



# A T R E A T I S E

ON THE

LAW AND PRACTICE

RELATING TO

LETTERS PATENT FOR INVENTIONS.

BY

JOHN PAXTON NORMAN, ESQ., M.A.

OF THE INNER TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

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The end of our foundation is the enlarging of the bounds of human empire to the effecting of all things possible."—LORD BACON, *New Atlantis*.

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ROBERT MONSEY BARON CRANWORTH,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF GREAT BRITAIN, ETC. ETC.

ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS OF PATENTS FOR INVENTIONS,

THIS LITTLE WORK

IS

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE great system of rewards to inventors, popularly known as the Law of Patents, was originally instituted in England. It has been adopted into the legislation of almost all civilized countries.

Society, grateful to him who adds to its stock of practical knowledge, confers on him a reward which is measured by the substantial benefit it receives, by allowing him for a limited time the sole right to exercise the art he has taught it. It secures to the man of genius a share of the benefits derived from his conquest in the world of art,—conquests made not for himself alone, but for all mankind.

In a long course of years many abuses had grown up, which recent legislation has removed. The prizes held out have been brought more within the reach of the poorer class of inventors.

One cannot but be sanguine in hoping that the community is likely to derive great benefit from the new objects and motives presented to the minds of our artisans. A sense of its tangible, intelligible advantages will urge them to the education of themselves and their children. They will feel and understand that he who brings to the performance of his work an informed mind and an observant spirit, who strives earnestly to study and comprehend the principles as well as the details of the operations which are his daily task, will assuredly be rewarded. The triumphs of Watt and Arkwright will teach them that there is no elevation to which the humblest man of genius may not aspire, if to activity and intelligence he joins prudence and good judgment. Let it not be urged that many fail;—a system of promotion is not bad because honours cannot fall to the lot of every meritorious soldier in our industrial army.

Great as has been the advance made in science and art within the present century, yet greater advancement of the moral and material interests of mankind may be looked for when the energies of a fresh and more numerous class of eminently practical thinkers shall have been fully developed and enlisted in the great cause of human progress.

# CONTENTS.

---

The pages referred to are those within brackets. [     ].

## CHAPTER I.

The nature of letters patent for an invention . . . . . Page 1

## CHAPTER II.

The subject-matter.—A manufacture . . . . . 7

## CHAPTER III.

The manufacture must be new, that is, substantially distinct from existing and known manufactures . . . . . 13

## CHAPTER IV.

The utility of the invention . . . . . 23

## CHAPTER V.

What is prior user . . . . . 26

## CHAPTER VI.

Imported inventions . . . . . 37

## CHAPTER VII.

Prior publication . . . . . 40

## CHAPTER VIII.

To whom a patent may be granted—the first inventor . . . . . 44

## CHAPTER IX.

The Commissioners of Patents and their offices . . . . .	49
--	----

## CHAPTER X.

Mode of proceeding to obtain letters patent . . . . .	51
SECT. 1.—Petition and declaration . . . . .	51
SECT. 2.—Provisional protection . . . . .	52
SECT. 3.—Protection by deposit of complete specification . . . . .	55
SECT. 4.—Reference to law officer, notice of objections, hearing &c. . . . .	57
SECT. 5.—Warrant for sealing patent . . . . .	60
SECT. 6.—Opposition at Great Seal, &c. . . . .	61
SECT. 7.—The letters patent . . . . .	64
Scotland . . . . .	65
Ireland . . . . .	66
The colonies . . . . .	66
SECT. 8.—Miscellaneous provisions, time for sealing, antedating patent, death of applicant, &c. . . . .	67

## CHAPTER XI.

Title of Patent . . . . .	70
---------------------------	----

## CHAPTER XII.

Specification . . . . .	74
SECT. 1.—General rules, the language and construction of . . . . .	74
SECT. 2.—The claim . . . . .	79
SECT. 3.—The description of the manner of performance . . . . .	86
SECT. 4.—Filing enrolment . . . . .	96

## CHAPTER XIII.

Disclaimer and amendment . . . . .	99
SECT. 1.—By statute, mode of entering, &c. . . . .	99
SECT. 2.—Effect of disclaimer or amendment by statute . . . . .	104
SECT. 3.—Amendment at common law . . . . .	107

## CHAPTER XIV.

Confirmation and extension . . . . .	109
SECT. 1.—Confirmation under the statute . . . . .	109
SECT. 2.—Confirmation by Act of Parliament . . . . .	112
SECT. 3.—Extension of term . . . . .	113
SECT. 4.—Practice on hearing before the judicial Committee of the Privy Council . . . . .	124

CHAPTER XV.

The rights conferred by letters patent—infringement . . . . .	127
SECT. 1. What acts are an infringement . . . . .	127
SECT. 2.—What imitation or resemblance is an infringement . . . . .	133

CHAPTER XVI.

Property in patents, assignments, licenses . . . . .	145
--	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

Evidence, registers, searches, and inspections . . . . .	152
--	-----

CHAPTER XVIII.

Remedies of patentee, by action for infringements . . . . .	159
SECT. 1.—Nature of remedy . . . . .	159
SECT. 2.—Parties, pleadings, &c. . . . .	162
SECT. 3.—Particulars of objections . . . . .	169
SECT. 4.—Inspection . . . . .	174
SECT. 5.—New trial, costs, &c. . . . .	176

CHAPTER XIX.

Remedies of patentee,—injunction, account . . . . .	181
---	-----

CHAPTER XX:

Remedies of patentee, fraudulent use of name, &c. . . . .	192
---	-----

CHAPTER XXI.

Remedy against patentee,—scire facias to repeal letters patent . . . . .	194
--	-----

---

APPENDIX.

Forms . . . . .	215	Stamp-Duties . . . . .	247
Rules . . . . .	235	Table of Statutes . . . . .	248
Table of fees . . . . .	245		

## TABLE OF CASES.

The pages referred to are those between brackets, [ ].

ABRAHAM v. Wilcocks	4	Birch v. Wood	162
Adey v. The Deputy Master of the Trinity House, in re	177	Bircot's case	21
Alcock, in re	62, 63	Blanchard v. Eldridge	149
Alcock v. Cooke	5	Blofield v. Payne	192
Alden v. Dewey	46	Bloxam v. Elsee, K. B.	79, 145, 146
Allen v. Rawson	17, 46, 85, 163	——— v. ———, N. P.	44, 77, 79, 146
Alton Woods, case of	5, 23	Bodmer's patent	116
Amies v. Kelsey	174	Bodmer v. Butterworth	172
Antoine v. Morshead	44	Boosey v. Davidson	149
Arkwright v. Nightingale	95, 162	Boulton v. Bull, C. P.	7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 19, 75, 83, 84, 94, 128
Attorney-General, The, v. The Cor- poration of London	170	——— v. ———, Chy.	183, 184
Bacon v. Jones, L. C.	182, 183, 187, 188	Bovill v. Moore, C. P.	21, 85, 133
——— v. ———, M. R.	187, 188	——— v. ———, Chy.	175
——— v. Spottiswoode	161, 189	Bowman v. Taylor	150
Baddeley v. Leppingwell	166	Bowyer v. Cook	179
Baddley, in re	196, 211	Boyd v. Brown	132
Baily v. Taylor	189	——— v. MacAlpine	132
Baird v. Neilson	150	Bramah v. Hardcastle	31, 81, 85, 133
Barber v. Grace	77, 137	Bramwell v. Halcomb	186
——— v. Walduck	46	Brandon v. Nesbitt	44
Barker v. Harris	46	Brett v. The Electric Telegraph Company	48
Barley v. Walford	193	Brewster v. Weld	194, 199
Barr v. Satchwell	201	Dridson v. Benecke	186, 187
Barton v. Hall	18	——— v. MacAlpine	188
Barwick's case	5	Brooks v. Byam	149
Bate's patent	121	Brough, ex parte	98
Baxter v. Combe	183, 186	Brown v. Brown	176
Beard v. Egerton	37, 44, 45, 71, 87, 89	——— v. Kidstone	34
Beck, ex parte	93, 106	——— v. Moore	174
Bedells v. Massey	165	Browne v. Annandale	35
Beeston v. Collyer	183	Brunton v. Hawkes, N. P.	77
Beli's patent	120	——— v. ———, K. B.	5, 11, 14
Bentley v. Fleming	32	——— v. White	163
——— v. Goldthorp	167, 176	Bulnois v. Mackenzie	171
——— v. Keighley	165, 171	Bunnett v. Smith	166, 169
Betts v. Walker	163, 167, 172	Butler's case	196
Bewley's case	5	Bynner v. Reg.	102, 206, 207, 209, 210
Bickford v. Skewes, Q. B.	27, 87, 163, 166	Caldwell v. Van Vlissingen	130, 182
——— v. ———, Chy.	183, 184, 487	Calvin's case	44
		Cameron v. Gray	163

Campion v. Benyon	20, 43	Duvergier v. Fellows	146
Carpenter v. Smith, N. P.	26, 30, 31, 32, 41, 42, 85	Dyer, ex parte	47
———— v. ———, Exch.	26, 31	East-India Company v. Sandys	2
———— v. Walker	171	———— v. Kynaston	174
Cartwright v. Arnott	77, 146	Eden's case	166
Chanter v. Dewhurst	129, 149	Edgeberry v. Stephens	23, 37, 44, 45
———— v. Johnson	149	Edwards v. Da Costa	139
———— v. Leese	151	Electric Telegraph Company v. Brett, N. P.	136
———— v. ———, in error	151	———— v. ———, C. P.	15, 79, 138
Chappell v. Purday	44, 45	———— v. Nott, C. P.	164
Cholmeley's case	5	———— v. ———, Chy.	183, 185
Churchwardens of St. Saviour, case of	5	Elliott v. Aston	29, 95, 167
Clark v. Kenrick	163	———— v. Turner	78
Clothworkers of Ipswich case	37, 45	Erard's patent, in re	116, 121
Coates's patent	64	Fawcett's patent	62
Cochrane v. Braithwait	81, 136, 137	Feaver, in re	145
———— v. Smethurst	71	Felton v. Greaves	72, 88
Collard v. Allison	184, 188	Few v. Guppy	159, 188
Cook v. Pearce	70, 71, 72, 73, 168	Fisher v. Dewick	71, 169, 170
Cornish v. Keene, N. P.	25, 28, 29, 46, 128, 162, 165	Flindt v. Waters	44
———— v. ———, C. P.	17, 40	Forsyth v. Riviere	47, 81
Coryton v. Lithebye	148	Fox, ex parte	59, 63
Crane v. Price, N. P.	16, 24, 31	Fradella v. Weller	190
———— v. ———, C. P.	16, 20, 31	Frewen v. Lewis	182
Crawshay v. Thompson	192	Galloway's patent	119, 121, 125
Crofts v. Peach	176	Galloway v. Bleaden	171
Croll v. Edge	73, 80, 168	———— v. ———	28, 29, 90, 94, 96, 133
Crompton v. Ibbotson	91	Gamble v. Kurtz	84, 133
Crosskill v. Evory	187	Gayler v. Wilder	149
———— v. Tuxford, N. P.	138	Geary v. Norton	190
———— v. ———, Chy.	187	George v. Wackerback	148
Crossley v. Beverley, N. P.	25, 76, 79, 92, 137	Gibson v. Brand, N. P.	28, 45, 80, 128
———— v. ———, K. B.	77	———— v. C. P.	48, 84, 128, 168
———— v. ———, Chy.	189	Gillett v. Green	179
———— v. Derby Gas Company, Chy.	160, 189	———— v. Wilby, 130, 138, 168, 173, 179	179
———— v. ———, Chy.	185, 186	Griffiths, in re	48, 63
Curtis v. Cutts	184	Haddan v. Smith	185
Cutler, in re	48, 59, 61, 63, 64, 68	Hall v. Jarvis	8, 144
———— v. Bower	150	Hamilton v. Cochrane	176
Daly, ex parte	63	Hancock v. Moulton	173
Darcy's case	67	———— v. Somervell	22, 30, 54, 138
Darcy v. Allen	2, 3, 5, 45	Hardy's patent	122, 123
Davenant v. Hurdis	2	Harmar v. Plane, Chy.	183
Davidson v. Bohn	146	———— v. Playne, K. B.	20, 77, 95
Davis v. Walton	177	Hastings's case	18
De Bode, the Baron's, case	182, 207	Haworth v. Hardcastle	6, 24, 86, 176
———— v. Reg.	182, 207	Hayne v. Maltby	150, 151
De Haber v. The Queen of Portugal	182	Heath v. Unwin, Exch.	170, 172
Denley v. Blore	130	———— v. ———, Exch.	78, 139
Derosne's patent	115, 120	———— v. ———, V. O. E.	140, 188
Derosne v. Fairie, N. P.	78, 79, 94, 98, 139	———— v. ———, Exch. Ch.	79, 140, 141, 143
———— v. ———, Exch.	88, 167, 168	Heathcote, ex parte	63
Dobbs v. Penn	21	Helliwell v. Dearman	18
Dollond's case	30, 48	Hesse v. Stevenson	145
Downie, in re	125	Heurteloup's patent	112
Downton's patent	118, 120, 121, 124, 125	Hill v. Thompson, Chy.	17, 77, 96
		———— v. ———, do.	183, 188, 190

Hill v. Thompson, C. P.	5, 20, 29, 41, 80, 87, 89, 133, 143, 165	Losh v. Hague, N. P.	13, 24, 26
Hinde's case	166	— v. —, Chan.	184, 190
Holloway v. Holloway	192	Lovell v. Hicks	150
Holmes v. The London and North- Western Railway Company	85	Lowe's patent	118
— v. —	129, 165	Lowe v. Penn	93
Holt v. Frank	201	Lowndes v. Duncombe	135
Hoops, ex parte	98	Ludford v. Gretton	201
Hornblower v. Boulton	12, 19, 74, 83	Ludlow v. Lennard	201
Hotchkiss v. Greenwood	14	Lukie v. Robson	17
Househill Company, The, v. Neilson	7, 9, 24, 29, 40, 41, 42, 48, 77, 78, 79, 91, 96, 137, 168	MacAlpine v. Magnall	70, 83, 86, 146, 168
Huddart v. Grimshaw	19, 40, 144	Macfarlane v. Price	85, 86
— v. —, Chy.	174, 195	Mackintosh's patent	116, 125
Hullett v. Hague	22	— v. Everington	17
Humphrey's case	18	Macnamara v. Hulse	11, '99, 136
Hunt v. Coffin	194, 202	Makepeace v. Jackson	47
James's patent	92	Magnall v. Benecke, N. P.	135
Jefferson v. Dawson	203	Manton v. Manton	29
— v. Morton	203, 207	— v. Parker	23
Jessop's case	20, 69	Matthey's patent	14
Jevens v. Harridge	44	May v. Tyre	150
Jones's patent, in re	121	Millingen v. Picken	166, 168
Jones v. Berger	170, 171, 172, 173	Millington v. Fox	192
— v. Heaton	91	Minter v. Mower, K. B.	74, 84, 163, 168
— v. Jones	147	— v. —, N. P.	19, 20, 78
— v. Pearce, N. P.	28, 46, 129, 138, 163	— v. Wells, Exch.	29
— v. Pearce, Chy.	186	— v. —, N. P.	12, 29, 47
Jupe v. Pratt	9, 85, 137	— v. Williams	128, 129, 163
Kay's patent, in re	118, 121	Mitchell v. Reynolds	2, 150
Kay v. Marshall, Chy. L. C.	183, 188	Mompesson's case	3
— v. —, Chy. M. R.	188	Monopolies, case of	2, 5
— v. —, Chy. M. R.	13, 84	Montgomery v. Blair	211
— v. —, C. P.	13, 84	Morgan's patent	120
— v. —, Ho. Lords	13	Morgan v. Seaward, N. P.	24, 85, 87, 89, 90, 94, 95, 96, 133, 137
Keplinger v. De Young	132	— v. —, Exch.	5, 6, 23, 25, 32, 33, 70
Kemp v. Makewilliams	209	— v. —, Chy.	133, 175, 185
Kemper's case	10	Morison v. Moat, V. C.	33
Kent, The Earl of, his case	194	— v. —, Court of Appeal	33, 187
King, ex parte	200	Morris v. Branson	20
Kollman's patent, in re	121	Motley v. Downman	192
Koops, ex parte	98	Mountjoy's case,	149
Lacy, in re	63	Muntz v. Foster, V. C. B.	143
Laird v. Crispin	186	— v. —, N. P.	40, 139
Lane's case	3	— v. —, C. P.	165
Langdon v. De Groot	10	— v. —	176
Leader v. Purday	146	— v. —, L. C.	40, 183
Leaf v. Topham	170, 172	— v. Grenfell	184, 187
Ledsam v. Russell, Exch.	114, 117, 126, 148	Neilson v. Baird	81, 89, 160, 161, 167
— v. —, in H. L.	114, 117, 123, 126	— v. Fothergill, L. C.	185
Lewis and another v. Davis	18, 143	— v. Harford, Chy.	187
— v. Marling, N. P.	40	— v. —, N. P.	25, 72, 76, 94, 96, 136, 167, 173, 174
— v. —, K. B.	25, 30, 31, 176	— v. —, Exch.	9, 11, 78, 79, 82, 87, 89, 167, 170
Liardet v. Johnson	14, 23, 90	— v. The Househill Company	160
Lonsdale, Earl of, v. Curwen	174	— v. Thompson, V. C.	183, 185, 186
Losh v. Hague, Exch.	178	— v. —, L. C.	81, 85, 89, 137, 151
		Newall v. Wilson	184, 186, 187
		— v. Wilkins	179

