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Williams, cor. of Plymouth and Jay, Brooklyn, N. $\mathbf{Y}$. For Solid Wrought-iron Beams, etc., see adver-
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the $\overline{\text { ti.un Stone Co., Boston, Mass., for circular. }}$ Hydraulic Presges and Jacks, new and eecond
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## 

N. W. will find directions for brown and A. L. B. will find a description of an artiflial ice process on p. 54, vol. 31.-W. M. B. should test
his engine with an indicator.-E. A. K. and H. T. his engine with an indicator.-E. A. K. and H. T.
M. do not send sufficient data.-F. B. will find deM. do not send sufficient data.-F. B. will find de
seriptions and illustrations of well-boring appara seriptions and illustrations of well-boring appara
tus on p. 54, vol. 33.-R. and N. T. should consul Molesworth's "Pocket Book" as to tractive powe bronze to bronze iron castings by the process given on p
283, vol. 31.-J. R. W. Will fnd a recipe for black board composition on p. 91, vol. 30.-M. L. Will find a recipe for paste for fixing labels on tin on p. 253 , 219, vol. 31. - J. W.C. will find recipes forkard soap on pp. 331, 379, vol. 31.-R. W. and P. P. S. can wa terproof canvas by following the directions on $p$.
347, vol. 31.-F. L. and $O$. E. D. will find that the 347, vol. $31 .-$ F. L. and O. E. D. will find that the
horse power of an ensine was explained on p. 33 , vol. 33.-D. L. will find a description of bisulphid
of carbon on p. 144, 283, vol. 30.-W. R. B. will find information as to the hydrogen in water on p. 81,
vol. 33.-R.D. B. can blue iron and steel by the vol. 33.-R. D. B. can blue iron
process detailed on p. 123 , vol. 31 .
(1) J. D. R. asks: What is the maximum
strain per square inch upon the drawbar of the strain per square inch upon the drawbar of the ger trains? A. It is the tractive force of the locomotive divided by the area of cross section of the drawbar. The maximum tractive force of a
locomotive is the square of the diameter of the locomotive is the square of the diameter of the
piston in inches $\times$ the length of stroke in inches $X$ square inch+the diameter of the driving wheel in inches.
(2) R. B. F. says: I have seen an engine that runs by superheated steam produced by wa-
ter falling, drop by drop, upon a white hot iron ter falling, drop by drop, upon a white hot iron
surface. After the superheated steam has been surface. After the superheated steam has been
used, it is turned into the fre and there is decomposed, and the bydrogen burned, the oxygen pro-
moting the combustion. Is superheated steam demoting the combustion. Is superheated steamde-
composed on striking an open fire? A. Yee, if composed on striking an open fire? A. Yes,
the temperature is high enough.
(3) G. C. S. asks: 1. What proportion of
gunpowder by weight should there be to the bul gunpowder by weight should there be to the bul-
let in a rite? A. The proportion varies with the let in a ritle? A. The proportion varies with the
character of the shooting. 2. How large should a which is 0.31 inch in diameter? A. Almost equa to the diameter of the breech.
(4) W. P. says: I have a house of which the lower story is of stone ( 30 inches), and the upper story of brick, located on high ground. We
had a destructive rain storm, and the rain had a destructive rain storm, and the rain
drove with great force against the north end of the house, soaking through to the paper on the in ner wall, causing the paper to mildew, and create
ing an unhealthy odor. The moisture is in the wall yet. How can I remedy it? A. The joints in flled with the mortar, and the wall itself not pro vided with strips on the interior to isolate th plastering. Get a good mason to examine the wall
closely on the exterior and point up again all closely on the exterior and point up again all
jonts that are not smooth and tight; the brick work might have two coats of paint in addition seealso that there is no means of entrance for
water at the roof cornice. On the interior, if the plastering has been applied directly to the wall, the surest remedy will be to have it reolastered upon strips nailed upon the present plastering. (5) P. J. M. asks: Do we increase the fric to be added? A. Within ordinary limits the amount of friction is independent of the surface.
(6) W. asks: Is the back reducing gear, on
common engine lathe, any addition to the power of the machine, or is it only a convenient method of using the power as taken from the motor? A
The back gear enables heavier work to be done The back gear enables heavier work to be done,
and takes more power to drive than does the direct use of a belt; but the latter runs more easily and dellvers a higher speed to the work.
(7) A. W. L. asks: Can a steam engine be
run with water that is strongly saturated with soap? A. It might be done, but it would not be
(8) J. H. R. asks: What are the diameter width and thickness of flanges, and the welght A. Diameter from 30 to 33 inches, width of tread
and flange $53 /$ inches, weight from 450 to 500 lbs .
(9) W. M. M. asks: What metals are ther in the eagle pennies manufactured in 1858 ?
(10) J. L. says: There is a dispute in regard to the power of an eight inch strokesteam
engine. Is it possible to build an engine with an 8 inch stroke that will produce 100 horse power?

