

ALL ABOUT A PATENT.

A Legal Contest Between the Dean and the Holly Systems of Water Works.

The case of Holly against Union City, which was argued in the United States circuit court Saturday, created some interest in legal circles, not more from the interest than from the high standing of the counsel employed. The Holly water works company brought suit against Union City for an infringement of the Holly water works patent, and directly assailed the validity of the patent granted the Dean Brothers, of this city. Heretofore the Holly has been the leading system of water works, but if the Dean patent should be declared valid a dangerous rival would at once gain a footing in the field. On the other hand if the Dean patent should be declared invalid the makers and users would be liable in damages. For the Holly company appeared Messrs. George Harding of New York and John F. Hatch of Cincinnati, who rank among the leading patent lawyers of the world. L. L. Leggit, formerly commissioner of patents, and M. D. Leggit, both of Cleveland, appeared for the defense. These gentlemen are equally well known to the profession.

The points in controversy were of such a nature as only to be properly understood by men who had made a study of mechanics, and the law of the case required the nicest distinctions. A number of legal gentlemen of the city were attracted to the court room by the display of legal and technical knowledge. The arguments were concluded at a late hour Saturday evening, and the distinguished gentlemen employed in the case left the city yesterday.