Newton v. Grand Junction Railway Company, N. P.	161	Rex v. Arkwright	20, 29, 86, 87, 90, 93, 94, 96, 168, 207
— v. —, Exch.	21, 138	— v. Aires	207
— v. Vaucher	15, 78	— v. Astey	205
Nickels's patent	107	— v. Banks	206
Nickels v. Halsam	70	— v. Bartrum	205
— v. Ross	12, 45, 86, 165, 166, 167, 168	— v. Bewdley	206
Noble's patent	115, 116	— v. Blage	201
Odiorne v. Winkley	134	— v. Butler	195, 203
Oldham v. Langmead	150	— v. Cutler	83
Ollendorff v. Black	183	— v. Daniell	8
O'Reilly, ex parte	63	— v. Dyde	206
Page's case	68, 155	— v. Else	20, 79
Patterson's patent	120	— v. Eston	201, 20
Patteson v. Holland	176	— v. Fussell	18, 89
Pearson v. The Eagle Screw Company	34	— v. Hadden	18
Penwarren v. Thomas	194, 201	— v. Hare and Mann	202, 203
Pering, ex parte	182	— v. Knox	203
Perry v. Mitchell	164	— v. Lister	18
— v. Skinner	104, 105, 163, 168	— v. Lodge	18
— v. Truefitt	192	— v. Macleod, Q. B.	206
Pettit Smith's patent	116, 123, 124	— v. —, Exch.	206
Pidding v. How	192	— v. Metcalf	71
— v. Franks	149, 151	— v. Miles	211
Pinkus's patent	62, 63, 118, 120, 122	— v. Mussary, Bull. N. P.	76, 6, 194
Platt v. Elce	166	— v. Musters	206
Pool v. Wills	201	— v. Newcastle-upon-Tyne	201
Pow v. Betteley	186	— v. Righton	205
— v. Taunton	13	— v. Toly	202
Power v. Walker	146	— v. Wakelin	195
Priddy v. Rose	182	— v. Waring	205
Prince Albert v. Strange	32	— v. Wheeler	9, 69, 71, 92
Prosser's patent	62, 63	— v. Wright	205
Protheroe v. May	146, 149	— v. York, Archbishop of	202
Rankin v. Huskisson	182	Roberts's patent, in re	118, 121
Ransome v. Bentall	192	Robinson's patent	35, 112
Redmond's case	108	Rochdale Canal Company v. King	185
Reed v. Cutter	165	Rodgers v. Nowill	192
Reg. v. Betts	196, 202, 203	— v. —, Chy.	192
— v. Bynner, N. P.	84	Roebuck v. Stirling	35
— v. —	182, 206, 208, 209	Rubery v. Barrs	102
— v. Crawford, M. S.	211	Russell v. Barnesley	186
— v. Cutler	12, 13, 14, 88, 206	— v. Cowley, N. P.	138
— v. Hamilton	197	— v. —, Exch.	19, 78
— v. Mill	70, 72, 102, 104, 105, 106, 173	— v. —	130
— v. —, Chy.	106, 200	— v. —, Chan.	161, 175, 187, 190
— v. Neilson	196, 197	— v. Crichton	164
— v. Newall	198	— v. —	175
— v. Newton	209	— v. Ledsam	19, 98, 114, 138, 148, 163
— v. Nickels	86, 202, 207, 211	— v. —	170, 172, 173
— v. Prosser	194, 198	Ryan v. Goodwin	34
— v. Steiner, N. P.	42, 96, 167, 210	Sampson v. Collingwood	201
— v. —, M. S.	207	Samuda, in re	35, 48, 58
— v. —, Chy.	210	Sandiford v. Neild	165
— v. Walton	171	Saunders v. Aston	14, 17, 81
Rex v. Amery	201, 205	Savory v. Price	90
— v. Archbishop of York	202, 205	Swain v. Guild	129
		Sealy v. Browne	163
		Sellers v. Dickenson, N. P.	135
		— v. —	86, 135
		Sharp's patents, in re	102, 107, 108

Shaw v. The Bank of England	174	Wallington v. Dale	102, 168
Sheriff v. Coates	186, 209	—— v. ——	103, 168, 176
Simister's patent, in re	119, 122	Walker v. Congreve	10, 182
Simpson v. Wilson	151	—— v. Fletcher	174
—— v. ——	151	Walton v. Bateman, N. P.	28, 167
Smith v. Dickenson	33	—— v. ——, C. P. Parke	170
—— v. Upton	102, 176, 182, 194, 203, 207, 209, 210	—— v. ——	167
Soame's patent, in re	41, 119, 120, 121	—— v. Potter, N. P.	133, 136
Southworth's patent, in re	115, 121	—— v. ——, C. P.	14, 133, 167
Spilbury v. Clough	12, 103, 166	Ward v. Key	188, 190
Spottiswoode v. Clark	186	Warwick v. Hooper	150
Stafford's patent, in re	121	Watson v. Bladon	129
Stead v. Anderson	133, 140, 167	—— v. Pearse	98
—— v. Williams	37, 41, 48	Weatherhead v. Sanders	201
—— v. Carey	72, 104, 105, 112	Webb v. Harvey	201
Steiner v. Heald, N. P.	16	—— v. Hughes	10
—— v. ——, Cam. Scac.	16	Webster v. Uther	25, 134
Stericker v. Matthews	190	Wedlake v. Gardner	78
Stevens v. Keating	82, 87, 141, 143	Weller v. Baker	148
—— v. ——, L. C.	140, 183, 187	Westhead v. Keene	188
Stirling v. Roebuck	187	Westtrupp and Gibbin's patent	112, 125
Stocker v. Rogers	179	Whitehouse's case	108
—— v. Warner	105, 106, 163	—— patent, in re	118, 122, 123
Stocking v. Llewellyn	130, 151	Whittemore v. Cutter	132
Stroughill v. Buck	151	Whytock's patent	124
Sturtz v. De la Rue	70, 75, 94, 139, 190	Wigram v. Browne	34
Swaine's patent, in re	119, 120	Williams v. Brodie	81
Sykes v. Sykes	192	—— v. White	162
		Wilmot v. Pike	147
		Wilson v. Northrop	60
		—— v. Tindal	186
Taylor v. Hare	150	Wood v. Cockerell	185
Templeton v. Macfarlane	17, 34	—— v. Sutcliffe	185
Tenant's case	26, 46	—— v. Underhill	93
Travell v. Carteret	5	—— v. Zimmer	31, 90
Turner v. Winter	69, 87, 90, 92	Woodcroft's patent, in re	119, 125
Tyler v. Tuel	149	—— patent	118
		Wright's patent	43, 115, 119, 121
		Wroth's, Sir T. case	209
Underhill v. Devereux	201	Wyeth v. Stone	9, 83
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge v. Richardson	128, 183	Yelverton's case	2

# LAW OF PATENTS.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE NATURE OF LETTERS PATENT FOR AN INVENTION.

1. A MONOPOLY is defined to be an institution or allowance by the king, by his grant, commission or otherwise, to any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, of or for the sole buying, selling, making, working, or using of anything whereby any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, are sought to be restrained of any freedom or liberty that they had before, or are hindered in their lawful trade. (a)

2. Statute 21 Jac. 1, cap. 3, sect. 1—6, declared grants of monopolies to be contrary to law, and enacted, that all monopolies for the sole buying selling, working, or using of anything should be void and of none effect, except "letters patent and grants of privilege for the term of fourteen years or under, for the sole working or making of any manner of new manufactures within this realm to the true and first inventor or inventors of such manufactures, which others at the time of making such letters patent and inventions shall not use; so that they be not contrary to law or mischievous to trade, by raising the price of commodities at home, or hurt of trade, or generally inconvenient." (b)

3. Monopolies are said to be against the policy of the law \*and [ \*2 ] contrary to Magna Charta. (c) It is said, that "all trades, as well mechanical as otherwise, which prevent idleness, and exercise men and youth in labour for the maintenance of themselves and their families, and for the increase of their substance, to serve the queen when occasion shall require, are profitable to the commonwealth, and therefore any grant to have the sole right to exercise a trade is against the common law, and the benefit and liberty of the subject. Such a restriction is not only injurious to those who exercise the same trade, but to all other subjects, be-

(a) 3 Inst. 181.

(b) See Appendix.

(c) See 2 Inst. pp. 47, 61; Mitchel v. Reynolds, 1 P. Williams, 181; Rot. Parl. 50 Ed. 3, Nu. 17, 28, 33; stat. 50 Ed. 3, cap. 2; stat. 9 Ed. 3, cap. 1; 2 R. 2, cap. 1; Davenant v. Hurdis, 2 Inst. 47; East India Company v. Sandys, 10 How. Stat. Trials, 371; 3 Inst. 181.

cause from want of competition the price of the commodity is kept high, and it is produced of inferior quality."(*d*)

The evils of monopolies were very strongly felt at the time of the passing of the statute.(*e*)

4. Independently of an express restriction by the sovereign authority in a state, there is no such thing as exclusive property in an invention. The subject-matters of human inquiry are free to all men. An addition once made to the stock of knowledge is common property for ever, nor is it less the property of the discoverer because others possess it as well as himself. It is in its nature infinite and incapable of appropriation. The first builder of a house could claim as his own the substantial and tangible materials, the logs and wood of which he constructed it; but the idea of such an erection became instantly the property of all mankind. The abstract natural right of the inventor is only to exercise his own invention freely.

In the case of the monopoly of an invention, it is the idea and principle of the invention that is appropriated, and not the mere formal expression of it, as in case of copyright.

5. At common law, all restraints of trade, where nothing more appears, are bad; but if the circumstances show that the restraint is upon fair consideration, it ought to be maintained.(*f*) \*The statute of James, [ \*3 ] enacts that the grant shall be of such force as it would have been before the statute, and of none other. The invention must therefore be useful as well as new.(*g*)

6 An exclusive privilege can only be justifiable as a reward to him who adds to the general stock of knowledge, and a purchase of his invention. It is therefore a condition of such a grant that the grantee shall fully disclose his invention.

The practice of specifying seems first hinted at in *Darcy v. Allen*, as reported in *Noy*. It is said, that monopolies are lawful when any man, by his own charge or industry, or wit and invention, doth bring any new trade into the realm, or any engine tending to the furtherance of a trade that never was used before, and that, for the good of the realm, in such cases the king may grant to him a monopoly for some reasonable time, until the subjects may learn the same, in consideration of the good he does the commonwealth.(*h*) An Act of 1651, granting a patent for fourteen years, to one Buck, for melting iron by coal, contained a proviso, that Buck should take apprentices after seven years of the term, and teach them the knowledge of his new invention.

7. This object is now attained by the condition requiring the enrolment of a specification. The earliest patent into which this clause appears to have been introduced, was one granted the 1st of April, 11th Anne. Its introduction, was not on the authority of Parliament, but on that of the law officers of the Crown.(*i*)

(*d*) The case of monopolies, 11 Rep. 84; S. C. nom. *Darcy v. Allin*, *Noy*, 178.

(*e*) See *Hansard*, Feb. 19, 18 Jac. 1, 1192, 1200, 1205; Sir G. Mompesson's case, 2 State Trials, 111; Sir H. Yelverton's case, *ib.* 1143.

(*f*) *Mitchell v. Reynolds*, 1 P. Williams, 181.

(*g*) 3 Inst. 184.

(*h*) *Darcy v. Allin*, *Noy*, Rep. 178.

(*i*) *Webst.* P. C. 8.

8. The king cannot grant or take but by matter of record.<sup>(k)</sup> No grant of the king is available or pleadable except it be under the great seal.<sup>(l)</sup>

9. At common law, the letters patent must have been enrolled, otherwise they are void. They could not have been vacated except by matter of record; thus, it is said, that if a man surrender his patent, and it be cancelled, and a \*note of it indorsed, and afterwards the surrender enrolled, the patent shall be vacated. After the vacatur is entered [<sup>\*4</sup>] on the roll, a constat of the patent shall not be granted. But a surrender and cancelling with an indorsement on it is not sufficient if the surrender be not enrolled.<sup>(m)</sup> If a deed be delivered to be enrolled it is sufficient, though it be not enrolled, but put into a chest, for it may be enrolled at any time.<sup>(n)</sup>

10. Letters patent granted under the provisions of stat. 15 & 16 Vict. c. 83, will not require enrolment.<sup>(o)</sup>

11. If a patent be granted in respect of a new invention, the king cannot grant a second patent, for the charter is granted as an encouragement to invention and industry, and secure the patentee in the profits for a reasonable time; but when that is expired, the public is to have the benefit of the discovery. If a second patent is granted to a stranger, the first patentee shall have a scire facias to repeal the second patent.<sup>(p)</sup>

12. The construction of the patent is for the court. It appears that the construction of the granting part of the patent must depend on different principles from that by which the construction of the specification is to be governed. It is laid down that the king's letters patent are records of a high nature; they have in all times been construed most favourably for the king, contrary to the grants of common persons, which are construed in favour of the grantee, and most strongly against the grantor. If they can be taken to enure to a double intent, they shall be taken to the intent that makes most to the king's benefit.<sup>(q)</sup>

13. The grant shall be construed strictly. But where it is capable of two constructions, by the one of which it will be valid, and by the other void, that construction shall be put on it which shall make it valid, for that will be more for the benefit of the subject and the honour of the king, which ought to be more regarded than his profit, for it was [<sup>\*5</sup>] not the king's intent to make a void grant.<sup>(r)</sup>

A bad grant is void not against the Crown merely, but in a suit between the patentee and a third person. A patent for two or more inventions, when one is not new, is void altogether. The statute invalidates a patent for want of novelty, and consequently, by force of the statute,

<sup>(k)</sup> Com. Dig. Patent, A. Viner's Ab. Prerogative, M. b. 7; Lane's case, 2 Rep. 16 b.

<sup>(l)</sup> Com. Dig. Patent, C. 2 Viner's Abridgment, Prerogative, C. b.

<sup>(m)</sup> Com. Dig. Patent, G. Dyer, 167, 195 a.

<sup>(n)</sup> Com. Dig. Patent, E. Viner's Abridgment, Prerogative, A. d. Abraham v. Wilcocks.

<sup>(o)</sup> Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. c. 83, s. 27.

<sup>(p)</sup> Bacon's Abridgment, Prerogative, F. 4, citing Lucas, 131.

<sup>(q)</sup> Bacon's Abridgment, Prerogative, F. pt. Com. Dig. Grant, G. 12.

<sup>(r)</sup> Case of The Churchwardens of St. Saviours in Southwark, 10 Rep. 67; Bewley's case, 9 Rep. 131 a.

the patent is void so far as relates to that which is old. But further, the consideration for the grant is the novelty, of all, and the consideration failing, or, in other words, the Crown being deceived in its grant, the patent is void, and no action is maintainable upon it.<sup>(s)</sup> If any part, being a material part of the alleged invention, fail, the discovery in its entirety forming one entire consideration, the patent is altogether void.<sup>(t)</sup>

14. Grants of letters patent are intended for the public weal; and if it appears that that the Crown has been deceived by the party obtaining the grant, the grant will be void.<sup>(u)</sup> The consideration, or motive, expressed on the face of a grant will often be sufficient to determine its validity or invalidity. It is laid down, that if the king grant a greater estate than he can lawfully do, as if the king seized in tail or for life grant in fee, it will be void for the whole, for the king was deceived.<sup>(x)</sup>

15. A false recital in a thing not material will not vitiate the grant, if the king's intention is manifest and apparent.

If the king is not deceived in his grant by the false suggestion of the party, but from his own mistake upon the surmise and information of the party, it shall not vitiate the grant.

[ \*6 ] Thus, where an invention was new, and useful on the \*whole, but not useful in some cases, a patent for it was held good. The Court, in *Morgan v. Seaward*, said that they did not mean to intimate any doubt as to the validity of a patent for an entire machine or subject, which if taken altogether, is useful though some parts of it might be useless, where there is no false suggestion.<sup>(y)</sup>

In future no warrant will be granted for the sealing of any letters patent which contain two or more distinct substantive inventions.<sup>(z)</sup> This rule seems not to apply to the case where one invention is applicable to the improvement of several manufactures, or where several inventions conduce to the same common purpose or object, and are applicable to the improvement of the same manufacture.

<sup>(s)</sup> *Morgan v. Seaward*, 2 M. & W. 544; ib. 562, Parke, B. citing *Travell v. Carteret*; 3 Lev. 135; 1 Rep. 53, case of *Alton Woods*; 2 Rep. 54, *Cholmeley's case*; 5 Rep. 94 *a*, *Barwick's case*; *Alcock v. Cooke*, 5 Bing. 346; *Hill v. Thompson*, 8 Taunt. 375; *Brunton v. Hawkes*, 4 B. & Ald. 542.

<sup>(t)</sup> *Hill v. Thompson*, 8 Taunt. 375.

<sup>(u)</sup> Case of monopolies, *Darcy v. Allin*, 11 Rep. 86; *Noy*, 178, S. C.; *Webst. P. C.* 1, 5.

<sup>(x)</sup> *Com. Dig. Grant*, G. 8, citing 1 Rep. 44 *a*, the case of *Alton Woods*.

<sup>(y)</sup> *Rex v. Mussary*, Bull. N. P. 76, *a*; *Haworth v. Harcastle*, 1 B. N. C. 189; *Morgan v. Seaward*, 2 M. & W. 544.

<sup>(z)</sup> Second set of Rules, 1852.

## \*CHAPTER II.

[ \*7 ]

## THE SUBJECT-MATTER.

*A Manufacture.*

1. THE Crown has no power to grant letters patent for the sole buying, selling, making, working, or using of anything, except for the sole making or working of any new manufacture within this realm.

Writers upon patent law have felt considerable difficulty in classifying the inventions in respect of which letters patent may be obtained, not so much on account of the difficulty of defining the principles which determine what is and what is not a patentable subject, as because most inventions are capable of being ranged under several of such classes.

Any positive definable change in a manufacture, producing a new and definable result, and being an improvement, seems to be patentable. (See Webster's Subject-matter, pp. 24, 29.)

2. According to the best authorities, the manufacture spoken of in the statute may be either a mode of manufacturing, or a vendible substance produced, as distinguished from a mere principle or the use or disposition of anything, without reference to any product resulting from such use.(a)

3. Under the head of new vendible substances may be classed all new compositions of things produced, such as new manufactures in the ordinary sense of the term; secondly, all mechanical inventions made to produce old effects. A new piece of mechanism is a thing made.(b) A patent for a method of doing a thing is generally a patent for the thing \*produced. Thus, a method of lessening the consumption of steam and fuel in fire-engines, by means set forth in the specification, is an invention of fire-engines of a newly-invented construction. Patents for chemical processes may be patents for the vendible substance produced.(c)

4. Under modes of manufacturing may be classed any process or practical manner of doing a thing, any new method of working, any artificial manner of operating with the hand or known machinery, or by new processes, in any art, producing effects already known, but at less expense, or otherwise with advantage.(d)

Passing lace between a surface of gas and a narrow chimney, which draws the flame through the lace, so as to burn and destroy the minute fibres in the interstices of the fabric, is a good subject of a patent, though the flame of charcoal and other substances had previously been

(a) Per Eyre, C. J., 2 H. Black. 492; L. J. C. Hope, *The Househill Company v. Neilson*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 683.

(b) 2 H. Black. 492, *Boulton v. Bull*.

(c) Per Heath, J., 2 H. Black. 482, *Boulton v. Bull*.

(d) *Crane v. Price*, Webst. P. C. 409, *Tindal*; *Rex v. Wheeler*, 2 B. & Ald. 349, *Abbott, C. J.* Per Eyre, C. J., 2 H. Black. 492, 494.

used to singe the fibres from silk, cotton, or lace goods placed on a board, the flame being driven against them by bellows.(e)

In Daniell's patent for improvements in dressing cloth, after the surface of a piece of cloth had been properly dressed, and the nap on the surface laid even and smooth, the piece was rolled up very smoothly and evenly in a close and compact roll, which being immersed in hot water, the fibres of the wool became softened, and acquired a tendency to retain the same direction, and thus the effect of the dressing was rendered permanent.(f)

5. It generally happens that the result of the new mode of manufacturing is a better, or at any rate a different article from that before produced. As in Crane's patent, a better iron was the result of the new combination. So that the invention was the subject-matter of a patent, as being either of a better article or of a new combination.