Yes.
(11)
blower
(11) J. C. P. says: I am making a piston
blower of a square box $3 \times 3$ inches inside, in the piston will work, being driven by a belt wheel and pulley by hand, with a balance wheel on the crank shaft. The piston will have a 6 inch stroke. There is a valve in the bottom of cylinder with
inch opening for ingress of the air. What size inch opening for ingress of the air. What size
of pipe and valve do I want for the discharge of air into the receiver from the cylinder? It wil make about 300 revolutions per minute. A.
pipe $1 / 4$ inch in diameter will answer. 2. How man bs. pressure to the inch can I compress into the
receiver with this machine? A. Six or seven. Will it make a sufficient blast for a common blacksmith's forge? A. It will not be as efficient some other devices.
in a boiler by inserting a glass in a hole 1 to nches in diameter? A. No.
(13) J. W. asks : 1. I have a flat bottomed steamboat, 12 feet wide by 36 feet long, with a slern wheel 8 feet in diameter by 7 feet long. It
makes very good time in still water and down Can I change the wheel to advantage ould not tell you without having more data. 2 If wish to drive it by the engine at the bow, belt a shaft and bevel gear answer better than ing makes the most satisfactory connection.
(14) G. M. says: I lave a packing house. and melt the heads and scrap in an iron tank, putting them in quite fresh and clean, using live
team at about 40 lbs . pressure. The lard is of a ood white color, but has a burnt smell with it How can Itakeit away? A. Use steam of lowe can remove the smell from that already made Some of our readers, however, may be able to help you with their experience.
(15) E. R. M. asks: With magnetized iron of the distance? A. Yes.
Can it be truly said that water raised by the planes? A. Yes
Has the question of a cannon on a train, fired in n opposite direction, been disoussed in the Scie ific american? A. Yes. See p. 273, vol. 32.
(16) C. K. asks: In working a suction and orce pump, all in good order, will it force more out a nozzle on than with a 1 inch nozzle? A. No, nless the pump leaks.
(17) H. H. W. asks: Why is a thimble skein wagon more easily drawn through mud or sand than an iron axled wagon of smaller dimensions?
A. When this is the case, it must be due to differA. When this is the case, it must be due to differ-
ence of fitting. We doubt if it is universally
(18) W. P. C. asks: At what angle above thehorizon should a hose be held for the furthest orizontal play? Is there a rule for calculating play of the samestream? If a pipe is held to play ertically, and throws a stream 200 feet in that position, and is then inclined to play horizontally, how far should it throw? A. There are rules, approximately correct, to be found in any good
treatise on hydraulics. The experimental data on which these rules are founded are, however ather limited.
(19) J. F. G. asks : 1. What is the proper name fora loop in a pipe, to allow for expansion?
A, An expansion joint. 2. I have made an engine A, An expansion
of $23 / 8$ inches bore by 4 inches stroke. Can you

