

**A RESIDENCE AT PORTCHESTER, N. Y.**

Our engraving illustrates an attractive country house erected for Douglas Sloane, Esq., at Portchester, N. Y. Dimensions: Front, 47 feet; side, 43 feet 6 inches, not including piazza. Height of ceilings: cellar, 8 feet; first story, 10 feet; second story, 9 feet 6 inches. First story to tower and chimney place is built with stone. The first story is covered with clapboarding, painted dark olive green; the second story shingled, painted tile red. Roof shingled and painted red. The hall (12 feet wide) is finished in white and gold, and it contains an elegant staircase, same finish. The drawing room is finished in the "Renaissance" style, provided with a large open fireplace, with hearth and facings laid with white tiles, an elegant carved mantel, three windows at side of fireplace, with transoms, glazed with cathedral glass. The library is trimmed with cherry, dining room oak. The buffet in dining room is a pretty feature, with doors glazed with beveled plate glass. The kitchen and butler's pantry are wainscoted and trimmed with whitewood, finished in the natural. The second floor contains four bed rooms, dressing room, and bath room, the latter wainscoted with oak and fitted up complete. Four bed rooms, billiard room, and bath room in attic. A cemented cellar under whole of

their eyes were cormorants, or blood suckers, that the community would be well rid of, and now that it has become plainly apparent that something is the matter with the American farmer, he is inclined to lay it partly to patents and inventors.

A convention of farmers recently held in the West demanded that the rights of patentees in new inventions should be limited, and the time of their exclusive privilege shortened. There is among other classes of people, also, a disposition to attribute many of the real and imaginary evils which afflict us to the same cause, but that things would be helped by a curtailment of the present rights of inventors and patentees we cannot believe.

It is undoubtedly true that patents are in many instances made use of as a help in extorting money from the public, for which no fair return is made, but it by no means follows that relief would be obtained by striking at inventors. Plenty of the most oppressive monopolies with which we are afflicted are not founded upon patents at all, but would go right on, and flourish, were all patents abolished. With the facilities for forming monopolies which seem to be furnished by our social organization, it is difficult to mention any features of that organization which may not be made

him. He will not pay to the inventor and manufacturer of the machine all the advantage which he gains by its use, and it is plain that he would not do so, even if there were but one manufacturer of such machines, and therefore no competition, because, rather than do this, he will continue to do his harvesting in the old way, and will do so until the price at which the machine is offered enables him to profit by its purchase. The same principle will be found to apply to every patented invention. No patent gives to its holder a monopoly of any natural substance or product, nor of any opportunity for the application of wealth-producing labor which existed before the patent was granted. It gives a monopoly of that only which before was not in existence, and which men not only can, but will do without, unless they can obtain it by a payment to the inventor or his assigns of something less than the advantage to be gained by its use.

It must be plain, therefore, that for the privileges granted to an inventor by our patent laws, he must return more than a full equivalent to the community in every case except where his invention passes into the hands of a company powerful enough to monopolize its advantages, in which case the thing to contend against is the condition which favors the formation of



RESIDENCE OF MR. DOUGLAS SLOANE, AT PORTCHESTER, N. Y.

house, and it contains a laundry. The house is provided with furnace, electric bells, and speaking tubes. The cost was \$11,500. Lamb & Rich, New York, architects. Our engraving was made direct from a photograph of the house taken especially for the February, 1890, ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS EDITION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, which number also contains the plan views.

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**Patents and Monopolies.**

There is one great American industry which, though it was in a flourishing condition a few years ago, seems to have declined, until we hear comparatively little of it in these days. This industry had no particular location, but flourished in all parts of the country, and was carried on by smooth-tongued individuals, who drove about among the farmers, and swindled them in various and ingenious ways, too numerous to mention. In many of the tricks by which this was done, patented machinery of various kinds played an important part, though the facility with which the shekels of the guileless agriculturist were obtained by tricks involving the pretended purchase of chickens and similar things showed that machinery or patents were not considered by the operators to be a necessary feature of the business. Nevertheless, patent rights figured in these transactions sufficiently to give many of the farmers the idea that the whole patent business was nothing more nor less than a gigantic scheme to enable sharpers to swindle them. Inventors became in

a means for increasing the power of monopoly. The greatest monopolies have their origin, not in the lack of legislation to protect the people, but in legislation which is intended to and does actually give an advantage to one citizen or class of citizens over others. Let the farmers and others who complain of the oppression caused by patent rights look about them, and see who it is that has all the good things of this life, without performing the least service of any kind in return therefor. When they have found these persons, and noted the basis upon which their privilege rests, there may be less disposition to complain of the comparatively small amounts made out of patented inventions. For it is always to be remembered that the granting of a patent gives a monopoly of the one thing patented only, and that thing is a something which the world up to the time of the granting of the patent has been getting along without, and not only can, but will continue to get along without, unless terms can be made with the inventor which are mutually advantageous. The patenting of the reaping machine did not destroy the cradle nor render it any less effective as a harvesting implement. Any farmer who chose could continue to cradle his wheat, and would actually do so, unless he could obtain a reaping machine upon such terms as made it advantageous to him. And any farmer who chooses can hire men to bind his wheat instead of using a self-binding reaper, and every one of them will do it unless he can obtain the self-binding machine upon terms which are advantageous to

such monopolies, not the inventor. In fact, it has been shown in numerous instances that new inventions constantly coming into use, and which it is fair to assume are stimulated by the security offered by the patent office, are the most effective check upon monopolistic operations, and gave the best means of successful competition with them.—*American Machinist.*

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**The Deadly Tape Worm.**

More defalcations, more failures, more banks burst wide open, more cashiers and trusted managers gone to parts known but non-extraditing. What's the matter? Tape worm, that's just what it is! That narrow strip of paper that endlessly uncoils and glides out from under the ticker! Sooner or later it fetches them all. If we had a controlling or influential interest in an insurance company, and any one connected with it and having access to its cash drawer or its bank account or its convertible securities should be found hanging over one of these clicking devices of the devil, listening to its lies about fortunes made in a day, that fellow, whether he was president or errand boy, should be bounced! Nobody who is fed upon by this deadly parasite, the tape worm of the stock indicator, ought for a single day to be suffered to hold a place as custodian of other people's money.—*Insurance.*

It is stated that one grain of pilocarpine in a half ounce of vaseline applied to the scalp will prevent baldness.—*Gaillard's Medical Journal.*