6. A patent cannot be obtained for an abstract philosophical principle. The statement of what a principle is proves it not to be the subject-matter of a patent. It is the first ground and rule of arts and [ \*9 ] sciences. A patent must be for some \*new production from such elements, and not for the elements themselves.(g) Without the application of the principle to a practical object and end, without the application of it to human industry or to the purposes of human enjoyment, a person cannot appropriate a principle to himself. Something of a corporeal or substantial nature, something that can be made by man from the matters subjected to his art, or, at the least some new mode of employing practically his art and skill, is requisite to satisfy the word manufacture.(h)

It is impossible to support a patent for a mere method, without having carried it into effect, or produced some substance.(i) In Neilson's case, Alderson, B. said that the difficulty which pressed upon his mind was, that Neilson had taken out a patent in substance like Watt's, for a principle,—the application of hot air to furnaces; but he thought he had not practically described any mode of carrying it into effect. The principle must be embodied in some practical mode, and the patent is taken out not for the principle, but for the mode of carrying the principle into effect.(k) In an American case, the plaintiff claimed "to cut ice of a uniform size by means of an apparatus worked by any other power than human. The invention of the art, as well as the particular method of the application of the principle, are claimed by the subscriber." The Judge said the patentee claimed a title to the art of cutting ice by means of any power other than human power. Such a claim is not maintainable in point of law. It is a claim for an art or principle in the abstract, and not for any particular method or machinery by which ice is to be cut. No man can have a sole right to cut ice by all means or methods,

(e) Hall v. Jarvis and Boot, Webst. P. C. 97.

(f) Daniell's patent. Godson on Patents, 274.

(g) The Houshill Company v. Neilson, L. J. C. Hope, Webst. P. C. 683; 2 H. Black. 487, Boulton and Watt v. Bull, per Buller, J.

(h) Rex v. Wheeler, 2 B. & Ald. 350, Abbott, C. J.

(i) Per Heath and Buller, JJ. Boulton v. Bull, 2 H. Black. 468, 486.

(k) Neilson v. Harford, Webst. P. C. 342; Jupe v. Pratt, Webst. P. C. 144.

or by all or any sort of apparatus, though he is not inventor of any or of all such means, methods, or apparatus. (*l*)

7. The mere use or effect of the employment of a known \*thing, not having reference to trade and manufacture, is not sufficient, as if the effect be merely negative, or where no product is the result. (*m*) [ \*10 ]

8. If a man of science devises the means of making a new use of a thing known before, he cannot have a patent for that. Buller, J. said, "Supposing an ingenious physician should find out that Dr. James's fever-powder was a specific cure for consumptions if given in particular quantities, could he have a patent for the sole use of James's powder in consumptions or given in particular quantities? I think it must be conceded that such a patent would be void. Yet the use of the medicine would be new, and the effect of it as materially different from what is now known, as life is from death. Could a patent be supported for the sole use of arsenic in curing agues? The medicine is the manufacture, and the only object of a patent, and as the medicine is not new, a patent for it, or for the use of it, would be void." (*n*)

9. The arrangement of merchandise in a particular form is not the subject of a patent. There must be a manufacture, a production of something, or a development of some new property by the operation of the invention.

In an American case, a contrivance for folding thread and floss cotton in a wrapper, in which form the goods sold more quickly and for a better price, the cotton itself undergoing no change, has been held not to be the subject of a patent. (*o*) A device similar in principle, a mode of packing lace in boxes, has been registered here under the Useful Designs Act. (*p*)

10. The external form or shape of an article manufactured is not the subject-matter of a patent where the use of such form does not involve the application of a principle, and a real and essential improvement of the manufacture. (*q*) But a paving-block bevelled both inwards and outwards on the same side of the block, so that the blocks as laid would \*mutually support each other, is a good subject-matter of a patent. (*r*) [ \*11 ]

11. A patent will be good though the subject of the patent consists in the discovery of a great general and most comprehensive principle in science, a law of nature, if that principle is by the specification applied to any special purpose, so as thereby to produce a practical result not previously attained, however extensive in the resulting claim. (*s*)

(*l*) *Wyeth v. Stone*, 1 Story's Rep. 273, 285, cited *Curtis on Patents*, 64.

(*m*) Per *Eyre*, C. J., 2 H. Black. 494.

(*n*) Per *Buller*, J., *Boulton and Watt v. Bull*, 2 H. Black. 486.

(*o*) *Langdon v. De Groot*, 1 Paine, C. C. R. 203, cited *Curtis on Patents*, 18 n.; *Kemper's case*, stowing ice, *Curtis Pat.* 500.

(*p*) *Webb v. Hughes*, see *Mechanics' Magazine*, vol. xlv. 383.

(*q*) See the argument of *Mr. Leach*, *Walker v. Congreve*, *Godson on Patents*, 56.

(*r*) *McNamara v. Hulse*, 1 Car. & Mar. 471; per *Bayley*, J., *Brunton v. Hawkes*, 4 B. & A. 553.

(*s*) *Neilson v. The Househill Company*, L. J. C. Hope, *Webst. P. C.* 683.

Neilson's invention of the hot blast for forges and smelting-furnaces, consisted in heating the air to a red heat, or nearly so, between the blowing apparatus and the furnace in a close vessel, by the application of heat outside the vessel, so as to prevent any loss of oxygen. It was said, if a specific shape of heating-vessel was claimed, then the patent might be good, but if every shape was claimed, then it was a claim of a principle; and that there was no difference between claiming a principle to be carried into effect in any way whatever, and claiming the principle itself. But the Court thought that the patentee did not merely claim a principle, but a machine embodying a principle.<sup>(t)</sup> A principle reduced into practice can only mean a practice founded on principle, and that practice is the thing done or made; in other words, the manufacture which is invented. Watt's patent recited that he had invented a method of lessening the consumption of steam and fuel in fire-engines. By his specification he described the principles of the method, and the method by which these principles were to be carried into effect. The method was founded on the principle of keeping the steam-vessel the whole time the engine was at work as hot as the steam that entered it: this was done by a case of wood, or some other material that transmits heat slowly, and by surrounding it with steam or other heated bodies. Secondly, he pointed out a mode of condensing the steam apart from the cylinders, in condensers which were to be kept cold. Thirdly, the vapour not condensed by the cold of the condenser was to be drawn out. [\*12] \*It was objected, that the patent was for principles; but the jury having found that the directions given were sufficient to enable workmen to carry the invention into practice, the Court of King's Bench determined that the patent was not for principles only, as the specification showed the manufacture by which those principles were to take effect.<sup>(u)</sup> The Court of Common Pleas had previously been equally divided in opinion as to the validity of the patent.<sup>(x)</sup>

The invention of the application of a self-adjusting leverage to the back and seat of a chair, whereby the weight on the seat acts as a counterbalance to the pressure against the back of the chair, by means described, is not a claim to the principle of the lever, but an application of the principle to a certain purpose by certain means, for which a patent may be had.<sup>(y)</sup>

It would seem that the proper mode of raising the question whether a patent is void for being for a principle, is to plead that the patent is not for a manufacture within the meaning of the statute.<sup>(z)</sup>

(t) Neilson v. Harford, Webst. P. C. 342; S. C. 8 M. & W. 806.

(u) Hornblower v. Boulton, 8 T. R. 95; see the judgments of Grose and Lawrence, JJ.

(x) Boulton and Watt v. Bull, 2 H. Black. 496.

(y) Minter v. Wells, 1 C. M. & R. 505; Webst. P. C. 134, S. C.

(z) See a form of plea. Nickels v. Ross, 8 C. B. 686; see Spilsbury v. Clough, 2 Q. B. 466; S. C. Webst. P. C. 255; see forms of suggestion in sci. fa. Reg v. Cutler, 3 Car. & Kir. 215.

## \*CHAPTER III.

[\*13]

## THE MANUFACTURE MUST BE NEW, THAT IS, DISTINCT FROM EXISTING AND KNOWN MANUFACTURES.

THE manufacture must be new, that is, the knowledge and right of using it not public property. It must differ specifically, and not merely in accidental circumstances, from existing and known manufactures.

1. A patent cannot be had for applying an old contrivance to a new object, as scissors to cut silk. The questions are, whether the new purpose is perfectly analogous to that to which the old contrivance had been applied, and whether its capability of adaptation to such new purpose, without the necessity of modification, is obvious or not? The application of a wheel previously invented for carriages running on common roads, to railroad carriages, is not a good subject-matter of a patent.(a) So the application of a nipping lever which was an old mechanical contrivance to a new purpose, was held not to be the subject of a patent, unless the means by which it was applied were new and essential.(b) A patent was taken out for improved machinery for spinning flax; the improvement in spinning-machinery consisted merely in placing the drawing-rollers nearer to the retaining-rollers than they had before been placed in flax-spinning; namely within two inches and a half. It appeared that in spinning cotton they had been placed at distances varying from seven-eighths of an inch to an inch and a quarter, in flax-spinning from fourteen to thirty-six inches, and in worsted-spinning from four to fourteen inches. The patent was held bad, as being \*merely for the application of [ \*14 ] a piece of machinery already known.(c)

2. A mode of uniting the shank to the flukes of anchors had been in use for adze anchors and mushroom anchors, which were used in mooring vessels. A patent was taken out for uniting the parts of ships' anchors in the same way. The Court thought that if the union of the parts had been effected in a manner unknown before, as applied in any degree to similar purposes, it would have been a good ground for a patent, but not where the object gained, namely the avoidance of welding, had been well known and practised before in similar cases.(d)

3. The value of the result is more important than the amount of invention or the skill of the discoverer.(e) The method of making water-tabbies was discovered by mere accident. Watt stated that his discovery of parallel motion was not the result of any experiment, but was conceived by him at once as a complete invention, and that he felt the same

(a) Losh v. Hague, Webst. Pat. Ca. 208, Lord Abinger.

(b) Pow v. Taunton, 9 Jurist, 1056, Q. B.; see Reg. v. Cutler, 3 Car. & Kir. 230; Cochrane v. Waterman, Crouch, J. Curtis on Patents, 541.

(c) Kay v. Marshall, 5 Bing. N. C. 492; 1 Beav. 535; 8 Clark & Finn. 245.

(d) Brunton v. Hawkes, 4 B. & Ald. 541; Saunders v. Aston, 3 B. & Ald. 881; Hotchkiss v. Greenwood, 11 Howard, S. C. R. 266.

(e) Crane v. Price, Webst. P. C. 411, Tindal, C. J.; Liardet v. Johnson, Bull. N. P. 76, Lord Mansfield; Carpmael on Patents, 65.

sort of surprise and pleasure in contemplating it, that a man might feel in having brought to his notice an ingenious invention of another person. The simplicity of an invention so far from being an objection to it, may constitute its great excellence and value.

4. When a material is once known, it may be applied in any manner. Therefore tubes coated with brass being known, and tubes welded by a mandrel and die being known, a patent for their use as the tubular flues of a boiler is not good. (*f*)

The application of bone hafts and latten plates for the handles of knives has been held not to be a good subject-matter of a patent. (*g*)

5. But where the application involves a new discovery of a property the in thing applied, or a new result is attained, a patent may be good; thus, though the adaptation of caoutchouc as a fillet for cards was a very [ \*15 ] simple matter, \*yet as it was a substance whose properties and fitness for that purpose had never been known before, the adaptation was held to be a good subject-matter of a patent. (*h*)

Vaucher had invented a new method of packing parts of hydraulic machines and steam-engines, so as to render them fluid-tight, by the use of soft metal instead of elastic substances. After the date of this patent, it was discovered that by the use of soft metal in parts of machines subject to friction occasioned by pressure and rapid motion, the friction and evolution of heat were greatly diminished. A patent was obtained for the lining with soft metal of those parts of machines subject to pressure while in rapid motion, and a mode of keeping the soft metal in its place. It was held that it was a new principle embodied in a new machine. (*i*)

6. It is sufficient if the application of the old contrivance involve any new invention. Where, at the time of the patent, it is not actually known amongst scientific men or otherwise whether or not the old contrivance is applicable to the new purpose, a patent for the application may be had. Thus, the use of duplicate apparatus for transmitting signals by the electric telegraph, at the intermediate stations was held to be a good subject of a patent; for though it was highly probable, *à priori*, that a circuit having distant coils and apparatus for giving signals might be applied at the intermediate stations, it was a matter of experiment whether it could be carried out in practice, and the invention, though a simple one, was therefore considered sufficient to entitle the discoverer to a patent. (*k*)

7. So if such application is any new combination, or new or improved mode of operation, chemical or otherwise, a patent may be sustained.

Before the date of a patent, part of the garancine had been obtained from madder by boiling, and the refuse or spent madder had been thrown away as useless. It was known that the spent madder contained garancine, but no one had extracted it from the spent madder. The whole of the garancine had, however, been obtained from fresh madder by a

(*f*) Reg. v. Cutler, 3 Car. & Kir. 215.

(*g*) Matthey's patent, Noy. 178.

(*h*) Walton v. Potter Coltman, J. 3 M. & G. 438.

(*i*) Newton v. Vaucher, 6 Exch. Rep. 859.

(*k*) The Electric Telegraph Company v. Brett and Little, 20 L. J. N. S. C. P. 123.

\*certain process. . A patent having been granted for extracting [ \*16 ] the garancine from spent madder by this process, it was held by Pollock, C. B., at *Nisi Prius*, not to be a new manufacture.<sup>(l)</sup> But the Court of Exchequer Chamber held that it was a question for the jury. Spent madder might be a very different thing from fresh madder in its properties, chemical or otherwise, or it might be in effect the same thing, with this difference only, that part of its colouring matter had been already extracted. Again, the properties chemical and otherwise of both, might or might not have been known to chemists and other scientific persons. Whether fresh madder and spent madder are different things, or substantially the same things, were matters of fact, and material to affect the validity or invalidity of the patent.<sup>(m)</sup>

8. So if any properties or valuable qualities of the substances employed, not known before, are developed by the application, or a new or cheaper manufacture is the result.

Crane's patent was for the application of anthracite as combined with the hot-air blast in the smelting of iron.

Neilson's patent was for the hot blast in general terms. It was urged that Crane had done nothing but apply Neilson's patent to known articles by known means, and to effect a known object. Except in a small experimental furnace, iron had never been smelted by the use of anthracite, and not profitably in that, and the attempt to use it had been abandoned. It was not obvious that anthracite could be used beneficially with the hot blast. It was not obvious that the iron would be better from the use of the hot blast in conjunction with anthracite. It was proved that the yield of iron was greater, the quality better, and the expense of producing it less. Taking the use of the hot-air blast and of anthracite to be known, the Court thought that a patent for their combination was good; the result of the combination being the production of a better article, and a cheaper article, and the combination being new.<sup>(n)</sup>

9. It is no objection to patents for mechanical or chemical discoveries, that the articles of which they are composed were \*known, and were in use before, provided the compound article which is the [ \*17 ] object of the invention is new.<sup>(o)</sup>

10. It is sufficient if the invention is a new combination of materials previously in use for the same purpose, as of new proportions of the materials used for charging blast-furnaces.

If the result produced is a new article, a better article, or a cheaper article to the public than that produced before, it may well become the subject of a patent.<sup>(p)</sup>

11. A patent for a new mode of arranging old materials may be good, if the result is a new article, as a plush surface produced by employing

(l) *Steiner v. Heald*, 2 Car. & K. 1022.

(m) *Steiner v. Heald*, 6 Exch. 607; S. C. 20 L. J, n. s. Exch. 410.

(n) *Crane v. Price*, Webst. P. C. 377, 409.

(o) *Boulton and Watt v. Bull*, 2 H. Black. 487, per Buller J.

(p) *Hill v. Thompson*, Webst. P. C. 237; 3 Mer. 626, S. C.; *Lukie v. Robson*, 2 Jurist, 201; *Macintosh v. Everington*, Webst. Dig. 121.

as weft cut stripes of silk folded, and with the cut edges brought together. (q)

Elastic and non-elastic threads were combined in weaving cloth by placing them alternately side by side in the warp, while the elastic threads were in a state of tension, and deprived of their elasticity, which was subsequently restored by another process. The cloth made was elastic, but such elasticity was limited by the length of the non-elastic threads. The manufacture was held to be the subject of a patent, though the separate materials had been used before. (r)

But where a button and a flexible shank were both old, the putting them together was held not a new manufacture, because the mode of uniting the two was known and obvious, and no result followed from the combination, except what was known and obvious to anybody without experiment. (s)

12. Where the invention is a mere process, any change in the order of the process may constitute a new manufacture. Soap and water were known in the process of felting as a substitute for the use of acidulated water. Rollers were also in use. The application of soap and water in the felting process combined with a set of rollers was held a good subject for a patent, a sufficient novelty in combination. (t)

Waterproof fabrics pervious to air were made by immersing cloths in a solution of alum and soap, but the waterproof surface wore off. The [ \*18 ] plaintiff's invention consisted in \*immersing the fabric in a solution of alum with some carbonate of lime, and then in a solution of soap. The effect is, that by the first immersion every fibre becomes impregnated with the alum, the sulphuric acid of the alum being neutralized by the carbonate of lime. By the second immersion, the oily quality rendering it repellent of water is given to every fibre, so that each fibre is rendered waterproof. (u)

13. The combination of two known processes may be a good subject-matter, if the result is new.

The shearing of cloth from list to list was known, and the shearing it from end to end by means of rotary cutters was also known. A person constructed a machine by which cloth was shorn from list to list by rotary cutters. This was held to be a new invention, entitling the inventor to obtain a patent for it; the two things not having been combined before, and the combination having been found useful. (x)

14. If the invention, or that which is substantially the same thing, be already in use, or known, a patent for it cannot be supported. In a case before the statute, of a patent for frisadoes, very like baize previously manufactured, the Court refused to restrain people from making baize similar to Hastings's frisadoes. (y)

(q) Templeton v. Macfarlane, 1 H. L. C. 604.

(r) Cornish v. Keene, 3 Bing. N. C. 586; Webst. P. C. 516.

(s) Saunders v. Aston, 3 B. & Ald. 881.

(t) Allen v. Rawson, 1 C. B. 574.

(u) Helliwell v. Dearman, Webst. P. C. 401 n.

(x) Lewis v. Davis, 3 C. & P. 502; Webst. P. C. 488; see Report on Patents, 1829, 111.

(y) Hastings's case, cited Darcy v. Allin, Noy's Rep. 182; Humphrey's Patent, ib.