(20) A. W. A. \&ays: I want to run a circu rightangles to line shaft. To accomplish this I have thought of three modes. 1. By bevel gear. 2. By running a half twist belt from line to coun-
tershaft, sounterghaft running directly over line haft, , a distanaft running arrectly over hne both shafts are to be 30 inchees in diameter and of 15 inches face. 3. To turn a corner by means of inches wide) to run direct from line round loose pulleys to countershaft. Do you think either of hese plans is practicable? A. Try the seco.
plan, if the countershaft can easily be arranged. (21) H. C. D. asks : How many lbs. to the sewing machine? How larce should be the cylinder? What should be the size of the air chamber, and will a kerosene lighted wick be sufficient to expand the air to get the required pressure to run
sid machine? A. Your questions are coo indefl said machine? A. Your questions are $\mathbf{c o o}$ indef-
nite. It must be evident to you that either the pressure of air, or the size of cylinder, must be thinkthat you canget along with a kerosene lamp thinkthat you can get along with a kers.
unless it is of very unusual dimensions.
(22) W. J. says: 1. I think of making an upright boller, 13 inches in diameter and 3 feet foot long, arranged around the circumeterence of the boiler, and 58 circulating tubes 1 foot long, 1 inch diameter, dropping into the fire, screwed well into the crown sheet. The crown sheet is to be
stayed to head sheet with four 1 inch stays, $41 / 6$ nches opart and here is to be 1 inch water space around the fire stayed with 56 inch stays, 3 inches apart. Shell is to be of $\frac{3}{18}$ iron, crown and head boiler to put in a skiff 18 feet long by 4 feet 6 inchWhat presaure steam can I safely carry? A. You can carry 100 lbs . of steam. 3. What size of engine (slide valve) will it furnish with steam? A.
One 3 inches diameter by 3 inches stroke. 4. If it would drive an engine 3 inches stroke. 4iameter by 3 nches stroke, would it be better to put in two cylinders whose united area would equal the
single cylinder? A. The single engine will be best. 5. What size and pitch of wheel would you $2 \not 20$ or 3 feet.
(23) F. D. G. asks: How can I clean finger or sometime with a little tripoli or benzole.
(24) E. S. D. and others.-The zinc in the negative.
(25) C. P. E. says: I have an upright boiler wo ines in diameter by 60 inche The grate is inches in diameter. I am building an engine $5 \times 5$ inches; is boiler large enough for it? A. No.
(26) S. K. H. asks: Will a piece of bronze to the weather, stain the granite? A. Yes;
slightly.
(27) C. W. A. asks: What is the simplest
alvanometer that will determine the relative ingalvanometer that will determine the relative in
tensities of the different, galvanic elements? Takean ordinary pocketcompassand wind a hun dred feet of No. 18 insulated copper wire around
(28) E. M. B. says: I have an office telecopper wire. When first put up, the wires were run as much as possible in the air, and the bell sounded fairly; but the wires being unsightly, I took them down and ran them round on the mop board; then the bell sounded, elist faintly, then not at all. Battery is three Iéclanché cells. I put a handful of sal ammoniac in the Jar, adding water as it evaporates; the porous cell is sealed, so I
have not troubled that. What is the matter? A. Insulate your wires by fastening them to porce lain knobs. 2. I have read the article on light laing on p. 145 , vol. 31. Shall I connect my main
ning lightning conductors with my 1 inch lead water
pipe in the cellar, which is distant from the 9 inch pipe in the cellar, which is distant from the 9 inch
ron street main about 20 feet; or shall $I$ connee ironstreet main about 20 feet; or shall $I$ connect
through the roof with the feed pipe of water tank which isin the attic, and of course is a continua tion of the main feed pipe nect with both. The more earth connections you
(29) W. B. H. asks: Please give a list of the metals in the order of their ability as electric conductors. A. Silver, copper, gold, aluminum,
zinc, cadmium, platinum, cobalt, iron,steel, nickel, tin, thallium, lead, arsenic, antimony, mercury bismuth, sulphur. Of alloys, brass is between cadmium and platinum, and German silver between
tin und thallium. Graphite is between bismuth tin and thal
and sulphur.
