

Correspondence.

31 CITY HALL PLACE, N. Y.,
December 30, 1853. }

JOHN BULLOCK, Esq.,

Editor of the American Artisan.

DEAR SIR: I respectfully request your attention to my newly-invented Stationary Fire Engine, which I now bring forward for the consideration of the public, and more particularly of those gentlemen immediately interested as shareholders and directors of Fire Insurance companies in the United States. From statements respecting the various fires occurring year after year, the losses which have annually fallen on the Insurance companies, taken at a low figure, amount to \$5,000,000. This does not include the property destroyed over the amount of policies, which is estimated at two-thirds of said amount, and then another two-thirds is estimated for property on which there was no insurance, the principal part of which falls on that part of the community least able to bear it, namely—the Mechanical and Working classes.

It seems to me strange, as it must to every intelligent and thinking mind, that no effort has been made to improve on the present method of the Fire Department, and place more power at their command, to enable them to lessen, if not altogether remove, the present loss of life and property. This I now propose to do by introducing my Patent Stationary Engine, which will be attached to the Fire Department, as well as at the command of every house-holder or tenant, so that it can be put in operation at any time, by either fireman, policeman, house-holder or tenant, in five minutes after a fire occurs, and thus save the fearful loss of life and the enormous sum of \$11,666,666 annually.

It should and must be felt as a reproach on the ingenuity and well-known talent of the inventive genius of our citizens, that some contrivance of this nature has not been brought out long since. It is to be hoped that the period of those fearful conflagrations, such as have lately occurred, at least so far as our city is concerned, is near at hand.

In so immediate a connection with my Patent Stationary Fire Engine, I do not forget that a highly respected and deservedly honored class of our citizens, whose great self-sacrificing philanthropy have made their names known through all Europe, "the Firemen of the City of New York;" and trust that when my Patent Stationary Engine is in operation, their lives will be less in danger of destruction than at present, and that it will add to their usefulness in saving property.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STATIONARY FIRE ENGINE.

Situation.—It is to be placed in the lower basement, or under the yard, or flag-way, or the house, sufficiently low as not to interfere with the dwelling department; each engine to have a connecting pipe from the flag-way to the main pipe of the street, which will conduct the water from the main pipe to the water wheel which works the engine. Each engine will protect forty houses, and should be placed alternately on either side of the street, so that eighty houses will be immediately under protection. The supply-pipe is carried to the overshoot water wheel, which has on its periphery close curved buckets, so constructed as to give 7-10 the force of the water at a headway of six feet; but when supplied by the Croton, or by any water whose supply is unlimited, the water power will then be in proportion to the diameter of the feed-pipe. This engine does not require more supply of water than what escapes through the hose, as the power is increased as one to ten, and requires no person to work it, the motive power being supplied by the power of the pipe and vein of water set on; consequently the inconvenience resulting from overcharging the water-chest, is completely removed, so that the suction-pipe from the water-chest will be always equal to its demand for the force pumps, but no more required to force into the ejecting hose, attached at the foot-walk at any moment. This hose being two and a half inches in diameter, with nozzle of one and a quarter inch, will be capable of throwing a jet of water a distance of one hundred and fifty feet from the nozzle, at the rate of two hundred gallons per minute. The simplicity and practical mechanical power acquired by its arrangement, gives it a preference over any other thing of the kind that has been invented.

It will be the interest of every member of the community, and more particularly our city government, in looking after the welfare of the citizens in general, to have this Patent Stationary Engine tested and its merits proved before another year passes over our heads, with probably similar disasters as the one just closed. All enquiries respecting it, or parties wishing to purchase State rights, will please address to or apply at the office of the *American Artisan*, 208 Broadway, or at 31 City Hall Place, to

Yours, respectfully,

SAMUEL NOWLEN