Fussell's patent for dressing woollen cloths by relaxing the fibres by steam was held bad, Daniell having previously done the same thing by hot water.(z) Lister's patent for heating wool in spinning by steam within hollow rollers was held bad, Hadden having previously done the same thing by iron heaters.(a)

15. In determining whether two modes of working are substantially distinct, the principles and effects of their operation must be looked to. The substitution of a tube for a ring or circle of metal for the purpose of compressing and keeping compressed the yarns in the strands of ropes, during the \*process of manufacturing rope, is a distinct substantive invention, because it keeps the strands in a degree of confinement for a greater time, and obtains the end of keeping each yarn in its situation with more certainty.(b)

A method of manufacturing iron tubes for gas-pipes and other similar purposes, consisted in drawing them through fixed dies, omitting the use of a mandrel, previously employed. This was held a good subject-matter of a patent, the result being that the tubes could be manufactured of much greater length and of better quality.(c)

The principle of the above invention was the welding iron pipes by circumferential pressure, and without a mandrel or any internal support, by drawing a narrow sheet of iron, bent into a cylindrical form, and heated to a welding heat, through a fixed die, in which the edges of the cylindrical tube were pinched or pressed together and welded. This was held to be a good subject for a patent, though such pipes had previously been welded by placing them in a semicylindrical recess in an anvil, and beating them together by a succession of blows, by means of a tilt-hammer, having a similar recess. The Court thought that the principle of the two inventions was not the same, for the tilt-hammer did not operate by continuous equal circumferential pressure, as fixed dies did, but by the repetition of violent contact of short duration.(d)

16. The simplification of existing machinery may be a good subject-matter for a patent. Minter's patent was for a self-adjusting leverage applied to the back of a chair. The Court said, if the principle might have been deduced from the machinery of an old chair, but it was so complicated and connected with other machinery that nobody did make that discovery, or ever find out that he could have a chair with a self-adjusting leverage, the discovery by the plaintiff, that, throwing aside everything but the self-adjusting leverage itself, a beneficial effect will be produced, is a new invention.(e)

17. An addition to or improvement of an existing machine \*is a good subject of a patent.(f) In *Morris v. Branson*, the patent [ \*20 ]

(z) *Rex v. Fussell*, *Godson on Patents*, 275; *S. C. Rep.* 1829, 211.

(a) *Rex v. Lister*, *Rep.* 1829, 211; see *Rex v. Hadden*, *ib.*; *Barton v. Hall*, *ib.*; *Rex v. Lodge*, *ib.*, 208.

(b) *Huddart v. Grimshaw*, *Webst. P. C.* 85, 95.

(c) *Russell v. Cowley*, *1 C. M. & R.* 871; *Webst. P. C.* 468.

(d) *14 M. & W.* 579, *Russell v. Ledsam*.

(e) *Minter v. Mower*, *Webst. P. C.* 140.

(f) *Boulton and Watt v. Bull*, *2 H. Black.* 463; *Hornblower v. Boulton*, *8 T. R.* 99.

was for making oilet-holes or net-work in silk, cotton, thread, or worsted; and it was held good.<sup>(g)</sup> A patent may be good for an improvement on an invention protected by existing letters patent. The new patent, after the expiration of the old one, will be free from every objection; and while the old one exists, can be legally used by persons having licenses from the prior patentee.<sup>(h)</sup> In Arkwright's case it was said, many parts of a machine may have been known before, yet, if there be anything material and new which is an improvement in the trade, it will be sufficient to sustain a patent; whether it must be for the new addition only, or for the whole machine, is another question.<sup>(i)</sup>

18. The patent for an improvement will be bad if it does not distinguish the new part from the old, or lays claim to that which has been invented before.<sup>(k)</sup> Thus, Jessop's patent for a watch, because the claim extended to the whole watch, and the invention was of a particular movement only.<sup>(l)</sup>

19. The specification must distinctly show that the patent is for the improvement only. The public have a right to purchase the improvement only, without being cumbered with other things.<sup>(m)</sup> A patent for a new manufacture of lace was generally, for a new invention of mixing silk and cotton thread upon the frame. It was shown that silk and cotton had been used together prior to the patent. The patentee offered to prove that the former method was imperfect, and that he alone had succeeded in combining strength with fineness: the patent was held bad, as claiming the exclusive liberty of combining silk and cotton thread.<sup>(n)</sup> A [ \*21 ] patent for "an improved method of making sail-cloth without \*any starch, whatever," as explained by the specification, claimed the exclusion of starch. The invention, if any, consisted in a new mode of weaving the cloth: the patent was held void, as claiming what was old.<sup>(o)</sup>

20. It was formerly said that a patent cannot be had for an entire machine, where that which is newly invented is only a part of it; if the substance was in use before, and a new addition is made thereto, though that addition make the former more profitable, yet it is not a new manufacture in law.<sup>(p)</sup> In Bircot's case, an improvement in the mode of preparing and smelting lead was compared to putting a new button on an old coat. At the present day, if the novelty or addition consists in something not material to the useful effect, a patent cannot be had.<sup>(q)</sup> In Arkwright's case, the question was, did the stripe on the filleted cylinder make a material alteration? for it appeared to do without stripes as

(g) *Morris v. Branson*, cited 2 H. Black. 489.

(h) *Harmar v. Playne*, 11 East, 101; *Crane v. Price*, Webst. P. C. 412; *Ex parte Fox*, 1 Vesey & B. 67.

(i) *Rex v. Arkwright*, Webst. P. C. 71, Buller, J.

(k) *Minter v. Mower*, 6 A. & E. 735; S. C. Webst. P. C. 142.

(l) *Jessop's case*, 2 H. Black. 476, 489.

(m) *Hill v. Thompson*, 8 Taunt. 398; Webst. P. C. 247; per Buller, J.; 2 H. Black. 489.

(n) *Rex v. Else*, 11 East, 109 n.

(o) *Campion v. Benyon*, 3 Brod. & Bing. 6.

(p) 3 Inst. 184, citing *Bircot's case*, in the Exch. Chamb. Easter, 15 Eliz.

(q) *Dobbs v. Penn*, 3 Exch. 427, 434; *Rex v. Arkwright*, Webst. P. C. 72.

well as with them. If so, even if the stripes were not used before, that was not such an alteration as would support a patent.

21. But a very large class of inventions in modern times consist of some new modification of existing machinery. If the machine is a perfectly new combination of parts from the beginning, though all the parts may have been used before, a patent for the entire machine will be good.<sup>(r)</sup> In considering whether the invention is new, the proper mode is to take the specification altogether, and see whether the matter claimed as a whole is new.

In the case of an invention of the lining of boxes for the axles of railway-cars and locomotive engines, with an alloy of tin, having certain provisions, partly mechanical, as by fillets, and partly chemical, as by tinning the inside of the boxes, for keeping the lining in its place, the jury must take the whole of that for which the patent was granted, the form of the interior of the axle-boxes, the coating with tin, and the soft metal lining, and say whether the \*invention is new.<sup>(s)</sup> The question of novelty depends on whether the whole taken together [<sup>\*22</sup>] is new, though it may in part consist of old parts, provided the patentee does not claim the old parts, but only the combination of them and the new.

22. If the machinery by which the principle is carried out is different, there may be several patents for distinct modes of carrying out the same principle. . An invention of improvements in making sugar, consisted in forcing hot or cold air, by means of bellows or other blowing apparatus, through a large pipe at the upper part of the vessel, communicating with a series of tubes descending through the liquid to be evaporated, equally distributed through the vessel, and having their mouths exactly on a level and parallel with the surface of the liquid. By this means, air, in a highly divided state, was forced in small streams equally through every part of the liquid. This was held a good subject of a patent as an improved apparatus, though such liquids had, under a former patent, been evaporated by means of air forced through a coil of pipes, or a shallow cullander placed at the bottom of the vessel. Probably the apparatus could not have been used without a license from the prior patentee.<sup>(t)</sup>

23. A patent may be had for a mode of manufacturing an article, which is known in this country as an imported article, if the mode of manufacture is not known here; but, in that case, the specification must claim the mode of manufacturing, and not the manufactured article.<sup>(u)</sup>

(r) *Bovill v. Moore*, 2 Marsh. 211, Gibbs, C. J.

(s) *Newton v. Grand Junction Railway Company*, 5 Exch. 331, Jan. 20, 1846.

(t) *Hullett v. Hague*, 2 B. & Ad. 370.

(u) See the *Smalt and Glass Patents*, *Webst. Pat. Ca.* 8, 27 n.; *Hancock v. Somervell*, *Newton's London Journal*, vol. 39, p. 158.

[\* 23 ]

## \*CHAPTER IV.

## THE UTILITY OF THE INVENTION.

1. We have seen that utility is a condition of a right to a patent for an invention at Common Law.(a) If the invention is useless, the patent is void, as obtained upon a false suggestion, which is either express, as where the patent is granted for the improvements which turn out not to be so ;(b) or implied, as where no recital that the invention is an improvement appears on the face of the patent ; but the grant is void, because it cannot enure according to the intent of the Crown, and the Crown is decided in the law.(c)

2. If the invention is useless, not only is there no consideration for the restraint of trade, but the monopoly is mischievous, inasmuch as it prevents other people from adding to the invention, so as to make it useful.

3. If a man puts several inventions into one patent, one of which is not useful, he loses the benefit of his patent(d) till the Attorney-General allows him to disclaim that part, and gives him the protection of the patent for the rest. It is essential that a process should in all its parts be successful ; the patentee undertakes to guarantee to the community the use of all that he claims as his invention.

The invention must be useful for all the purposes suggested in the specification. If a patent is taken out for an improvement in the manufacture [ \*24 ] of elastic cloth for bandages, and \*such articles of dress as the same may be applicable to, it is not enough to show that it is an improvement in surgical bandages.(e)

4. It is not necessary that the utility should be great, it is sufficient if the invention is an improvement at all. If it is of a different construction from former articles of the same kind, and of any use, that is sufficient. If a new description of steam-engine could be used where other engines would not answer, that would be sufficient ; it need not be likely to come into general use.(f) It will not avoid the patent because some cases may occur in which the invention may not be useful, if it is found to be useful on the whole.(g) It is a question for the jury, whether the improvement is something trifling and insignificant, or whether it was worth a patent.(h) In the case of Watt's patent, it was said, that in order to make the patent good, the method must be capable of lessening the consumption of steam to such a degree as to make the invention useful. A patent for an invention which enacts its purpose of utility will not be

(a) See 3 Inst. 184 ; Edgeberry v. Stephens, 2 Salk. 447 ; ante, p. 2 ; Rex v. Arkwright, Webst. P. C. 72 ; S. C. Dav. Pat. Ca. 129, Buller, J.

(b) Morgan v. Seaward, Webst. P. C. 197 ; 2 M. & W. 544 ; Manton v. Parker, Dav. Pat. Ca. 327.

(c) See case of Alton Woods, 1 Co. Rep. 53.

(d) Morgan v. Seward, Webst. Pat. Ca. 188 ; 2 M. & W. 562.

(e) Cornish v. Keene, N. P. Tindal, C. J. Webst. P. C. 506.

(f) Alderson B. Morgan v. Seaward, at Nisi Prius, Webst. P. C. 186.

(g) Haworth v. Hardcastle, 1 Bing. N. C. 182 ; S. C. Webst. Pat. Ca. 480.

(h) Losh v. Hague, Webst. P. C. 205 ; Boulton and Watt v. Bull, 2 H. Black. 498.

void because, from the want of improvements afterwards made, it has a tendency to destroy the apparatus by which it is applied.(i)

5. The questions of utility were thus stated by Lord Brougham in argument. An invention may fail in two ways: a man may describe a machine, and say it does so much; if, when it comes into actual practice, it fails to produce that result, there is an end of the patent. It may fail in another way. It may produce a movement; but a movement, like gold may be bought too dear. It may be of no advantage whatever when it comes to be used. It may be such, that though possibly the effect may be produced which the inventor pretends to produce by it, yet it may be produced at such cost, with such loss of time and interruption of business, and other inconveniences, not taken into account when he originally stated it to be a new and valuable invention, that \*these are not sufficiently counterbalanced by the actual good resulting from it; and [\* 25] if, upon the trial, it is found that the old way is better, with all its disadvantages, then the patent fails, because the invention is not useful.(k)

6. A patent for an entire complicated machine, which is useful, will not be avoided by proof that one of the parts of it has been discovered to be useless, and may be dispensed with without impairing the useful effect.(l)

7. Persons in the habit of using the thing patented may be called to prove its value and utility.(m) The extensive sale of an invention is good evidence of its utility, but not cheapness alone; an article may be too cheap to be good.(n) It may be proved by the evidence of scientific men, that any part of an invention which has not been actually tried would answer its purpose.(o)

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## \*CHAPTER V.

[\* 26 ]

### PRIOR USER.

1. THE use of a process in the ordinary course of trade by any other person, though such use is kept a secret from all but his partners and confidential servants, will vitiate a patent for such process.(a) The words, "public use and exercise," in the condition of a patent, are used in opposition to private and secret use. Public use is use in a public manner, not necessarily general use.(b) Where an improved lock, for which the plaintiff had a patent, had previously been used by an indivi-

(i) The Househill Company v. Neilson, Webst. Pat. Ca. 696.

(k) Per Brougham, arg. Crossley v. Beverley, Nisi Prius, Webst. Pat. Ca. 109.

(l) Lewis v. Marling, 10 B. & C. 22; Morgan v. Seaward, 2 M. & W. 562.

(m) Webster v. Uther, Godson on Patents, 232.

(n) Cornish v. Keene, Webst. Pat. Ca. 506, Tindal, C. J. N. P.

(o) Neilson v. Hartford, Webst. Pat. Ca. 316, N. P.

(a) Tennant's case, Webst. Pat. Ca. 125; Dav. Pat. Ca. 429.

(b) Carpenter v. Smith, N. P. Lord Abinger, Webst. P. C. 535; Tenant's case, Davies Pat. Ca. 429.

dual on a gate adjoining a public road for several years, and several dozen of a similar kind had been made in Birmingham from a pattern received from America, a patent for the invention was held void.(c)

2. If a machine has been publicly made and sold to any one individual, no patent can be had, though the invention was no further used, not being peculiarly adapted to any use at the time of such first sale.(d) The question is, whether the invention ever existed at all before.(e) Assuming it to have been a perfect invention, the abandonment of it becomes wholly immaterial. (f)

In Neilson against the Househill Company, it was ruled by the Lord Justice-Clerk Hope, that if the machinery had \*been made, and [\* 27] had been put on trial, unless those trials had gone on, and the machines had been used up to the time of the granting of the letters patent it would not be evidence of prior use, so as to invalidate the letters patent. But that decision was reversed in the House of Lords, where it was decided, that if it is proved that a machine of the same kind as the invention patented was previously in existence and in public use, it is not necessary that the use should come down to the time when the patent was granted.(g)

3. The originality of an invention is not destroyed by proof, that in the history of the arts and trades of this country, some persons may apparently have had some glimpse of the same conception in occasional and insulated experiments, which were not prosecuted or made known, and from which, so far as the rest of the world were concerned, no result or change followed in former practice.(h) It often becomes a question of great difficulty and importance, where an invention apparently similar has been in use before, and has been disused, whether the old invention is identical with that subsequently patented;(i) or whether the old invention was merely an unsuccessful experiment. It must never be forgotten how slight are the differences between success and failure, and how easily people may persuade themselves into the belief of having done the very same thing, though failing to attain the same degree of success.(k) Lord Justice-Clerk Hope says, if the process is of great, manifest, and immediate utility, the abandonment is of the utmost importance, in considering the question of novelty. Could such an invention have been previously in public use without abundant proof?(l) Lord Brougham said, the abandonment of such an invention is a very strong presumption, almost decisive, to show that it was not a real invention.(m) Even if the former

(c) Carpenter v. Smith, 9 M. & W. 300; S. C. Webst. P. C. 540.

(d) Losh v. Hague, N. P. Webst. P. C. 203.

(e) Minter v. Wells and Hart, N. P. Alderson, B. Webst. P. C. 127.

(f) The Househill Company v. Neilson, in House of Lords, Webst. P. C. 716.

(g) The Househill Company v. Neilson, Webst. P. C. 709.

(h) The Househill Company v. Neilson, Webst. P. C. 690.

(i) See Bickford v. Skewes, Webst. P. C. 214.

(k) Webst. P. C. 245, note c.

(l) Lord Justice-Clerk Hope, The Househill Company v. Neilson, 1 Webst. P. C. 690.

(m) Per Lord Brougham, The Househill Company v. Neilson, Webst. P. C. 713; ib. 673, 692.

invention did in fact embody the principle of the subsequent patent, if the \*use was limited and abandoned, the question is, [\*28] whether it was not rather an experiment than a public use.(n)

4. A mere experiment which is not brought to completion, but ends in uncertain experiments, not producing any definite practical results, is not such an invention as will prevent another person who is more successful or industrious from perfecting the discovery if he is able to do so. Mr. Field had made a drawing and model of a paddle-wheel, with divided floats arranged in a cycloidal curve, and exhibited it at the Admiralty, and to any person who wished to see it at the manufactory. He afterwards applied it in a vessel, the Endeavour, and used the wheel for some weeks. He then restored the former wheel, because, as he said, the boiler did not make steam fast enough for it. He entered a caveat at the Patent Office. He went on making many experiments for two years. He said he had examined the specification and models, and that Galloway's invention was the same in principle as his own. He said the wheel was a very valuable wheel, and a valid patent for it would be very valuable to the patentees. Chief Justice Tindal said, the question for the jury was, whether, under the circumstances, Mr. Field was to be depended on as to the exact identity of the discovery. The experiments had tended almost, if not entirely, to the same result. If they had rested in experiment only, and had not attained the object for which the patent was taken out, mere experiments, supposed by the parties to be fruitless, and abandoned, because they had not attained a complete result, would not affect the patent of one who carried the invention to perfection.(o)

In *Jones v. Pearce*, wheels similar in principle to, but differing in detail from that patented, had been put into a cart by Mr. Strutt, and used for carrying heavy loads of stones. The spokes occasionally got bent, and the nave becoming broken, the cart was laid by. A milk-cart upon the same principle had also been used. The rods were frequently straightened, and the wheel was worked till the iron tire was wore thin at the edges. Patteson, J. said, that on the whole of the evidence it appeared that the wheel constructed according \*to Mr. Strutt's [\*29] order was an experiment, and that he found it did not answer and ceased to use it, and abandoned it as useless, and that the plaintiff's wheel, remedying the defects of Mr. Strutt's wheel, was his own invention; the plaintiff's patent was good.(p)

Lord Campbell, in the House of Lords, in *Neilson's case*, said the effect of Mr. Justice Patteson's direction in *Jones v. Pearce*, and of that of Lord Chief Justice Tindal in *Cornish v. Keene*, amounts to this, that the abandonment of a machine may be material for the assistance of a jury in considering whether it was a perfect invention or not. But as-

(n) *Walton v. Bateman*, Webst. P. C. 619, Cresswell J.

(o) *Galloway v. Bleadon*, Webst. P. C. 521, 527; *Gibson v. Brand*, Webst. P. C. 627.