( 30 ) G. S. says: Iam building a screw press eter which I have a worm wheel of 24 inches diameter and 2 inches pitch. The worm is 6 inches in argeter. With such a worm and wheel, how tain the load for 1 hour? A. This depends on the amount of power applied to the worm. 2.How can I calculate the power required to work such a
press? A. Consult Haswell's "Pocket Compan ion." 3. Is a cast iron table 6 inches thick, 16 inchbear 100 tuns in the middle? A. Nut with safety.
(31) E. L. C. says: 1. I am building an el liptic spur gear wheel axis is 14 inches, conjugate axis 8 inch es. The wheel has 12 teeth. I soon found that the string trammels and compasses would not do for the curve, being too flat, as the pitch curves must touch on the line of centers throughout the revc-
lution, the distance between centers being 11 inch es. A. Consult Camus "On the Teeth of Wheels." epicycloidal teeth.
(32) D. F. C. asks: 1. What is the proper way to set a thread tool to cut a gas pipe tap? A.
By the taper. 2 . If I use a lathe with a taper attachment, should the tool be set by the taper or by the face plate? A. By the taper. 3. Suppose use a common lathe without a $a$ of the tap or by should the tool be set by the
the taper? A. By the taper.
(33) H. H. C. asks: Will a horizontal cop supply a cylinder $11 / 2 \times 11 / 6$ inches, with sufficien steam to drive a boat $81 / 2$ feet long at 4 miles an hour? A. No.
(34) M. R. says: A friend holds that a crank pin revolves on its axis when the engive is in
motion, inasmuch as it is impossible for a body to motion, inasmuch as it is impossible for a body to present the same side first up and then down with out turning on its axis. Will you give an explana might find to mer cussion. It is a very easy thing, however, to try the experiment, attaching a pointer to some par of the crank pin, if such a demonstration is re quired to convince any one.
(35) S. G. W. W.-It is best to have the well to a steam engine close quickly, but it is well to have the ports closed when the pist.
completed $1 / 2$ of the stroke at the farthes.
(36) E. H. asks: 1. How can I prevent fish oil from eongealing in cold weather? A. The bes oped in some non-conducting substance, such as straw, sawdust, woolen fabrics, etc. 2. By what process can I transform it into paint oil? A. If you Will send us a sample of the oil you mention, we
shall be betterable to answer your question. You shall be better able to an
do not state the variety.
(37) E. E. K. says: I have a well of water which is perfectly clear and has a very slight min-
ral taste. It is extremely hard, and rusts oft the iron hoops on well buckets hara, arprial boiled in an iron tea kettle, it leaves a thick rusty coating. It is found in a stratum of hard blue
sandstone. What kind of water is it, and is it like ly to be wholeso water in question, marked plainly with your name and address, and we will test it for you
(38) J. H. N. asks: 1. How is nitroglycerin exploded? A. It is exploded by means of electric fusesand by fulminates. 2. Is it sure to explode if
struck a heavy blow? A. Yes. 3. How are the struck a heavy blow? A. Yes. 3. How are the
following exploded: Mercury fulminate, pyroxyfollowing exploded : Mercury fulminate, pyroxy
lin, picric acid, potassium picrate, barium picrate lin, picric acid, potassium picrate, barium picrate
strontium picrate, lead picrate? A. All these are
(39) H. A. H. asks: 1. If the conducting wer of platinum is 100 , what is the relative conducting power of an ordinary carbon? A. 0.0246 ,
2. In making a silver solution by battery process, a spongy substance was found at the cathode What is its chemical composition, and how can avoid its formation? A. Quantity of current too
small for the solution. Increase the surface of the small for
zince.
(4)) A. D. B. asks: How can I prepare sperm oil so as to prevent its becoming gummy
and sticky when used on light machinery? A. It may be purified by agitating 100 parts oil with 4
parts chloride of lime and 12 water; a small quantity of decoction of oak bark is afterwards added co remove all traces of gelatinous matter which it etains, and the mixture is left to settle. The lear of is afterwards abiche with a small pordence, and washed to remove adhering sulphuric acid.
(41) W. W. B. asks: 1. How can I renorate Phiadelphia pressed brick front, which has become soiled with the weather : A. Very dilute
