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ESTABLISHED 1845.

## MUNN \& CO.. Editors and Proprietors

 published weekly at No. 361 bROADVAY, NEW YORK. o. D. Muñ.A. E. BEACH.
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edition at a very moderate cost.)


NEW YORK. SATURDAY, JANUARY $26,1895$.


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SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT
No. 995

## For the Week Ending January 26, 1895

 Price 10 cents. For sale by all nemsdealersI. BIBLIOGRAPHY-The Choice of Books. The present aspect of










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## american firearms in germany.

The German govermment is celebrated for its care of its people. Its laws are enacted and applied to the conservation of the health and lives of the populace, whether threatened by impure foods or other causes. Sometimes the German laws affect the importation of American goods. The German inspection of the smaller class of firearms has operated to completely prevent the sale of American guns.
The German laws provide for the proving by actual firing test of all firearms exposed for sale in that country. The law passed in 1891 states that the barrels and locksmust be tested in official testing establish ments, and if approved inust be stamped. The law describes the testing, which, according to circum stances, consists in a single or a double shooting trial Any parts of the piece which fail to stand the trial are destroyed by being sawed into or by being broken up
The law admits as valid the proof marks of the Bel gian government "proof house," and also the proof marks of the Gun Makers' Company, of London, and of the Biruinghaul "proof house." The effect is that American guns are practically excluded from the Ger man market. To secure admission the trade should arrange for the establishment of a proof house whose mark or stamp shorild be acceptable to the German government. As it now stands, all American guns have to be subjected to trial in Germany, and the ex pense has proved to be prohibitive. Since the accept ance of the English and Belgian proof marks, the busi ness in American guns has come to a standstill. There is an excellent opportunity for the gun trade of this country to take some action which will open for effect upon the home product if action were taken in the direction of proving arms for our domestic trade
the statutes of limitations in patent suits.
To the doctrine of diligence in prosecuting cases within the Patent Office is now superadded by a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court an affir mation of the need of diligence in suing for damages for infringement. It is held that the statutes of limitation of the different States apply in the defense of actions at law for damages for infringement of pat ents. The decision, dated January 7, 1895, was de livered by Mr. Justice Brown. The case is entitled Campbell v. City of Haverhill.

The action was brought to recover damages for infringement of the clains of a patent, which infringe ments were committed between October 10, 1877, and December 20, 1880, and was begun more than six years after the last date of infringement. It was an action at law, brought in the United States Circuit Court in the district of Massachussets. The Massachusetts laws declare that a limitation of six years applies to al actions of tort-that such actions must be begun within six years of the time vhen the acts were committed. The Circuit Court decided that the statute of limita tions applied to this case. The Supreme Court up holds the Circuit Court.
The United States Revised Statutes, section 721, declare that "the laws of the several States, except, etc., . . . shall be regarded as rules of decision in trials at common law, in the courts of the United iStates, in cases where they apply." This section has tation of different states. The question then came up as to whether this section would apply in cases purely within the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, such as a patent case, based entirely on the United States statutes. In the words of the decision it is ex pressed thus: "It may be there is any sound distinction in principle between cases where the jurisdiction is concurrent and those where it is exclusive in the Federal courts. The sec tion itself neither contains nor suggests such a distinc tion.
The court holds that an action for infringement of a patent should involve no privileges denied to the plaintiff side in other actions. It holds that it would be an anomaly to establish a class of actions subject to no statute of limitations. If this were the law, users of patented inventions, perhaps innocent of any $\mid$ wrong intention, might be "fretted" by actions brought against them after all their witnesses are dead.

The court, therefore, finds that practical considerations are favored by their decision that the statute of limitations does apply, and a quantity of decisions are quoted to illustrate the subjection of rights created by Congress to various laws of individual States.
It may very pertinently be asked why this point was not settled long ago, for it has never been presented directly to the Supreme Court until now. There were two cases found bearing directly on it, but they were Circuit Court cases and were decided in exactly opposite ways. The reason why the Supreme Court has
never decided the question until now lies in the fact that the majority of patent cases are brought for present infringement of a live patent and ask for an injunction and an accounting. Proverbially, there is
object principally sought. But in the case just spoken of, the patent had expired and damages were sought or infringements committed during its life. Such actions are generally regarded as of little value to any except the lawyers and masters or referees, and hence are seldom brought.