(p) *Jones v. Pearce*, Webst. P. C. 122, Patteson, J. at *Nisi Prius*. The Court afterwards granted a rule nisi for a new trial, but the case was eventually compromised. It would probably not be followed since the decision of *The Househill Company v. Neilson*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 709.

suming it to be a perfect invention, the abandonment becomes wholly immaterial.(q)

5. If the patentee has been the first person to introduce the invention into public use, that is *prima facie* evidence that he was the first inventor.(r) Evidence is generally given by persons in the trade, that they never heard of the invention before the patented articles were brought into the market, and that is enough for a *prima facie* case; but the general ignorance of witnesses of the improvements is no contradiction, and can avail nothing against evidence of previous knowledge and use by others. Fifty witnesses proving they had never seen the invention will be of no avail if one is called who has seen and practised it.(s)

6. To vitiate a patent on the ground of prior use, the practice of the invention must not have been secret or confined to the breast of the party making the discovery. In order to set aside the patent, the use must have been notorious.(t) There is no case in which a patentee has been [ \*30 ] deprived of the benefit of his invention, because another has \*invented it, if he has not also brought it into use.(u) In Dollond's case, Dr. Hall made the same discovery before him, but Dr. Hall had confined it to his closet, and the public were not acquainted with it.(x) There may be several discoverers, many rivals running on the same road, and making an invention simultaneously: the first who comes to the Crown and takes out a patent has a right to clothe himself with the authority and enjoy the benefits of it.

7. But the mere existence of a machine in any place accessible to the public has been held to be sufficient to avoid the patent. Thus, where a man invented a lock and put it on his own gate, and used it for a dozen years, that was held a public use of it. Perhaps the true question is, whether the use in public is such that the public know, or might have the means of knowing, the construction of the machine. If from an inspection of the machine its construction can be learnt at once, or if, as is supposed in the principal case, the inventor did not make the lock so used with his own hands, but employed strangers to make and repair it, the invention may be published by such use.(y)

In a recent case, the patentee had seen a piece of vulcanized India rubber imported from abroad. In determining whether he was the inventor, the question was, could he have known or learnt, from a mere inspection of the article, the secret of its manufacture, or did he invent independently the mode of manufacture, in consequence of the idea suggested to him by the sight of the article?(z) It seems to be a question for the

(q) Per Lord Campbell, *The Househill Company v. Neilson*, Webst. P. C. 713; *Cornish v. Keene*, Webst. P. C. 508.

(r) *Minter v. Wells*, Webst. P. C. 131, Alderson, B.; *Elliott v. Aston*, Webst. P. C. 222, Coltman, J. N. P.

(s) *Rex v. Arkwright*, Webst. P. C. 72; per Buller, J.; *Hill v. Thompson*, 8 Taunt. 382; S. C. Webst. P. C. 245; *Manton v. Manton*, Davies Pat. Ca. 350; *Galloway v. Bleadon*, Webst. P. C. 526.

(t) See *Cornish v. Keene*, Webst. P. C. 512, Tindal, C. J.; *The Househill Company v. Neilson*, Webst. P. C. 709, Lord Lyndhurst.

(u) *Lewis v. Marling*, 10 B. & C. 22; S. C. Webst. P. C. 493, Parke, B.

(x) *Dollond's case*, cited by Buller, J. 2 H. Bl. 470, 487; Webst. P. C. 43.

(y) Webst. P. C. 530, 535, 539, Lord Abinger, *Carpenter v. Smith*.

(z) *Hancock v. Somervill*, Newton's London Journal, vol. 39, p. 158.

jury, whether, from the facts proved, they will infer that the invention was known.(a)

8. It is said to be enough if the machine is new in use, though the principle was known. The mere existence of a model of the machine may not avoid a patent. A model and specification of a machine similar to that for which the patent was granted had been brought over from America and shown to several persons, but no machine had been manufactured \*and brought into use (see however, Mr. Godson's note of this case). The patent was held not to be avoided.(b) This [\*31] case has been said to go to the extreme point of the law.(c) In Crane's case, the use of anthracite coal in smelting iron was proved to have been carried on in a small model experimental furnace for a considerable period, with some degree of success, though not profitably, and only inferior iron was produced; but it had failed when applied in a large ordinary furnace. It had been the great object before the date of the patent to smelt iron by means of such coal. The Court held that there was evidence that it had never been done before.(d) Both these cases have been doubted.(e) They may, perhaps, be rested on the ground, that before the plaintiff's patents there was no perfected knowledge of the thing discovered.(f)

9. It is a most important question what communication of an invention by an inventor to others is to be deemed a publication of the invention. If, before the grant of the patent, the patentee has carried his invention into practice, and made articles according to it in the way of commerce for gain to himself, and has been in the practice of selling them publicly to any one who would buy of him, the patent will be void. A single instance of such a sale might be deemed a public use of the invention, so as to defeat the patent.(g)

10. The use of the invention by the patentee for the purpose of experiment, and of satisfying himself of the practicability of his conception, will not avoid a patent. In *Bramah v. Hardcastle*, it appeared in evidence that the plaintiff had made two or three improved water-closets before he obtained his patent; but Bearcroft, the defendant's counsel, admitted that this circumstance would not invalidate the patent, unless the invention had likewise been used by others.(h) A \*machine [\*32] does not cease to be the subject-matter of a patent, because it has been completed as a working machine for a long time, if it had been kept shut up, and has not been used by the patentee except for the purpose of experiments.(i)

(a) See per Maule, J. 8 C. B. 719.

(b) *Lewis v. Marling*, 10 B. & C. 22.

(c) *Carpenter v. Smith*, 9 M. & W. 303, Alderson, B.

(d) *Crane v. Price*, Webst. P. C. 389, 411.

(e) See Godson on Patents, 432; *Morgan v. Seaward*, 2 M. & W. 553; 3 Exch. 433, Sir F. Pollock, C. B. and Parke, B.

(f) See per Lord Abinger, 9 M. & W. 304.

(g) *Wood v. Zimmer*, Holt, N. P. C. 58; *Morgan v. Seaward*, 2 M. & W. 544, 559; *Carpenter v. Smith*, N. P. Webst. P. C. 526, Lord Abinger.

(h) Webst. Pat. Ca. 194 n.; *Bramah v. Hardcastle*, Holroyd on Patents, 82 n.

(i) *Bentley v. Fleming*, 1 Car. & K. 589.

11. If the inventor incautiously communicates his invention, without any conditions of secrecy, to a stranger, who, without intending any fraud, either himself causes articles to be made upon the principle, or suggests the idea to another, who does so, the patent will be lost.<sup>(k)</sup>

12. The private communication of the invention by the inventor to any persons under such circumstances that the publication of the invention by such persons would be a breach of trust, will not make an invention public property, so as to prevent an inventor obtaining a patent. If a man employs an agent to see if he can get an article manufactured by a particular model, and chooses to take out a patent for it, he is not to be considered as not entitled to the invention because he has employed a workman to assist him in it.<sup>(l)</sup> If, after the machine is completed, the inventor lends it to a person to have its qualities tested, and that other uses it for some weeks in his workroom in a mill, where people frequently come in and out, this seems not to be giving the invention such a publicity as to deprive the inventor of his right to take out a patent for it.<sup>(m)</sup> A disclosure to a person, with whom the patentee is in treaty for a partnership in a sale of the patent, is not a publication.<sup>(n)</sup>

13. Nor will it be a publication of the patent, if a person with whom the patentee is in treaty for a sale of, or partnership in the patent in conjunction with the patentee, employs an engineer to manufacture a machine according to the patent, and pays him for his work and materials, the engineer being employed confidentially, and the manufacture [ \*33 ] carried on \*under the injunction of secrecy, for the purpose of testing the invention.

A few months before the date of a patent for an improvement in paddle-wheels, two pair of the wheels were made for Morgan, who at that time was in treaty with the patentee for a sale or partnership in the patent, by an engineer at his manufactory, under the directions of the patentee, and under an injunction of secrecy. The engineer was paid for his work and the materials by Morgan. When finished, the wheels were completed, and put together at the factory, but not shown to any one who might come there. They were then taken to pieces, packed up, and shipped for a foreign port, where, after the date of the patent, according to Morgan's directions, they were put together and used in steamboats belonging to a company of which Morgan was manager and a principal shareholder, and on behalf of whom he paid the engineer for the machines. It did not appear that either Morgan or the patentee, derived any profit from the sale of the wheels. It was held, that the jury would have been justified in inferring that there had been no use or publication of the invention. There had been no public use or exhibition of the machine,

(k) Earl of Yarmouth v. Darrell, 3 Mod. 77; Rep. 1829, 82, citing an opinion of Lord Eldon when Attorney-General; see also Godson on Patents, 41, referring, apparently, to the same case.

(l) Carpenter v. Smith, per Lord Abinger, Webst. P. C. 536, N. P.; Morgan v. Seaward, 2 M. & W. 558; see also Prince Albert v. Strange, 1 MacNaghten & Gordon, 25, 43; 1 Hall & Twells, S. C.

(m) Bentley v. Fleming, 1 C. & K. 587.

(n) Morgan v. Seaward, 2 M. & W. 558.

or of the mode of its construction, in England, and no evidence that the patentee had exercised the invention for gain.<sup>(o)</sup>

14. It is unsettled how far the fraudulent publication of an invention by persons who have been employed by the inventor, would affect a patent. Where a person has a secret in trade, and employs others under contract, express or implied; those persons cannot gain the knowledge of that secret and then set it up against their employer.

The use of the secret of an unpatented invention, communicated in breach of confidence, will be restrained by injunction.<sup>(p)</sup> The case of an attempt to obtain a patent under such circumstances, is expressly provided for by stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 10, which enacts, that in case of any application for letters patent, and the obtaining upon such application of provisional protection, or protection in \*fraud of the true inventor, any letters patent granted to the true inventor shall not be invalidated by such application or such protection, or by any use or publication of the invention subsequent to such protection. [\*24]

15. The Act says nothing as to fraudulent publication in any other manner. Probably, the object of the framers of the Act was to induce an inventor to bring forward his invention at the earliest possible period. In one case, an attempt to appropriate an invention by a workman failed. He registered it under the Useful Designs Act.<sup>(q)</sup> In another, the invention had partly got into use before the date of the patent, by a piece of stuff surreptitiously obtained from the plaintiff's works. In this case the patent was held void.<sup>(r)</sup> Anything like neglect or delay under such circumstances, might show an abandonment of his invention by the patentee to the public.<sup>(s)</sup> But if the question ever does arise here of the right of a patentee, guilty of no default, robbed of his invention, one cannot but hope that the law here will be construed to be the same as it is in the United States. Mr. Justice Story says, "It is clear by our law, whatever may be the law of England, that the public use or sale of an invention, in order to deprive the inventor of his right to a patent, must be a public use or sale by others with his knowledge or consent. If the use or sale is without such knowledge or consent, that is not such a use as will deprive the inventor of his title."<sup>(t)</sup> So in *Pearson v. The Eagle Screw Company*, he says, "It has been the uniform doctrine of the courts of the United States, that no fraudulent or wrongful use of an invention, or public use without the consent or knowledge or sanction of the inventor, would deprive him of his right to a patent."<sup>(u)</sup>

The law of France seems similar:—"L'exécution \*fraudulese qu'aurait fait un ouvrier de l'invention découverte par son maître, [\*35]

(o) *Morgan v. Seaward*, 2 M. & W. 544; S. C. Webst. Pat. Ca. 187.

(p) *Morison v. Moat*, 15 Jur. 787; 9 Hare, 241; on appeal, 16 Jur. 321; see *Smith v. Dickenson*, 3 Bos. & Pull. 630.

(q) *Wigram v. Brown*, before Pollock, C. B. at Nisi Prius, cited *Turner on Patents*, 22.

(r) *Templeton v. Macfarlane*, 1 H. L. C. 595.

(s) *Brown v. Kidstone and Waters*, 1 S. M. & P. 769, Court of Sessions, Scotland.

(t) *Ryan v. Goodwin*, 3 Sumner's Rep. 514, 518, cited *Curtis on Patents*, 46.

(u) *Pearson v. The Eagle Screw Company*, 3 Story's Rep. 402; *Curtis on Patents*, 151.

antérieurement à la prise du brevet, ne peut être invoquée pour repousser le délit de contrefaçon imputé, après la prise du brevet, par le maître à l'ouvrier."—*Journal du Palais*, Paris, July 5, 1845.(x)

16. The public use of an invention in any part of the United Kingdom, or the colonies, will be fatal. . In Roebuck and Garbett's case, a Scotch patent provided that letters patent should be void, if it were found that the subject-matter of them was not new as to use and exercise in Scotland; the House of Lords, affirming the judgments of the Lords of Session and the Lord Ordinary, determined, that the appellants were entitled to prove that the invention had been used in England before the date of the patent.(y)

If an invention is found not to be new in the colonies, a patent for it here would be void, for they are part of the realm. The enrolment of the specification or any publication of the invention in one part of the realm, before the patent is sealed for another, seems to have the same effect.(z)

17. The recent statute has effected a most important alteration in the law with respect to the time during which the use of an invention would vitiate a patent. Until the passing of that Act, the patentee was never secure until his patent was sealed; nor even then absolutely. Now he is safe as soon as he has obtained provisional protection.(a) Inventors laboured under great difficulties in being compelled to use the utmost secrecy in any experiments they might think it desirable to make before the sealing of the patent. The time limited for specifying was often found insufficient to enable the patentee to make proper trials of his invention before enrolling his specification, especially where the patent was for complicated machinery new in principle. . Now, however, should a [ \*36 ] \*workman or other person steal the idea of the inventor, and apply for a patent in his own name, the right of the true inventor to his patent will not be affected, if he applies for it before the expiration of the term of the provisional or other protection. And the advertisement of the protection granted, directed by the Commissioners of Patents, will give the true inventor notice that his patent is in danger. The question of prior use is for the jury.

[ \*37 ]

## \*CHAPTER VI.

### IMPORTED INVENTIONS.

1. BEFORE the coming into operation of the recent statute, persons

(x) Codes Annotés, tome ii. table générale 11. Teulet. D'Auvilliers et Sulpicy, Paris, 1850.

(y) Roebuck and Garbett, appellants, Stirling, respondent, Webst. P. C. 45, 451 n.; Brown v. Annandale, Webst. Pat. Ca. 433.

(z) Robinson's patent, 5 Moo. P. C. 65; Samuda's patent, Hindmarch on Patents, 534.

(a) See stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, ss. 8, 9.

who had learned the invention abroad, and imported it into this country, where it was not used or known previously, were able to obtain patents, as the first and true inventors within the meaning of the statute: it was enough if the invention was new within the kingdom. (a) In The Clothworkers of Ipswich case, in 12 Jac. 1, it was resolved, that if a man hath brought in a new manufacture and new trade within this kingdom, in peril of his life and consumption of his estate or stock, in such case the king, of his grace and favour, in recompense of his costs and travail, may grant by charter unto him, that he only shall use such a trade or traffic for a certain time, because at first the people of this kingdom are ignorant, and have not the knowledge or skill to use it. (b) The Act intended to encourage new devices useful to the kingdom, and whether learned by travel or study it is the same thing. (c)

2. The Act leaves the case of inventions which have never been protected by letters patent abroad, precisely as it was before the statute, and therefore any person may still import and obtain a valid patent for the full term for any such invention. But it was probably considered, that from the increased habits of inter-communication amongst nations, such an invention, if valuable, would probably have either become known in this country, or would have been kept so secret as to \*warrant [ \*38 ] the grant of a privilege to any one introducing it here.

3. The Patent Law Amendment Bill of 1852, originally contained a clause, which provided that the use or publication in any foreign country, or in any of the Channel Islands, or in any of her Majesty's colonies, dominions, or possessions abroad, of any invention before the date of any letters patent to be granted for such invention, under the provisions thereinbefore contained, should have the like effect with respect to such letters patent as if such use or publication had taken place in the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. This provision was, however, struck out by the select committee in the House of Commons. The clause, as it stands in the Act, provides "that no letters patent for any invention, for which a patent or the like privilege shall have been obtained in any foreign country, and which shall be granted in the United Kingdom upon any application made after the passing of that Act, and after the expiration of the term granted by the foreign patent, shall be of any validity." (d)

4. The practical difficulties in the working of this clause may turn out to be considerable. It will be probably necessary to issue a commission to the foreign country in which the invention is said to have been patented, and a plaintiff may be delayed a long time under pretence of that commission. (e) In some countries, as in Prussia, where the specifications registered are not accessible to the public, unforeseen obstacles may arise in the proof of their contents,

5. Where, upon any application made after the passing of that Act,

(a) Beard v. Egerton, 3 C. B. 97, 128; see Stead v. Williams, 7 M. & G. 818.

(b) The Clothworkers of Ipswich case, Godbolt, 252.

(c) Edgeberry v. Stephens, 2 Salk. 447.

(d) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 25.

(e) See Report on Patents, 1851, p. 376.

letters patent are granted in the United Kingdom, for or in respect of any invention first invented in any foreign country, or by the subject of any foreign power or state, and a patent or like privilege for the monopoly or exclusive use or exercise of such invention in any foreign country is there obtained before the grant of such letters patent in the United Kingdom, all rights and privileges under such letters patent shall, notwithstanding any term in such letters patent limited, cease and be void immediately upon the expiration or other determination of the term [ \*39 ] during which the patent or like \*privilege obtained in such foreign country shall continue in force; or where more than one such patent or like privilege is obtained abroad, immediately upon the expiration of the term which shall first determine of such several patents or like privileges. (f)

[ \*40 ]

## \*CHAPTER VII.

## PRIOR PUBLICATION.

1. THE specification of a prior British patent, substantially describing the same machine, has always been considered fatal to a patent without any evidence that the invention has been used. (a) A specification is a public document open to every body, and of which everybody must take notice at his peril. Evidence is necessary to show that the invention described in such specification is identical with that newly patented; and

(f) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 25. Where several patents are to be taken out in different countries, it is desirable that the applications should be as nearly as possible contemporaneous. Since 1844, no one can obtain a patent in France for an invention previously patented in another country, except he be the original patentee, or his assignee. The original patentee, or his assignee, may obtain his patent at any time before the expiration of the patent in his own country; but the patent in France will only last as long as the patent in his own country continues. The right of patenting an invention does not extend to that inventor whose invention has been described and published in a foreign country, by printing the specification and making it open to all the public.\* If the patent is first taken out in France, the French patent may be avoided by non-user, or non-payment of the annual sum of 100f., or if the patentee imports the patented articles from abroad. In America, the patentee must be strictly the original and first inventor. An alien may take out a patent. By the Act of Congress of 1839, cap. 88, s. 6, no person shall be debarred from receiving a patent by reason of the invention having been patented in a foreign country more than six months before the date of his application, provided the same shall not have been introduced into public and common use in the United States prior to the application for the patent. It seems that an alien has six months from the grant of his patent in a foreign country, and more, if in the mean time the invention does not get into use in America.—Curtis on Patents, ss. 114-116.