sulphuric acid and a stiff brush aresometfoesused or this purpose. 2. I tried to make the cement which you recommend as waterprooo for repairing glass, namely, white shellac dissolved in $1 / 6$ its How can I do it? A. Melt them together by heat.
(42) J. M. McC. asks: How can I make green, and black? A. The various colored inks in use can be made as follows : Violetink : 8 partslogwood and 64 parts water; boil down to one half, atrain, and add 1 part of chluride of tin. Blue ink: rriturate best Prussian blue, 6 parts, with solution of oxalic acid in 6 parts water, and, towards the nd of one quarter of an hour or so, add gradualy gum arabic $1 y_{2}$ parts, white sugar 1 part. Green art of gambere Black: Fine glue 2 ozs , water 12 ozs., ivory black 1 oz . Stir well.
(43) J. C. T. asks: How can I melt old rubber car sprin
of carbon.
(44) G. W.L. asks : What are the igniting or explosive parts of torpedoes made of? A. They mised in with a few pebbles, and, in some casea, a little gunpowder.
(45) J. M. says: I put a coat of boiled linseed oil on some woodwork wanting a hard surface, but it will not get hard. How can I remedy it? A. If the oil is properly thinned with spirits of turpentine, you should have no ditficulty with it. The oil was probably applied while in too vis-
(4G) J H E sass: 1
(46) J. H. E. says: 1 . We received some sheet zinc some time since, that has large white
spots on it. Is there anything that can be used to clean the zinc? A. Try a little oxalic acid or oxychluride of zinc. If these do not answer, try a little very dilute sulphuric acid. 2. Is there anything used in soldering tin instead of acid, that will not color the tin as acid does? A. A strong solution of oxychloride of zinc is used for this
(47) W. K. J. asks: How can I harden paraffin sufficiently to enable me to turn it in a lathe? A. We know of no satisfactory method of accomplishing this.
(48) H. E. E. says: 1. In the case of the prisoners who got away from the working gang,
and took charge of a passing freight train, comand took charge of a passing freight train, com-
pelling the enginear to pet ofr, how io it that the A. If the pused the bursting of the cylinder soon flled the boiler, and then the water was carried over into the cylinders, flling the steam pipe and
steam chest, so that either the engine must stop or the cylinder be broken to allow it to escape.
(49) J. M. R. asks: How can I preserve cel deep that the frost will not touch it, and cover ith straw
(50) C. M. \& S. say: If there is one pump
with piston and suction pipe having the same with piston and suction pipe having the same
area, say 4 square inches each, piston to be lifted 10 feet per second, and another pump, suction pipe same area as above, 4 square inches, piston
40 square inchesmoving 1 foot high per second. there being the same space to be filled ( 480 square inches) in each pump in the same time, one piston noving 10timbs faster thafe the other: What dif ference would there be in the required driving orce? A. Disregarding the friction of the piston and stuffing boxes, the two pumps would require milar amounts of power for their operations.
(51) O'B. \& D. say: We would like you to tell us what size of cylinder of engine will be reyellow pine flooring, and to run a siding saw to spitt 6,000 feet of 1 inch lumber 6 inches wide into siding, per day of of exerting from 12 to 15 effec tive horse power.
Minerals, etc.-Specimens have been received from the following correspondents,and examined, with the results stated
G. M. A.-The globular formation is marcasite white iron pyrites. The other mineral contain silica, alumina, potassa, soda, magnesia, iron, car
bon, and water. We judge it to be a variety of bon, and water. We fudge it to be a variety of
nlate. No silver was found in it. Use the cupel to determine the amount of silver in an ore.-A. D M.-Your coal with spots on it gave none of the indications of paraffin.-s.s.-It is most probably a medicinal preparation. It is principally a compound of zinc. Consult the Dispensatory as to the application and medtcal uses of the zinc salts.- $\mathbf{R}$. lopedia- B P-N. 1 is colored by oxide of iron. No. 2 is carbongte of ime and magnesia.-W. H. D.-They are aragonite (carbonate of lime). The primary form of orystallization of carbonate of lime is the rhombohedron: In these specimens the crystalsare six-sided prisme, and consequently dimorphous.
M. \& $O$. say: We have been heating a die
hich was faced with steel $1 / 6$ inch thick, on iron.