## The Telautograph in Earope

From private advices received in Chicago, the West ern Electrician learns that the long-expected test of Gray's telautograph over the long-distance telephone ne between Paris and London came off on the night of December 15, and resulted in a great success. The line is under the control of the French and English overnments, and as no newspaper men were present, no publicity has heretofore been given to this interest ing and important event.
Some delay at the outset was caused by a broken wire at the Paris end, but after this was remedied the telautograph representatives wrote back and forth fo an hour and a half without any trouble. The French overnment was represented by three engineers, who vere delighted with the result. The distance ove which the writing was electrically reproduced was $312 \frac{1}{2}$ wiles, and all agreed that it was a wonderful spectacle to watch in Paris the instantaneous reproduction of he movements of a pen in the hands of a man writing in London.
Of the $3121 / 2$ miles of line, 23 miles is submarine cable and $51 / 2$ miles consists of buried conductors at Paris, All of the English land line is overhead. Current was upplied, at the London end, by a battery of bichro mate cells, two rows in parallel, the voltage being 57 while at Paris there were storage batteries and Callaud cells, the latter being arranged four rows in parallel, the potential being 63 volts. The resistance of the cir cuit was 716 ohms and the capacity was 11 microfarads. he platen resistance at each end was 550 ohms. The difference in voltage at the ends of the line was mere ly an incident due to convenient arrangement of the batteries. No change from ordinary conditions wa made in the machines or adjustments, except in the Morse relays.
The actual counted speed of transmission was 18 words in 36 seconds at one time and 22 words in 40 seconds at another, the average number of letters in each word being five. The writing was perfectly legible, but somewhat ragged at very high speed.
The French minister of posts and telegraphs, with he officers of his staff, visited the laboratory at Pari and inspected the machines, appearing to be much interested. One of the department engineers will nake an official report of the test to the governmen $f$ France.
The telautograph was exhibited and explained at a pecial meeting of the Societe Internationale des Electriciens in Paris on December 18. M. J. Voisenat, a telegraph engineer, delivered the lecture, which was illustrated by elaborate diagrams and by the actua operation of a set of the machines. About 300 persons were present and all were greally interested and eager to obtain samples of the electrically transmitted writing. At the conclusion of the lecture A. Postel Vinay, the president of the society, spoke in terms o warm praise of Dr. Elisha Gray and his wonderful in ention.
Mr. Cushing, in a recent letter, makes amusing alluion to the difficulties experienced by the Frenchmen in pronouncing American names. Dr. Gray is known as Eleezi- - -r-r-r-ay and Mr. Cushing has become Mon sieur Coosteen.

## Military Science at Yale University

The Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University ffers this year two interesting courses of instruction in "Military Science and Tactics" and in "Military Engineering." The first course is obligatnry upon the whole senior class in all departments. The study in both courses will be carried on for the most part by ectures, though practical instruction in drill will be given in the School of the Soldier and School of the Company, if a number of students desire it. The names f the three most distinguished students in this department are sent to the adjutant-general of the army and are published in the Army Register, and also are sent to the adjutant-general of the State to which the student belongs. The object of the instruction of both these courses of study, it is stated, is to disseminate military information and to awaken interest in the application of arts of peace to those of possible war. The courses propose to take up and discuss such topics as military economy, the American military problem, modern war on field and map, statistics and ogistics, strategy and campaigning, the use of artil lery and infantry, the minor tactics of war and many other similar problems. And in the course on military engineering lectures will be delivered on such topics as ystems of fortifications, sea coast defenses, hasty in trenchment, military bridges, ballasting machines, modern ordnance, military electric installation, etc. These courses will terminate with examinations, and a pecial military certificate will be awarded by the reg ular army officer in charge of the department.