(a) The Househill Company v. Neilson, Webst. P. C. 718 n. Lord Campbell; Huddart v. Grimshaw, Webst. P. C. 86.

\* Report on the Patent Law Amendment Bills, 1851, p. 331. Wolowski. Truffaut, Guide Pratique des Inventeurs, pp. 72-86. Paris, 1844.

if it is a description of a machine, that the machine is intelligibly described, so as really to enable people to construct the machine from it. (b)

A very slight difference in the details is occasionally of great importance. Muntz's patent for sheathing, composed of a mixture of the best-selected copper and foreign zinc, was not affected by a previous patent, of which he knew nothing, for a composition of copper and zinc, it being shown that useful sheathing could not be made from such materials. (c)

2. The specification of a prior patent, enrolled after the date and sealing of a subsequent patent, and before the enrolment of the specification of such subsequent patent, but after the manufacture protected by it has become known in the market, does not of itself afford any proof whatever of the want of novelty in the invention protected by such second patent. (d)

3. If an invention is distinctly and clearly described in a [\*41] book, and such description corresponds with the description in the specification of the patent, though the invention has never been actually worked, the patent is avoided. It is continually the practice to read out of printed books, without reference to anything that has been done. (e) But it must be the account of a perfected invention. The mere speculations of ingenious men, if not brought into use, ought not to stand in the way of other men equally ingenious, who make the same inventions and apply them. (f)

A description of a mode of paving with blocks had been published in a scientific work in England. The Court decided, that if the invention had already been made public in England, by a description contained in a work which had been publicly circulated, the patentee was not the first inventor within the meaning of the statute, whether he himself borrowed his invention from such work or not, because the public cannot be precluded from the right of using such information as they were already possessed of at the time of the granting of the patent. (g)

4. "The application of the principles as to publication in a book, must depend upon the particular circumstances which are brought to bear in each particular. The existence of a single copy of a work, though printed, brought from a depository where it has long been kept in a state of obscurity, would afford a very different inference from the production of an encyclopædia or other work in general circulation. The question will be, whether, upon the whole evidence there was any such publication as to make the description a part of the public stock of information." (h)

5. Publication in a foreign book will not destroy a patent, unless the invention is shown to have become known in England by such

(b) See *Lewis v. Marling*, 4 C. & P. 52.

(c) *Muntz v. Foster*, 2 Law Times, 325; *Carpmael on Patents*, 25.

(d) *Cornish v. Keene*, 3 Bing. N. C. 589; *Webst. P. C.* 519, S. C.

(e) Per Lord Lyndhurst, *Webst. Pat. Ca.* 718, note to the *Househill Company v. Neilson*; see *Hill v. Thompson and Foreman*, 8 Taunt. 386; *Webst. P. C.* 247.

(f) Per Lord Abinger, *Carpenter v. Smith*, *Webst. Pat. Ca.* 534, N. P.

(g) *Stead v. Williams*, 7 M. & G. 842.

(h) *Stead v. Williams*, 7 M. & G. 843, Tindal, C. J.

[\*42] publication.<sup>(i)</sup> In a scire facias to repeal \*a patent, it was proved that a foreign work, "Manuel du Fabricant d'Indiennes" which was alleged to contain a description of the defendant's process, had been sold to several persons in Manchester many years before the date of the defendant's patent. But it appeared that the work was but little understood or appreciated by those most interested in it. A chemist proved that he had made garancine according to the process the re-described. Lord Campbell left the question to the jury, whether they believed that the process there described had become known and practised in this country before the date of the patent.<sup>(k)</sup>

6. It may be a question of some difficulty under what circumstances a patent is obtainable for a forgotten invention. Hero's invention, and those of the marquis of Worcester, are well-known instances of ancient engines not brought into use, reinvented in modern days independently, having become most important additions to the wealth of the country. Of such, Lord Brougham said, "They become like new discoveries."<sup>(l)</sup> The true rule probably is, that where the invention exists, or is described in such a manner that it could be manufactured from a mere inspection or an existing description, a patent obtained by a modern inventor would require confirmation.

Where an old process has been rediscovered, a good patent may be had for the process invented; for if the process is not in fact actually new, it seems at any rate impossible to prove it otherwise. Mr. Webster puts it thus: "Suppose an article of manufacture—an encaustic tile or painted glass—such as was known in the middle ages to have been manufactured at a certain period in this country in secret, or so that the whole knowledge of the art is lost, but such tiles and glass are known and in use before the eyes of the public to the present time, and an ingenious man should discern a mode whereby tiles and painted glass, apparently the same, could be produced, and publish that mode to the world under letters-patent, would the knowledge of the tiles vitiate the [\*43] patent, no knowledge of the invention as an art existing at \*the time of the grant?"<sup>(m)</sup> It seems impossible to doubt that a patent for the process of manufacturing them would be good, if the article were not such as to show the mode of its manufacture.<sup>(n)</sup> In *Campion v. Benyon*, it was actually given in evidence, that the wrapper of an Egyptian mummy, which had been examined by one of the defendant's witnesses was woven in the same manner as the plaintiff's improved sail-cloth.<sup>(o)</sup>

(i) Lord Brougham, *The Househill Company v. Neilson*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 718 n.; Soames's patent, Pri. C. Webst. P. C. 733, cited 7 M. & G. 840.

(k) *Reg. v. Steiner*, Lord Campbell, N. P. Times, Dec. 6, 1851.

(l) *The Househill Company v. Neilson*. Webst. Pat. Ca. 717; S. C. per Lord Lyndhurst, ib. 710, 717; per Lord Abinger, *Carpenter v. Smith*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 534.

(m) Webst. Pat. Ca. 720 n.

(n) See *Wright's patent*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 736.

(o) *Campion v. Benyon*, 3 Brod. & Bing. 8.

## \*CHAPTER VIII.

[ \*44 ]

## TO WHOM A PATENT MAY BE GRANTED.—THE FIRST AND TRUE INVENTOR.

1. THE Crown may grant a patent to any person, whether a subject or an alien. (a) A subject, or foreigner, may hold a patent in trust for an alien enemy. (b) The point whether a patent was absolutely void by reason of its being held in trust for an alien enemy was raised, but not decided, in the case of *Bloxam v. Elsee*. The decision of the Court ultimately turned on another point. It would seem, however, to be a good defence to any action brought in the name of the trustee for infringements. (c) If obtained in time of war, in trust for the alien enemy, the patent would probably be held void in all future times, as obtained by fraud on the Crown. If obtained by or in trust for the alien before the breaking out of war, his rights would be only suspended during the continuance of hostilities. (d)

2. The person to whom letters patent are granted must be the first person to make the invention known here. (e)

The object of the saving in the statute was not so much for the purpose of securing to inventors a reward for their ingenuity, as to stimulate the trade and manufactures of the kingdom. It mattered little for this purpose whence an improvement \*came; and in the very first case after the passing of the Act, it was held, in accordance [ \*45 ] with cases before the statute, that the Act was intended to encourage new devices within the kingdom; and whether learned by study or travel, it is the same thing. (f) This doctrine has been confirmed in recent cases. (g) No question is made here as to the title of an importer, whether he is the assignee of the original foreign inventor, or whether the invention is made public, and given to all the world in such foreign country. (h) He may be a mere clerk or servant of the foreign inventor, to whom the communication may be made for the sole purpose of enabling him to take the patent in trust for the benefit of the foreigner, or one who steals the invention from the foreign inventor. (i) The new Act makes no provision against the latter case, except by enabling the true

(a) 3 C. B. 97, *Beard v. Egerton*; *Chappell v. Purday*, 14 M. & W. 318; *Edgeberry v. Stephens*, 2 Salk. 447.

(b) *Beard v. Egerton*, 3 C. B. 97; see stat. 7 & 8 Vict. cap. 66, s. 4; *Jevens v. Harridge*, 1 Wms. Saund. 8, note 1; *Calvin's case*, 7 Rep. 17.

(c) *Bloxam v. Elsee*, 1 C. & P. 558; *S. C. Ry. & Moo.* 187; *Brandon v. Nesbitt*, 6 T. R. 23.

(d) See *Antoine v. Morshead*, 6 Taunt. 237; *Flindt v. Waters*, 16 East, 260.

(e) Stat. 21 Jac. 1, cap. 3, s. 6.

(f) *Edgeberry v. Stephens*, 2 Salk. 447; *The Clothworkers of Ipswich case*, *Godbolt*, 252; *The case of monopolies*, *Darcy v. Allin, Noy*, 178; 11 Co. 84.

(g) *Beard v. Egerton*, 3 Com. Bench, 97, 129.

(h) Per *Pollock*, *C. B. Chappell v. Purday*, 13 M. & W. 318; *Beard v. Egerton*, 3 C. B. 97.

(i) See an instance cited, *Rep. on Patents*, 1851, p. 100.

inventor to obtain his patent if he applies before the provisional or other protection of a person obtaining protection by fraud shall have expired. This, however, will probably be sufficient for the safety of the foreign inventor, if he is not guilty of laches, by neglecting to take steps to obtain his patent here.

3. It seems not to be important whether the person making the communication from abroad is a foreigner or not; the importing a new manufacture and giving the public in this country the benefit of it is the basis of the grant of the monopoly. *(k)*

4. The invention must be that of the patentee himself: if he has borrowed it from some other person, if he has taken it from a book, or learnt it from a specification, or any other source, in this country, he will not be entitled to a patent, for the Legislature never intended that a person who had taken all his knowledge from the labours of another, should [ \*46 ] receive the benefit of another's skill. *(l)* If the machine has been \*suggested to the patentee by the sight of a model, or foreign specification accessible to others in this country, that might show that the patentee was not the true inventor. *(m)* Patents are granted as a reward to the first inventor, for the benefit that is conferred upon the public by the discovery. If anybody is able to show that the man who first got the patent is not the man whose ingenuity first made the invention in England, there is an end of the patent. A patent was held void, a witness having stated that he had made the improvement while employed in the workshop of the patentee. *(n)*

An English patent founded on a communication made to the patentee, of an indispensable part of the patent, which was the basis of the improvement, was held to be void. *(o)* But the discovery must be communicated to the patentee in such a state that he could put it in practice without further invention. He is the first inventor who first makes the invention capable of useful application. *(p)*

5. If a person has discovered an improved principle, and employs engineers, or agents, or other persons to assist him in carrying out that principle, and they in the course of the experiments arising from that employment, make valuable discoveries accessory to the main principle, and tending to carry out that in a better manner, such improvements are the property of the inventor of the original improved principle, and may be embodied in his patent; and if so embodied, the patent is not avoided by evidence that the agent, or servant, made the suggestions of that subordinate improvement of the primary and improved principle. *(q)* It would be difficult to define how far the suggestions of a workman employed in the construction of a machine are to be considered as dis-

*(k)* Nickels v. Ross, 8 C. B. 710, per Wilde, C. J., and Coltman, J.

*(l)* Gibson v. Brand, N. P. Tindal, C. J., Webst. P. C. 628.

*(m)* Cornish v. Keene, Webst. P. C. 507, Tindal, C. J.; Lewis v. Marling, 10 B. & C. 22; Jones v. Pearce, Webst. Pat. Ca. 124.

*(n)* Barker v. Harris and Shaw, Webst. P. C. 126; Barber v. Walduck, 1 C. & P. 567.

*(o)* Tennant's case, Webst. P. C. 125; Dav. Pat. Ca. 429.

*(p)* Alden v. Dewey, 1 Story Rep. 336; Curtis on Patents, 41.

*(q)* Allen v. Rawson, 1 C. B. 567, Erle, J.

distinct inventions by him, so as to avoid a patent incorporating them taken out by his employer. Where the principle and object of the invention are complete without it, the adoption of a suggestion by a workman of something calculated more easily \*to carry into effect the conceptions of the inventor, will not render the whole patent void. If [ \*47 ] a servant while in the employment of his master makes an invention, the invention belongs to the servant, and not to the master, though if the master employs a skilful person for the express purpose of inventing, the inventions made by him will belong to the master, so as to enable him to take out a patent for them.(r)

The person who suggests the principle is the true and first inventor. Alderson, B., said, "If Sutton suggested the principle to Minter, then he would be the inventor; if, on the other hand, Minter suggested the principle to Sutton, and Sutton was assisting him, then Minter would be the inventor, and Sutton a machine which Minter uses for the purpose of enabling him to carry his original conception into effect. They were together at the time of the invention, and it is for the jury to decide which of the two suggested the invention, and which carried it into effect. Mr. Minter makes out the *primâ facie* case,—he is the person who took out the patent."(s)

6. If there be several rivals or simultaneous inventors, the first who comes and takes a patent, the invention not being generally known to the public, has a right to clothe himself with the authority of a patent.(t) In case of concurrent applications for a patent for the same object, Lord Eldon said, that that which obtained the great seal first would have the sole right at law. He could see no other means of deciding than by awarding the patent to him who went quickest through the process. An application for a patent had been commenced previously to another application for the same object, but owing to circumstances, the progress of the first application had been delayed, and the second patent was in advance, so as to be likely to be sealed first.(u)

In a subsequent case, where two persons severally applied for patents for the same invention, the Solicitor-General reported in favour of both of them. Caveats having been \*entered at the great seal, the Lord Chancellor referred it back to the Solicitor-General, to re- [ \*48 ] port whether the patents clashed, and if so, who was the first inventor, not who first presented the petition. The Lord Chancellor said, he would put any date to the patent which the justice of the case required.(x) No person, except on proof of fraud, could obtain a patent after the deposit of a complete specification of the same invention.

7. It is no objection that some one else has made a similar discovery in his mind. The patentee must be an inventor, not necessarily *the* inventor; because another may have invented and concealed it; there must have been a publication by the prior inventor, in order to prevent a sub-

(r) *Bloxam v. Elsee*, 1 C. P. 558; *Makepeace v. Jackson*, 4 Taunt. 770.

(s) *Minter v. Wells and Hart*, Alderson, B. at Nisi Prius, Webst. Pat. Ca. 132.

(t) *Cornish v. Keene*, Webst. P. C. 508; *Forsyth v. Riviere*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 97.

(u) *Ex parte Dyer*, Report, 1829, 197.

(x) *Re Griffiths' patent*, *Re Samuda's patent*, 5 Law Times, 141.

sequent inventor patenting the same thing.<sup>(y)</sup> But if the invention has been already made public in the United Kingdom by a work either written or printed, which has been publicly circulated, the patentee is not the first and true inventor within the meaning of the statute, whether he has himself borrowed his ideas from such publication or not.<sup>(z)</sup>

[\*49]

## \*CHAPTER IX.

## THE COMMISSIONERS OF PATENTS AND THEIR OFFICES.

1. By statute 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 1, it is enacted that the Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, the Attorney-General for England, the Solicitor-General for England, the Lord Advocate, the Solicitor-General for Scotland, the Attorney-General for Ireland, and the Solicitor-General for Ireland, for the time being respectively, together with such person or persons as may be from time to time appointed by her Majesty, by warrant under her sign manual, are to be the Commissioners of Patents for Inventions. Every person so appointed by her Majesty is to continue a Commissioner during her Majesty's pleasure. And all powers by the Act vested in the Commissioners may be exercised by any three or more of them, the Lord Chancellor or the Master of the Rolls being one.

2. By section 2, It shall be lawful for the Commissioners to cause a seal to be made for the purposes of the Act, and from time to time to vary such seal; and to cause to be sealed therewith all the warrants for letters patent under this Act, and all instruments and copies proceeding from the office of the Commissioners; and all courts, judges, and other persons whomsoever, shall take notice of such seal, and receive impressions thereof in evidence, in like manner as impressions of the great seal are received in evidence, and shall also take notice of and receive in evidence, without further proof or production of the originals, all copies or extracts certified under the seal of the said office of or from documents deposited in the said office.

3. By section 3, It shall be lawful for the Commissioners, from time  
 [\*50] to time, to make such rules and regulations (not inconsistent \*with the provisions of this Act) respecting the business of their office, and all matters and things which, under the provisions herein contained, are to be under their control and direction, as may appear to them necessary and expedient for the purposes of this Act; and all such rules shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen days after the making thereof, if Parliament be sitting; and if Parliament be not sitting, then within fourteen days after the meeting of Parliament:

(y) Dollond's case, 2 H. Black. 487; Gibson v. Brand, 4 M. & G. 205, per Erskine, J.; Lord Lyndhurst, The Househill Company v. Neilson, Webst. P. C. 719; Brett v. Electric Telegraph Company, Norman on Designs, 7.

(z) Stead v. Williams, 7 M. & G. 818.

and the Commissioners shall cause a report to be laid annually before Parliament of all the proceedings under and in pursuance of this Act.

4. The Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury may provide and appoint, from time to time, proper places or buildings for an office or offices for the purposes of this Act.(a) The Great Seal Patent Office has been appointed as the office for the purposes of this Act. The Commissioners of the Treasury are to allow the necessary sums for providing offices, and for the current expenses of the office.(b)

5. The Commissioners, with the consent of the Commissioners of the Treasury, may, from time to time, appoint, for the purposes of this Act, such clerks and officers as the Commissioners may think proper, and from time to time remove any of the clerks and officers so appointed.(c) The Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury are to allow such salaries and payments to the clerks and officers as they may think fit.(d)

6. The Lord Chancellor having appointed the Great Seal Patent Office to be the office of the Court of Chancery for the filing of specifications, the Great Seal Patent Office and the office of the Commissioners have been combined. The clerk of the Patents for the time being is appointed clerk of the Commissioners for the purpose of the Act.(e)

The office is open to the public every day, Christmas-day and Good Friday excepted, from ten till four.

7. Office copies of documents in the Great Seal Patent Office are subject to a stamp of twopence for every ninety words.(f)

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\*CHAPTER X.

[ \*51 ]

MODE OF PROCEEDING TO OBTAIN LETTERS PATENT.

SECTION I.—PETITION AND DECLARATION.

1. THE mode of applying for letters patent for an invention is by petition to the Crown, to be left at the office of the Commissioners of Patents.(a)

2. The petition is to be accompanied by a declaration made before a master in Chancery or justice of the peace, and by the provisional specification. See forms in Appendix.

As to the title of the invention in the petition, see post, chap. XI. As the title of the invention is to be the sole information to the public of its nature, it is very important that it should truly describe the invention and its extent.

3. The petition for the grant of letters patent, and all declarations and

(a) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 4.

(b) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 49.

(c) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 5.

(d) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 48.

(e) First set of Rules, 1852, 6.

(f) Stat. 16 Vict.

(a) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 6.

provisional specifications, shall be respectively written upon sheets of paper, twelve inches in length by eight inches and a half in breadth, leaving a margin of one inch and a half on each side of each page, in order that they may be bound in the books to be kept in the office. (b) The petition must be impressed with a stamp of £5. (c)

4. No caveat against a patent can be entered at the chambers of the law officers. Inventors desirous of watching applications for patents likely to interfere with them, must, therefore, keep a careful eye on the notices in the *Gazette*.

