Scientific American.



G. W. J., of Miss-The non-conducting material generally used for covering steam pipes, to retain their

heat, is felted hair cloth wrapped spirally around them.

J. B., of La.—The first mention that can be found of anybody being moved by the force of steam is recorded in a work called "Spiritulia sae Pneumatica," where the invention of Hero of Alexandria, in 120, B. C., is

J. P., of Wis .- The method you describe of elevating water by means of buckets attached to an endless chain, is very old, and not natentable.

S. B., of N. H.-The difference in the temperature of water in the day and night is so small that it could not affect its weight sufficiently to account for the phenomenon of its doing more work at night than day.

G. II., of N. C.—One cubic foot of gas, such as is used for filling balloons, will elevate into the air about one ounce weight.

W. T. B., of Ill .- The plan you propose for propelling canal boats is substantially the same as that adopted on some rivers as a means of ferriage. A rope is stretched across the river, and grasped between two clamping wheels located on the boat. By turning one of the wheels with a crank, the boat is moved back and forth. Employing steam as the motorinstead of hand power would not give novelty to the scheme. A patent

B. S. O., of A human body, when it sinks in the water, is so nearly of the same specific gravity as the water, that it requires but a small disturbing force to bring it to the surface. This is the reason why cannon are fired over places where persons have been drowned, in order to produce a concussion which shall literally "shake them up."

N. C. T., of Ill.-Wilder's patent filling for safes is composed of plaster of Paris and mica. The base of most fireproof compositions used in safes is plaster of Paris. Valentine & Butler fill their safes, with a patent composition of plaster of Paris and alum combined. Their "filling" is the best known to us. Alum when heated, you are aware, throws off a vapor, and the heat taken up in producing this vapor, which is allowed to escape, is so much heat carried away from the safe.

A. C. M., of Mass.-An assignee of an invention has no right to improvements made upon the same, without the assignment contains a covenant to that effect. The addition of the words "or may be granted," after the vords "to the full end of the term for which said Lctters Patent are," would not convey this right. A patentee having assigned his right to an invention can obtain a separate patent for any improvement he may make upon it, but he cannot use any part of the inven-tion covered in the original patent without the assiguees' consent, any more than an outside party can; nor is the assignee allowed to use the improvement without the consent of its inventor.

., of N. J.—India rubber and other soft materials have been attached to the bottoms and corners of trunks and chests, for the purpose of relieving the shock and injury consequent upon these parts being brought into violent contact with other objects, and your suggestion is not therefore patentable.

L. W., of Del.—Young ladies are at all times interesting, but doubly must be the lovely fair one whom you describe as having a mustache of "dark color, soft and silky in the extreme." Your sympathy runs in the wrong direction. An appendage so graceful and dis-tingue should, by all means, be preserved and culti-vated; but perhaps your gentle friend will think differ-ently. If she will procure a pair of those delicate little tweezers that are sold in the shops, she can very readily root out the offending hairs without the least injury to her ivory skin.

L. B. P., of Ohio.—The idea of a machine for raking and binding grain from the swath is not new. But perhaps in the details of your construction some novelty exists. Working the seeding parts of a planter by the foot or by a treadle is not new

J. G. C., of Va.—The idea of employing a balloon or hydrogen gas to lift the body of a vessel above the surface of the sea, while the paddle wheels project down, and act as propellers upon the water, is very old. You are decidedly behind the times. A later and better plan is to lift the vessel so far above the earth as to get rid of the attraction of gravitation; then hold still until the earth turns, and brings the place you desire to reach immediately beneath your machine, and then descend upon the spot like a hawk. The employment of steam, hot air, electricity, paddle wheels and screws w 11 thus you perceive, be saved.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, July 31, 1858 :-

H. L. A., of Wis., \$30; E. L. L., of N. Y., \$30; P. M., of Mich., \$30; C. & B., of Ill., \$30; J. P. H., of Ill., \$25; E. L., of Conn., \$25; J. II., of N. Y., \$55; F. B., of Conn., \$25; S. S. T., of Ind., \$30; E. M., of N. Y., \$25; X. & D., of N. Y., \$60; J. H. C., of N. Y., N. Y., \$20; A. & D., of N. Y., \$90; J. H. C., of N. Y., \$155; A. F. B., of Wis., \$25; W. W. L., of Olio, \$400; R. & Bro's., of Conn., \$25; A. D. B., of N. Y., \$55; T. & B., of N. Y., \$100; W. A. H., of N. Y., \$25; T. S. B., of N. Y., \$29; J. C. DeW., of N. J., \$27; E. C., of Mass., \$50; J. B., of N. Y., \$30; C. II. R., of Me.. \$15; S. Y., of Muss., \$30; J. S., of Ohio, \$25; I. D., of Conn., \$130; D. W. T., of Ill., \$30; T. C. A., of Ohio, \$30; P. & II., of N. Y., \$25; W. C., of Mass., \$250; W. S., of Mo, \$25; A. F. & J. H. A., of Conn., \$25; J. H. T., of N. Y., \$55; W. P., of Del., \$30; T. H. K., of Ga., \$30.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, July

G. M. P., of Mass.; H. L. A., of Wis.; R. & Bro's, G. M. P., of Mass.; H. L. A., of Wis.; R. & Bro's, of Conn.; J. P. II., of Ill.; R. J. M., of N. Y.; E. L.,

of Ohio; J. M. S., of Cal.; F. B., of Conn., P. & II., of N. Y.; J. C. DeW., of N. J.; W. H. Van G., of N. J.; A. F. B., of Wis.; C. H. R., of Mc.; A. F. & J. II. A., of Conn.; W. S., of Mo.; K. & D., of N. Y.

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