$25; N. S., of Mass., \$16; C. N. J., \$22; F. L., of La., \$25; E. F. O, Of Pa., \$26; E. P., of Pa., \$26; E. P., of Mass., \$25; F. G. N., of Pa., \$25; F. C. M. K., of Ohio, \$25; N. S., of Mass., \$16; E. N., of N. J., \$22; F. L., of Ja., \$22; F. L., of Ja., \$25; E. P., of Pa., \$26; E. P., of Pa., \$25; F. P., of PA., \$25; \$25; E. S., of Pa., \$16; E.IP. B., of N. Y., \$25; F. F., of Minn., \$25; D. & B., of N. Y., \$48; J. L. B., of Pa., \$15.

Persons having remitted money to this office will please to examine the above list to see that their initials appear in it and if they have not received an acknowledgment by mail, and their initials are not to be found in this list, they will please notify us immediately, stating the amountand how it was sent, whether by mail or express.

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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 experiments, similar to those by which flax is cottonized, and the result is a beautiful article, stronger than cot-



BROWN'S MACHINE FOR PACKING FLOUR.

barrel to be packed sets on the platform, F, which is raised or lowered by the lever, G; and there is an adjustable funnel, H, at the bottom of the hopper, B, over which the mouth of a bag may be fitted closely. The gate, I, closes the mouth or bottom of the hopper, so that the flour above cannot escape when the full bag or barrel is removed; and it also regulates the descent of the flour to the packers as they require it. In the model from which the engraving is taken a crank is shown on the driving shaft, but in the working machine a pulley is to be applied. The shaft which carries the packers is weighted to give the necessary pressure to enable them to perform properly, and the shaft and packers attached rise as springrel is filled. The shaft is then sustained in its place by a spring catch on the handle, I, which enables the operator to put another barrel in position and proceed as before.

This flour-packer was patented on the 29th of April, 1862, by Albert Brown, of Mifflinsville, Pa. For further information address him at that place.

Flax and Flax-cotton.

The Linum usitatissimum of botany, from which the English lint and linen are derived, is now, by the peculiar circumstances of the production and consumption of textiles, and the comparative success of mechanical invention in the direction of flax manufacture, brought very prominently to public view. Many fibrous plants are used for cordage, clothing, and other purposes; among them hemp, jute, **vari**ous tropical plants, &c. The New Zealand flax, or *Phormium tenax*, is much stronger than *Linum*, and

in its relation to the barrel or bag to be filled. The ton or flax-cotton, fine and lustrous, and apparently barrel to be packed sets on the platform, F, which is raised or lowered by the lever, G; and there is an cottonized at less expense than flax.

Mathematical Description of a Boiler Explosion.

The Journal of the Franklin Institute publishes a communication from John W. Nystrom, giving a history of the boiler explosion at Cornelius & Baker's works, from which we take this extract:—

"I shall first explain it as if I had been on the spot and seen it with my own eyes, and then give the data upon which my argument is based. The mud-drum in the northern boiler was the first that gave way and caused the explosion. It burst near the middle, about 4 inches from the center line: the numerous fragments of the mud-drum bruised and cut several holes in the shell of the tubular boiler above it, and also one hole in the south boiler. The before-calculated collective force in the boilers, is now suddenly relieved: its momentum finds the weakest part, first in the tubular boiler next to the bursted mud-drum, to be in the connections where nearly half of the strength of the shell is cut away. It blew wide open the whole length, acted uniformly on the steam-drum above, threw the latter up with a velocity of 254 feet per second, or 173 miles per hour, into the air, at an angle of 47° 30' south, by ^{16'} east, struck the cornice of the main building 60 feet 4 inches above, and 58 feet 2 inches horizontally from its home. When it struck, it was at an angle of about 20° to the building, with the gage cock or man-hole end foremost. This obstruction

11° 16', or south, by 4° west; continued to a hight of 272 feet, the vortex of the parabola. In the flight it made $1_{1_0}^{3}$ turns in the length, and arrived with a velocity of 237 feet per second, from an altitude of 51° 30', 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°. 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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