[ \*52 ]

\*SECTION II.—PROVISIONAL PROTECTION.

5. With the petition and declaration shall be left a statement in writing, called the Provisional Specification, signed by or on behalf of the applicant for letters patent, describing the nature of the invention. (d)

6. The provisional specification must state distinctly and intelligibly the whole nature of the invention, so that the law officer may be apprised of the improvement, and of the means by which it is to be carried into effect. (e)

7. The drawings accompanying provisional specifications are to be made upon a sheet or sheets of parchment, paper, or cloth, each of the size of twelve inches in length by eight and a half in breadth, or of the size of twelve inches in breadth by seventeen inches in length, leaving a margin of one inch on every side of each sheet. (f)

It having been found impossible in some instances to comply with this requisition, drawings of a large size, made to fold into the dimensions above mentioned, are now admitted at the office of the Commissioners.

8. In order that the petitions, declarations, and provisional specifications may be examined and recorded in the office of the Commissioners, it is necessary that they should be left at the office two clear days. Should the title of the invention not agree in each document, the papers will be returned to the parties for correction, and no record of them will be taken till they are left properly corrected.

9. No amendment or alteration at the instance of the applicant will be allowed in a provisional specification after the same has been recorded, except for the correction of clerical errors or of omissions made per incuriam. (g)

10. The day of the delivery of every petition, declaration, and provisional specification, is to be recorded at the office, and indorsed on such petition, declaration, and provisional specification, and a certificate thereof given to the applicant or his agent. (h)

[ \*53 ] \*All such petitions, declarations, and provisional specifications, shall be preserved in such manner as the Commissioners may

(b) First set of Rules for the passing of Letters Patent for Inventions after the 1st of October, 1852, rule 1. (c) 16 Vict.

(d) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 86, s. 6. See form in Appendix.

(e) Second set of Rules, 1852, rule 10. (f) First set of Rules, 1852, rule 2.

(g) Second set of Rules, 1852, rule 9. (h) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 6.

direct; and a registry thereof, and of all proceedings thereon, kept at the office of the Commissioners.<sup>(i)</sup>

11. Every application for letters patent under this Act must be referred by the Commissioners, according to such regulations as they may think fit to make, to one of the law officers.<sup>(k)</sup>

The reference will be indorsed on the petition, and signed by the clerk to the Commissioners of Patents.

12. The provisional specification shall be referred to the law officer, who shall be at liberty to call to his aid such scientific or other person as he may think fit, and to cause to be paid to such person by the applicant such remuneration as the law officer shall appoint; and if such law officer be satisfied that the provisional specification describes the nature of the invention, he shall allow the same, and give a certificate of his allowance; and such certificate shall be filed in the office of the Commissioners. And, thereupon, the invention therein referred to may, during the term of six months from the date of the application for letters patent, be used and published without prejudice to any letters patent to be granted for the same. Such protection from the consequences of use and publication, is called provisional protection.

In case the title of the invention, or the provisional specification, be too large or insufficient, it shall be lawful for the law officer to whom the same is referred, to allow or require the same to be amended.<sup>(l)</sup>

13. The papers will be sent from the office of the Commissioners to one of the law officers, with the reference indorsed upon them. If the law officer is satisfied that the provisional specification truly describes the nature of the invention, he will return the papers to the office of the Commissioners, with the certificate of his allowance. If he considers the provisional specification insufficient, his clerk will write to the applicant, fixing a time for his attendance, when, on the applicant consenting to amend the title or provisional \*specification to his satisfaction, he will give a certificate of his allowance of the amendment, and return the same, with the papers, to the office. See forms in Appendix. [ \*54 ]

14. The provisional specification will be a check on the patentee. If the complete specification is not strictly in accordance with it, people will be entitled to say, that something is specified which would have been opposed, but which could not be opposed, because the provisional specification gave no notice of what was intended to be specified. That information, if given to the Attorney-General, might have induced him to withhold the patent.<sup>(m)</sup>

If an inventor desires to abandon anything contained in his provisional specification, in order to guard against the objection that he represented himself to have invented more than he has actually specified, he should enter a disclaimer with the specification.<sup>(n)</sup>

According to the practice before the passing of this Act, a person could withdraw any portion of his deposit-paper up to the time of enrolling his

(i) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 6.

(k) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 7.

(l) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 8.

(m) See Rep. 1851, 379, the Master of the Rolls.

(n) See Report on Patents, 1851, 60.

specification. If, at the time of enrolling his specification, he found it advisable to abandon one of several things mentioned in the title of his patent, he obtained leave before the entry of the specification to disclaim so much of the title as related to that which he abandoned, and described the rest in his specification.(o)

15. If the first outline description would not be sufficient to embrace all the improvements in the invention, or in the mode of working it out, the proper course would seem to be to abandon the proceedings taken on the first provisional specification, and commence afresh with a new application, before the invention, comprised in the first provisional specification, is made public.(p)

16. It will be observed that actions cannot be maintained for infringements, during the period of provisional protection. (Sec s. 24.) The grant of protection under such circumstances that the inventor will be [ \*55 ] able safely to test the practicability and value of his invention before proceeding to \*complete his patent, is one of the most important boons conferred on inventors by the new Act. Stat. 14 Vict. cap. 8, did not enable persons registering under it, to put their inventions in practice before the grant of the patent.

17. Every provisional protection of an invention allowed by the law officer, shall be forthwith advertised in the London Gazette, and the advertisement shall set forth the name and address of the petitioner, the title of his invention, and the date of the application.(q)

### SECTION III.—PROTECTION BY DEPOSIT OF COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

18. By section 9, the applicant for letters patent for an invention, instead of leaving with the petition and declaration a provisional specification, may file with the said petition and declaration, a complete specification under his hand and seal, particularly describing and ascertaining the nature of the said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, which complete specification shall be mentioned in such declaration.

The day of the delivery of every such petition, declaration, and complete specification, shall be recorded at the office of the Commissioners, and indorsed on such petition, declaration, and specification, and a certificate thereof given to such applicant or his agent; and thereupon, subject to the provisions in the Act contained, the invention shall be protected for the term of six months from the date of the application, and the applicant shall have during such term of six months the like powers, rights, and privileges, as might have been conferred upon him by letters patent for such invention, issued under this Act, and duly sealed as of the day of the date of such application; and during the continuance of such powers, rights, and privileges, under this provision, such invention

(o) Report on Patents, 1851, 79.

(p) Report on Patents, 1851, 384. See Hancock v. Somervill, 39 Newt. Lond. Journ. C. S. 158.

(q) First set of Rules, 1852, rule 3.

may be used and published without prejudice to any letters patent to be granted for the same.

19. Where letters patent are granted in respect of such invention, then, in lieu of a condition for making void such letters patent, in case such invention be not described and \*ascertained by a subsequent specification, such letters patent shall be conditioned to become [\*56] void if such complete specification, filed as aforesaid, does not particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed.

A copy of every such complete specification shall be open to the inspection of the public from the time of depositing the same, subject to such regulation as the Commissioners may make.

20. When the invention is complete at the time of the application, and is such that in framing the specification, examination of the history of the manufacture is not necessary, it may often be desirable to file a complete specification in the first instance.

21. All complete specifications accompanying petitions and declarations, before the grant of letters patent, are to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office.(r)

All such specifications are to be written bookwise upon a sheet or sheets of parchment, each of the size of twenty-one inches and a half in length by fourteen inches and three-fourths of an inch in breadth; the same may be written upon both sides of the sheet, but a margin must be left of one inch and a half on every side of each sheet.(s)

22. The petitioner is required by the Act to leave an extra copy of any drawings to which reference is made in the specification.(t)

The drawings accompanying the specification are to be made upon a sheet or sheets of parchment, each of the size of twenty-one inches and a half in length, by fourteen inches and three-fourths of an inch in breadth; or upon a sheet or sheets of parchment each of the size of twenty-one inches and a half in breadth, by twenty-nine inches and a half in length, leaving a margin of one inch and a half on every side of each sheet.(u)

The Commissioners recommend applicants and patentees to make their elevation drawings according to the scale of one inch to a foot.

\*23. Every invention protected by reason of the deposit of a complete specification, shall be forthwith advertised in the Lon- [\*57] don Gazette; and the advertisement shall set forth the name and address of the petitioner, the title of the invention, the date of the application, and that a complete specification has been deposited.(x)

SECTION IV.—REFERENCE TO THE LAW OFFICER, NOTICE OF OBJECTION, HEARING, ETC.

24. The applicant for letters patent, so soon as he may think fit after the

(r) Order of Lord St. Leonards, 1852, 1.

(s) Order of Lord St. Leonards, 1852, 2.

(t) Stat. 15 & 16 Vic. cap. 83, s. 28.

(u) Order of Lord St. Leonards, 1852, 3.

(x) First set of Rules, 1852.

invention shall have been provisionally protected under this Act, or where a complete specification has been deposited with his petition and declaration, then, so soon as he may think fit after such deposit, may give notice, in writing, at the office of the Commissioners, of his intention of proceeding with his application for letters patent for the said invention.<sup>(y)</sup> The certificate of notice to proceed is subject to a stamp-duty of £5.<sup>(z)</sup>

25. The application shall then forthwith be advertised in the London Gazette; and the advertisement shall set forth the name and address of the petitioner, and the title of his invention, and that any person having an interest in opposing the application are to be at liberty to leave particulars, in writing, of their objections to the application, at the office of the Commissioners, within twenty-one days after the date of the Gazette in which such notice is issued.<sup>(a)</sup>

26. As soon as the time for the delivery of objections shall have expired, the provisional specification, or complete specification, as the case may be, and particulars of objection, shall be referred to the law officer to whom the application has been referred.<sup>(b)</sup> This is termed the second reference.

The following fees are payable to the law officers and their clerks in cases of opposition:<sup>(c)</sup>—

[ \*58 ] \*By the person opposing the grant of letters patent.

	£.	s.	d.
To the law officer, . . . . .	2	12	6
To his clerk, . . . . .	0	12	6
To his clerk for summons, . . . . .	0	5	0

The foregoing fees are paid at the office of the law officer, *at the time of the hearing* of the case of opposition.

By the petitioner on hearing the case of opposition.

	£.	s.	d.
To the law officer, . . . . .	2	12	6
To his clerk, . . . . .	0	12	6
To his clerk for summons, . . . . .	0	5	0

The fees above mentioned must be paid by the petitioner at the time of taking out the summons for hearing the objection to the patent.

27. The petitioner, or his agent, then sends a copy of the summons by post to the party opposing, or to his agent. Sending the summons by post to the address given by the party opposing, in his particulars of objections, is sufficient service. If the party opposing does not appear at the time appointed by the law officer, the applicant will be heard in his absence.

28. Up to the present time, January, 1852, it has been the custom in all cases to hear each party in private; but as the petitioner is now protected from the date of the deposit of a sufficient specification, it may

(y) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 12; first set of Rules, 1852, No. 5.

(z) Stat. 16 Vict.

(a) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 12; first set of Rules, 1852, No. 5.

(b) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 13.

(c) Order of the Lord Chancellor and M. R. 1852.

sometimes be convenient to depart from this practice, in case of concurrent applications, where both parties have deposited specifications.

29. As the provisional specification is not open to inspection till the expiration of the period of protection, there will be probably but few effectual oppositions, when the invention is only provisionally protected. In case of applications by rival inventors, it does not seem clear whether, under the new Act, the first inventor or the first applicant is to have the patent.<sup>(d)</sup> No patent, however, could be had, except in case of fraud, on an application first made after the deposit of a complete specification by a rival inventor.

The law officer will not go into any questions of utility. If there is any considerable doubt as to whether two inventions \*are distinct [ \*59 ] the law officer will not decline to issue his warrant, but leave the matter to be afterwards determined by a court of law.<sup>(e)</sup>

No warrant will be granted for the stealing of any patent which contains two or more distinct substantive inventions.<sup>(f)</sup>

30. In case of any application for letters patent for any invention, and the obtaining upon such application of provisional protection for such invention, or of protection for the same, by reason of the deposit of a complete specification in fraud of the true and first inventor, any letters patent granted to the true and first inventor of such invention shall not be invalidated by reason of such application, or of such provisional or other protection, or of any use or publication of the invention subsequent to such application, and before the expiration of the term of such provisional or other protection.<sup>(g)</sup>

31. In some cases it may be necessary to get rid of the temporary privilege obtained by the deposit of a complete specification in fraud of the true inventor. Her Majesty, by warrant under her royal sign manual, may direct any complete specification, filed under the provisions of the Act, and in respect of the invention described, in which no letters patent may have been granted, to be cancelled, and thereupon the protection obtained by the filing of such complete specification shall cease.<sup>(h)</sup> The Act does not say how these warrants, under the sign manual, are to be obtained by an opposing petitioner, whether on the certificate of the Attorney-General, or by petition to the Lord Chancellor. As what is to be done is not merely a refusal to grant something, but involves the destruction of an existing right, it would seem that the sentence of a Court is necessary.

32. It shall be lawful for the law officer to whom any application for such letters patent is referred, if he sees fit, by \*certificate under [ \*60 ] his hand, to order by or to whom the costs of any hearing, or inquiry upon any objection, or otherwise in relation to the grant of such letters patent, or in relation to the provisional or other protection acquired

<sup>(d)</sup> See Samuda's patent, 5 Law Times, 141.

<sup>(e)</sup> See Report on Patents, 1851, 386, M. R. and Solicitor-General; see in the matter of Cutler's patent, Webst. P. C. 426; ex parte Fox, Webst. P. C. 431; 1 Vesey & Beames, 67, S. C; see the recital in the warrant, post, Appendix.

<sup>(f)</sup> Second set of Rules, 1852, rule 7, ante, p. 6.

<sup>(g)</sup> Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 10.      <sup>(h)</sup> Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 16.

by the application under this Act, shall be paid, and in what manner, and by whom such costs are to be ascertained; and if any costs so ordered to be paid, be not paid within four days after the amount thereof shall be so ascertained, it shall be lawful for such law officer to make an order for the payment of the same; and any such order may be made a rule of one of Her Majesty's Superior Courts in Westminster or Dublin, and may be recorded in the books of Council and Sessions in Scotland, to the effect that execution may pass thereon in common form.<sup>(i)</sup>

33. It would seem that an order for making the order of the law officer for costs, a rule of court may be obtained from a judge at chambers. A rule for such purpose would be absolute in the first instance.<sup>(k)</sup> Probably the costs of making the order a rule of court may be included, if an affidavit is made that the order has been served on the party and disobeyed.<sup>(l)</sup>

#### SECTION V.—WARRANT OF LAW OFFICER FOR SEALING PATENT.

34. It shall be lawful for the law officer after such hearing, if any, as he may think fit, to cause a warrant to be made for the sealing of letters patent for the said invention, and such warrant shall be sealed with the seal of the commissioners, and shall set forth the tenor and effect of the letters patent thereby authorized to be granted; and such law officer shall direct the insertion in such letters patent of all such restrictions, conditions, and provisions as he may deem usual and expedient in such grants, or necessary in pursuance of the provisions of this Act, and that the said warrant shall be for the making and sealing of letters patent under this Act, according to the tenor of the said warrant.<sup>(m)</sup>

[ \*61 ] \*There is no appeal from a decision of the Attorney-General refusing to grant his warrant for a patent.<sup>(n)</sup>

A stamp-duty of £5 must be paid upon the warrant.

#### SECTION VI.—OPPOSITION AT GREAT SEAL.—PREROGATIVE OF THE CROWN.

35. By stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 15, the Lord Chancellor shall exercise such powers, authority, and discretion in respect to the said warrant, and the letters patent therein directed to be made under this Act, as he now has and might now exercise with respect to the warrant for the issue under the great seal of letters patent for any invention, and with respect to the making and issuing of such letters patent.

36. By stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 16, it is provided, that nothing therein contained shall extend to abridge or affect the prerogative of the Crown in relation to the granting or withholding the grant of any letters patent; and it shall be lawful for her Majesty, by warrant under her royal sign manual, to direct the law officer to withhold such warrant as

(i) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 14.

(k) See *Wilson v. Northrop*, 2 C. M. & R. 326.

(l) See *Chitty's Archb.* 1441.

(m) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 15.

(n) In the matter of *Cutler's patent*, *Webst. P. C.* 424.

aforesaid, or that any letters patent for the issuing whereof he may have issued a warrant as aforesaid shall not issue, or to direct the insertion in any letters patent to be issued in manner therein provided of any restrictions, conditions, or provisoes which her Majesty may think fit, in addition to, or in substitution for any restrictions, conditions, or provisoes which could otherwise be inserted therein under this Act; and it shall also be lawful for her Majesty by like warrant to direct any complete specification which may have been filed under the provision hereinbefore contained, and in respect of the invention described, in which no letters patent may have been granted to be cancelled, and thereupon the protection obtained by the filing of such complete specification shall cease.

37. The Lord Chancellor may at any time refuse to affix the great seal. Persons interested in opposing the grant of a patent have a right to oppose; but opposition at this stage is discouraged, on account of the expense.

\*38. Every application to the Lord Chancellor against, or in relation to the sealing of letters patent, shall be by notice; and [ \*62 ] such notice shall be left at the Commissioner's office, and shall contain particulars in writing of the objections to the sealing of such letters patent. (o)

When the warrant for the patent, according to the old practice, came to the Great Seal Office, notice was<sup>\*</sup> sent to the party who had entered the caveat. As he had already had an opportunity of opposing the patent, no more time was allowed him to give notice of opposition than was reasonably necessary to enable him to do so. Two clear days were considered sufficient for a person living at a distance from London. If in answer to the notice he stated his intention to oppose, the applicant for the patent presented a petition to the Lord Chancellor, praying that the caveat might be discharged and the patent sealed.

The allegations in the petition were verified by affidavit. The petition and affidavits were lodged in the Great Seal Patent Office. The petition was put in the paper for the next petition-day. Two clear days' notice of the hearing was given to the party opposing, who might lodge affidavits in answer to those of the applicant.

Office copies of affidavits may be obtained by either party at the Great Seal Patent Office. They will be charged for at the rate of two-pence, to be paid by stamps, for every ninety words. (p)

39. It seems to have been the practice, where the objector has not been previously heard before the Attorney or Solicitor-General, for the Lord Chancellor, for his own information, to refer it to the Attorney-General, to inquire and report whether the letters patent ought to issue. (q) When a hearing before the Attorney or Solicitor-General has taken place, the Lord Chancellor will refer it to him for information as to how the matter stood when it left his office. (r)

Two persons severally applied for patents for the same invention; the

(o) Order of Lord St. Leonards, 1852. (p) Rules, 1852; stat. 16 Vict.

(q) Cutler's patent, Webst. Pat. C. 418; Favocett's case, 19 Law Times, 237.

(r) Ex parte Henson, re Alcock, Webst. P. C. 432. Re Prosser's patent; re Pinkus's patent, 4 Law Times, 409.