The steel became of a brightred, and the iron wa the dif ectls black, forming a distinct line around the die at point of welding. Can you give us a
reason for the same?-G. G. F. asks: What will remove the gloss that black cloth is subject to by netting to C. C.ass : How can I prepare cothon when exposed to the weather ?-L. B. H. asks: Is it possible to make brook trout lay their spawn
when conflned in a well, if they have a suitable gravel bed ?-E. L. P. asks: How are the pivot jewels of watch arbors applied and set?

## COMMUNICATIONB RECEIVED.

The Editor of the SCIENTIFIC AmERICAN ac riginal papers and contributions upon the follow ng subjects
On the Potato Bug. By P. Y.
On Cider. By A. P.
On Cider. By A. P.
On the Keely Motor. By S. B.
On the Origin of Life. By J.B. P
ater
lsoinquiries and answers from the following :

## w. A. S.-J. H.-C. H. P.-O. P. S.-J. D. B.- T. N. M. - S. -o. B.-W. A. C. - M. N. - A. B. C.- A. T. W.-J.

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Correspondents whose inquirles fall to appear should repeat them. If not then published, they declines the that, for good reasons, ite shitor always be given.
Enquiries relating to patents, or to the patentability of inventions, assignments, etc., will not be
published here. All such questions, when initials published here. All such questions, when initials
only are given, are thrown into the waste basket, as it would fill half of our paper to print them all. but we generally take pleasure in answering briefly by mail, if the writer's address is given. Hundreds of inquirles analogous to the following are sent: "Who makes hand organs? Whose is the best boller incrustation preventive? Who Who sells stills, suitable for distilling oil of sassa fras? Who makes water motors? Who buss sumac for tanning and dyeing? Who sells iodat of calcium? Who sells nickel plates and salts? Who sells spectroscopes? Who sells stoncilled de sigos for frescoing? Who sells match-making machinery? Who publishes a book on fruit culture? Who sells hand pumps? Who sells micain plates? Who sells boilers made of corrngated iron? Who sells bo All such personal inquirles are printed, as will be observed, in the column of "Business and Person al," which is specially set apart for that purpose subject to the charge mentioned at the head o that column. Almost any desired information can n this way be expeditiously obtalned.

OFFICIAL.
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Granted in the Week ending July 13, 1875.

## AND EACH BKARING THAT DATE.

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DESIGNS PATENTED.
8,476 to 8,480.-Carpers.-J. Webster, Phladelpha, Pa.
8,481.-Lasp Prdegtale.-N.Bradiey, West Meriden,Ct.




SCHEDULE OF PATENT FEBE.

CANADIAN PATENTS.

## Libt of Patrants Grasted in Canada,

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### 4.956.-J. Collins, Guelph, Ont. Feed cutter. July 8,

 1875. $4,957$. J. P. Connell, Kensington, Conn., U. S. Door bell. July 8,1875 .4, 多.-D. Whiteside, Toronto, Ont. Carpet cleaning
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4,960 -T. S. Church et al., Boston, Mae ing furniture, etc. July 8 , 1875. Maes., U. S. Cleans. ng furniture, etc. July $8,1875$.
4,961.- J. M. Gill, Brockville, Ont. 4,961.-J. M.
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4,96s.- J. C. Chase, Rutland, Ohto, U. S. Washing ma 4,964.-Phebe Edmonds, Rochelle, Ill., U. s. Churn July 9, 1875.
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4,965.-J. Fillon, St. Eustache. P. Q. Stumping ma-
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4.967.-R. C. Harris, Dalhouste, N. B. Snow excavator.
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4. 968 -C. D.
4.988.-C. D. Van Allan, West Farnham, P. Q. Churn
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4,969.-A. L. Blackman, Nashville, Tenn., U. S. Whee machine. July 14, 1875.
4,970-A. Davis. Belleville, Ont. Lubricating locomotive cyllnders. July 14, 1875 .
4,971.-M. Hubbell, Mount Kisco, N. Y., U. S. Horsc
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4,972.-W. B. Wright, Toronto, Ont. Barber's chair. July 14, 1875.
4,973.- P. Bake
4,973-P. Baker. Lockpor
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apt.-G. Henry, Lennoxville, P. Q. Regulator for feed
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4,975.-E. Fuller, Caledon, Ont. Bridle. July
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4,976.-M. Fox,
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4,977-J. E. Finley, Memphis, Tenn., C. S. Hard corn
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4,978.-C. H. Orcutt. Leominster, Mass., U. S. Cutting 4,978.-C. H. Orcutt. Leominster, Ma
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4.979.-C. Robinson, Eau Claire, W18.,
4.979.-C. Roblnson, Eau Claire, W1s., U. s. Trace fast-
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4,980.-J. W. Beatev, Brooklyn. N. Y., U. S. Mumin-
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4.981.-C. Russ, Beamsvile, Ont. Stop motion for harating gas. July 14, 1875 .
, 9 . 81. C. Russ, Beamville, Ont. Stop motion for har-
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