Solicitor-General reported in favour of both of them. The Lord Chancellor referred it back to the Solicitor-General, \*to report whether  
 [\*63] the patents clashed, and if so, who was the first inventor, not who first presented the petition.(s)

40. The question before the Lord Chancellor is, whether there is sufficient reason for not affixing the great seal, whether he can see that the Crown has been deceived. He will not enter into any very particular inquiry whether the invention is useless. If he thinks it, or any part of it, new and the subject of a patent, he will not refuse to affix the great seal.(t) If there is any clause in the patent which the Lord Chancellor thinks improper, he will not seal it.(u)

41. When the report of the law officer, to whom the matter is referred is unfavourable to the petitioner, a second petition may be presented, supported by affidavits setting out the facts, and excepting to the report of the law officer, and upon that the Chancellor will adjudicate.(x)

Where the evidence, as to who was the original inventor, was very conflicting, the Solicitor-General reported, that the whole of the questions between the parties had better be considered in a court of law, and recommended that both patents should be sealed. The Lord Chancellor said, there must be a very strong case after that to prevent either patent passing the great seal.(y)

42. Costs may be given for or against the parties opposing at the discretion of the Court. In one case where he thought the opposition not unreasonable, Lord Eldon refused to give costs.(z) Since it has been the practice to give them, oppositions at the great seal have been much less frequent.

It has been considered not a reasonable ground of opposition, that the party entering a caveat thinks that the applicant cannot carry out his invention without using some patent of the party opposing.(a)

[\*64] The taxation of costs in the absence of any special \*directions will be conducted in the ordinary manner, and upon the same principles on which the taxation of costs in a chancery suit, between party and party proceeds.(b)

The Lord Chancellor has only jurisdiction to give the costs. An order for the costs, charges, and expenses of and occasioned by the caveat and opposition, is erroneous.(c)

(s) Re Griffiths' patent, re Samuda's patent, 5 Law Times, 141.

(t) Cutler's patent, Webst. P. C. 518. Ex parte Daly, Vern. & Scriven, 499; S. C. Webst. P. C. 432.

(u) Ex parte Heathcote, in re Lacy, Webst. Pat. Ca. 431; S. C. Rep. 1829, 202. Ex parte O'Reilly, 1 Vesey, 112.

(x) Cutler's patent, Webst. P. C. 410.

(y) Re Prosser's patent, re Pinkus's patent, 5 Law Times, 189.

(z) Cutler's patent, Webst. Pat. Ca. 430; S. C. 4 Mylne & Craig, 510. In re Alcock, 4 M. & C. 511. Ex parte Fox, 1 V. & B. 67.

(a) Prosser's patent, 5 Law Times, 189.

(b) Cutler's patent, 4 Mylne & Craig, 510.

(c) Coates's patent, 10 L. J. N. S. Chy. 248.

SECTION VII.—THE LETTERS PATENT.

43. By stat. 16 Vict., which repeals stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 17. all letters patent for inventions granted under the provisions of the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852, except in the cases provided for in the fourth section, shall be made subject to the condition that the same shall be void, and that the powers and privileges thereby granted shall cease and determine at the expiration of three years and seven years respectively from the date thereof, unless there be paid before the expiration of the said three and seven years respectively, the stamp-duties in the schedule to that Act annexed, expressed to be payable before the expiration of the third year and seventh year respectively; and such letters patent, or a duplicate thereof, shall be stamped with proper stamps, showing the payment of such respective stamp-duties, and shall, when stamped, be produced before the expiration of such three years and seven years respectively, at the office of the Commissioners, and a certificate of the production of such letters patent, or a duplicate stamped, shall be indorsed by the clerk of the Commissioners on the letters patent or duplicate, and a like certificate shall be indorsed upon the warrant for such letters patent filed in the said office.

44. By the 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 18, the Commissioners, so soon after the sealing of the said warrant as required by the applicant for the letters patent, shall cause to be prepared letters patent for the invention according to the tenor of the said warrant, and it shall be lawful for the Lord Chancellor to cause such letters patent to be sealed with the great seal of the United Kingdom; and such letters patent so sealed shall extend to the whole of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, \*the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man; and in case such warrant so direct, such letters patent shall be made applicable to her [\*65] Majesty's colonies and plantations abroad, or such of them as may be mentioned in such warrant, and such letters patent shall be valid and effectual as to the whole of such United Kingdom, and the said islands and isle, and the said colonies or plantations, or such of them as aforesaid; and shall confer the like powers, rights, and privileges, as might, in case this Act had not been passed, have been conferred by several letters patent of the like purport and effect, passed under the great seal of the United Kingdom, under the seal appointed to be used instead of the great seal of Scotland, and under the great seal of Ireland respectively; and made applicable to England, the dominion of Wales, the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, and the said colonies and plantations, or such of them as aforesaid, to Scotland and to Ireland respectively, save as herein otherwise provided. Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained, shall be deemed or taken to give any effect or operation to any letters patent to be granted under the authority of this Act in any colony in which such, or the like letters patent, would be invalid by the law in force in the same colony for the time being.

## SCOTLAND.

45. By stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 18, it is provided, that a transcript of the letters patent shall, so soon after the sealing of the same, and in such manner as the Commissioners shall direct, be transmitted to the Director of Chancery in Scotland, and be recorded in the records of Chancery in Scotland, upon payment of such fees as the Commissioners shall appoint, in the same manner, and to the same effect in all respects as letters patent passing under the seal appointed by the treaty of Union to be used in place of the great seal of Scotland, have heretofore been recorded; and extracts from the said records shall be furnished to all parties requiring the same, on payment of such fees as the Commissioners shall direct, and shall be received in evidence in all courts in Scotland, to the like effect as the letters patent themselves.

See rules for the regulation of the office in Appendix.

[ \*66 ]

## \*IRELAND.

46. By section 29, the Commissioners shall cause a transcript of the said letters patent to be transmitted for enrolment in the Court of Chancery, Dublin, and shall cause the same to be enrolled therein; and the transcript or exemplification thenceforward shall have the like effect to all intents and purposes as if the original letters patent had been enrolled in the Court of Chancery in Dublin.

See rules in Appendix.

The effect of the above provisions is to make the patent for each kingdom distinct from that for either of the others, so that a judgment given against the English patent will not affect the Scotch or Irish record of it, but each must stand or fall by itself. See sections 29, 35.

## THE COLONIES.

47. At present no patent are granted for the colonies. Patents for the colonies have hitherto passed as English patents under the great seal. They have been granted either by including them in the English patent or by an order in council extending the grant to certain colonies.<sup>(d)</sup> The custom has been to grant a privilege through the Privy Council, enabling patentees in the Crown colonies to deposit official copies, or authenticated copies, of the patent and specification, which are thereby made as good evidence in the colonies as the production of the originals.<sup>(e)</sup> This is necessary to enable the patentee to try questions of infringement in the colonial courts.

Patents may also be granted by acts of the colonial legislatures. In Canada the cost is about £7. <sup>(f)</sup>

<sup>(d)</sup> Webst. Pat. Ca. 444, 448.

<sup>(e)</sup> Report on Patents, 1851, 65, Carpmael.

<sup>(f)</sup> Report on Patents, 1851, 98.

It does not appear that there is any protection of patent property in the East-India possessions. (*g*)

\*SECTION VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS. [ \*67 ]

*Time of applying for Seal—Proceedings in case of the Death of Applicant—New Letters Patent in case of loss—Antedating Letters Patent.*

48. By section 19 it is provided, that no letters patent, save as hereinafter mentioned in the case of letters patent destroyed or lost, shall issue on any warrant granted as aforesaid, unless application be made to seal such letters patent within three months after the date of the said warrant.

49. By section 20 it is provided, that no letters patent (*save* letters patent issued in lieu of others destroyed or lost) shall be issued, or be of any force or effect, unless the same be granted during the continuance of the provisional protection under this Act; or where a complete specification has been deposited under this Act, then unless such letters patent be granted during the continuance of the protection conferred under this Act by reason of such deposit, save that where the application to seal such letters patent has been made during the continuance of such provisional or other protection as aforesaid, and the sealing of such letters patent has been delayed by reason of a caveat or an application to the Lord Chancellor against or in relation to the sealing of such letters patent, then such letters patent may be sealed at such time as the Lord Chancellor shall direct.

50. By section 21, where the applicant for letters patent dies during the continuance of the provisional protection, or the protection by reason of the deposit of a complete specification (as the case may be), letters patent may be granted to the executors or administrators of the applicant during the continuance of the provisional or other protection, or at any time within three months after the death of the applicant, notwithstanding the expiration of the term of the provisional or other protection; and the letters patent so granted shall be of the like force and effect as if they had been granted to the applicant during the continuance of the provisional or other protection.

51. If the patentee dies after the sealing of the patent, the executor cannot file the specification. In most cases the \*patent [ \*68 ] will be irretrievably lost. Before the passing of the Act, if an inventor died, his executor might have taken out the patent; and in some cases, on special application, an extended period appears to have been allowed for enrolling the specification,—in one case eighteen months. (*h*)

If the patentee died after the sealing of his patent, but before he had signed and acknowledged his specification, the patent was lost, but the executor might have taken out a new one if the secret had not got abroad.

(*g*) Report on Patents, 1829, 102.

(*h*) Darcy's case, Nov. 1828; Report on Patents, 1829, 24, 26, 37, 86.

52. By section 22, in case any letters patent shall be destroyed or lost, other letters patent of the like tenor and effect, and sealed, and dated of the same day, may, subject to such regulations as the Commissioners may direct, be issued under the authority of the warrant in pursuance of which the original letters patent were issued.

This provision is rendered necessary by sect. 27, which provides that no enrolment shall be necessary. With regard to patents under the new Act, there is no record in the Court of Chancery of which a constat or exemplification could be given, under the provisions of 13 Eliz. cap. 6, to prove the grant in case of the loss or destruction of the original letters patent.<sup>(i)</sup>

53. By section 23, any letters patent to be issued in pursuance of this Act may be sealed and bear date as of the day of the application for the same; and in case of such letters patent for any invention provisionally registered under the "Protection of Inventions Act, 1851," as of the day of such provisional registration, or, where the law officer to whom the application was referred, or the Lord Chancellor, thinks fit and directs, any letters patent may be sealed and bear date as of the day of the sealing of such letters patent, or of any other day between the day of such application or provisional registration and the day of such sealing.

Before this enactment, letters patent could not have been sealed as of a day before the date of the delivery of the warrant for the patent to the Lord Chancellor.<sup>(k)</sup> Hitherto, \*where by reason of a caveat at [\*69] the great seal delay has taken place in the sealing of letters patent, they have been generally sealed as of the day of the receipt of the privy seal bill.

54. By section 24, any letters patent issued under this Act, sealed and bearing date as of any day prior to the day of the actual sealing thereof, shall be of the same force and validity as if they had been sealed on the day as of which the same are expressed to be sealed and bear date: provided always, that save where such letters patent are granted for any invention in respect whereof a complete specification has been deposited upon the application for the same under this Act, no proceeding at law or in equity shall be had upon such letters patent in respect of any infringement committed before the same were actually granted.

55. By section 52, letters patent may be granted in respect of applications made before the passing of this Act, in like manner and subject to the same provisions as if this Act had not been passed.

56. Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 53, and stat. 16 Vict. cap. , s. 4, provide for the granting of letters patent for England, or Ireland, or Scotland, where patents have been granted for one or more of the three kingdoms before the passing of the first-mentioned Act. No such letters patent can be granted if the patent is already specified, or the invention used or made public in either of the three kingdoms.

57. By stat. 16 Vict. cap. , s. 7, the conditions contained in let-

(i) As to a constat or exemplification of a record, see 5 Co. Rep. 53 *b*, 54 *a*, Page's case.

(k) Stat. 18 H. 6, cap. 1; see Cutler's patent, Webst. P. C. 430; and cases in note.

tors patent granted under the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852, and before the passing of that Act, are to be deemed complied with on payment of the stamp-duties which would have been required had the letters patent been granted after the passing of that Act. The provision requiring indorsement on the letters patent or a duplicate, and on the warrant of a certificate of the production of the letters patent, properly stamped, is to be applicable in the case of such letters patent granted before the passing of the Act.

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\*CHAPTER XI.

[\*70]

## TITLE OF PATENT.

1. THE title of the invention in the patent must agree with the invention as claimed in the specification; the language of the patent may be explained and reduced to a certainty by the specification, but the patent must not claim one thing, and the specification another.(a)

2. It was stated to the Committee of 1829, that few things were more difficult than to prepare a title to a patent so that it might not be so clear as to call the attention of rivals, and enable them to discover the subject, and not so obscure as to endanger the existence of the patent in a court of justice, as containing an imperfect definition of the invention described in the specification.(b) The grant of protection from the date of application, has now in a great measure removed this difficulty.(c) Still, however, an inventor is obliged to prepare the title of his patent before he can safely venture on trial of his invention. Material improvements may suggest themselves after the patentee has secured his right. The patentee may include such improvements in his specification if they are merely improved means of carrying the invention into effect. If they are distinct inventions, an attempt to include them will avoid the patent.

3. If the title is for one thing, and the specification describes another,(d) as a patent "for making white lead," the substance made being a white substance, like white lead, the patent is void, because [ \*71 ] there is no specification enrolled of \*the invention protected by the patent. Where the title necessarily embraces more than the specification describes, the entire patent is void, because the entire discovery of all the things for which the patent is taken out, is the consideration for which the patent is granted by the Crown.(e)

(a) Epitome of the Law relating to Patents, by J. W. Smith, 19.

(b) Rep. on Patents, 1829, 19; per Tindal, C. J. 8 Q. B. 1065.

(c) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 8, &c.

(d) Turner v. Winter, Dav. Pat. Ca. 145, 155; Webst. P. C. 77.

(e) Bloxam v. Elsee, 6 B. & C. 169; Cook v. Pearce, 8 Q. B. 1063, Tindal, C. J.; Jessop's case, 2 H. Black. 476, 489; Rex v. Wheeler, 2 B. & A. 345; Morgan v. Seaward, 2 M. & W. 544.

4. A patent is not void simply on the ground that its title is conceived in such terms as to be capable of comprising some other invention besides that described in the specification, in the absence of any proof of fraud upon the Crown. Accordingly, the title of a patent being "for improvements in carriages," where the invention was an improvement in German shutters, which are used in some kinds of carriages only, the Court held that the title might be taken to mean improvements in some kinds of carriages, and that the patent was valid.<sup>(f)</sup>

The title should give some idea, and, as far as it goes, a true idea, of the invention; it is sufficient if it be consistent with it. A title for "an improved application of air to furnaces," is a good title of an invention for the use of heated air.<sup>(g)</sup> An invention of a means of giving paper, by the application of a certain composition, such a surface as renders the lines of copper-plate printing more distinct, is properly described as "an improvement in copper-plate printing."<sup>(h)</sup>

The title of a patent was "for improvements in making bobbin-net lace." The invention was a mode of making spots in it. Held good.<sup>(i)</sup>

Patent for "improvements in the manufacture of plaited fabrics." The invention was of a single improvement, by a combination of processes in the mode of manufacturing them. Held not to be an inconsistency invalidating the patent.<sup>(k)</sup>

5. The judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, that a patent might be void, if the vagueness of the title was such as \*not to dis-  
[ \*72 ] close or point out the particular improvements for which the patent was obtained, was overruled in the Exchequer Chamber.<sup>(l)</sup>

The title appears to have been formerly looked at with considerable strictness. Metcalfe's patent was repealed, because a hair-brush, made with clusters of bristles of unequal length, was described in the title as "a tapering brush."<sup>(m)</sup>

Lord Cochrane's patent for "an improved method of lighting cities, towns, and villages," the invention being an improved lamp, particularly applicable to lighting streets, was held bad.<sup>(n)</sup>

So Wheeler's patent for "a new method of drying and preparing malt;" the invention being a method of roasting it after it was made, for the purpose of colouring beer.<sup>(o)</sup>

6. The title need not suggest the purpose of the improvements; but if a purpose is suggested, to which the invention proves not to be applicable, the patent is void.<sup>(p)</sup>

(f) Cook v. Pearce, 8 Q. B. 1044; see Macalpine v. Mangnall, 3 C. B. 512.

(g) Neilson v. Harford, Webst. Pat. Ca. 333, Lord Abinger.

(h) Sturtz v. De la Rue, 5 Russ. 322.

(i) Fisher v. Dewick, 8 Q. B. 1036, stated by Sir F. Pollock.

(k) Nickels v. Haslam, 7 M. & G. 378; see also Beard v. Egerton, 3 C. B. 122; Reg. v. Mill, 10 C. B. 379.

(l) Cook v. Pearce, 8 Q. B. 1044.

(m) Rex v. Metcalfe, 2 Stark. N. P. C. 249.

(n) Lord Cochrane v. Smethurst, 1 Stark. N. P. C. 205.

(o) Rex v. Wheeler, 2 B. & Ald. 245; see 8 Q. B. 1060.

(p) Felton v. Greaves, 3 Car. & Pay. 611.

Mr. Sweet, referring to the judgment of Mr. Baron Parke in *Morgan v. Seaward*, recommends the avoidance of the word "improvement," both in the title and specification, by way of caution; stating at the same time, that its absence would probably not save a patent, if the invention claimed in it was useless. (*q*)

7. Vagueness of title is an objection that may be taken on the part of the Crown before it grants the patent. (*r*) Should the title of a patent, applied for under the recent Act, appear too large or insufficient, the law officer to whom the application for the patent is referred, may allow or require the same to be amended. (*s*)

8. The patentee is bound in his specification to describe all the improvements in his invention which he may have made up to the time of filing his specification; but in doing so, he must be very cautious not to include any invention which cannot be comprised under the title of his patent. Should he \*attempt to include a claim for such an invention in his specification, the patent will be void. In *Croll v. [ \*73 ] Edge*, the title of the patent was "for improvements in the manufacture of gas, and in the apparatus used when measuring and transmitting gas." The specification enrolled, recited a patent with a title "for improvements in the manufacture of gas, and in the apparatus used *therein, and* when transmitting and measuring gas." The invention, in addition to improvements in the mode of manufacturing and measuring gas, claimed a new mode of setting and manufacturing clay retorts. The patent was held void. The Court said, no one could doubt that the main claim of the specification was an improvement in the apparatus for manufacturing gas. No patent had been granted for that. They considered the enrolment of the specification as an attempt, either to remedy an oversight, or to extend the patent; and that the patentee had not specified the restricted patent which he had obtained. (*t*)

9. Evidence of a design on the part of the inventor to choose a vague and general title, in order to avail himself at the time of filing his specification of an invention not discovered at the date of his patent, such invention being different from that for which the patent was really taken out, would be evidence of fraud upon the Crown, and avoid his patent. (*u*)

10. Defects in the title may in some cases be cured by a disclaimer. (*x*) It seems that a disclaimer need not be expressly applied to the title. A disclaimer of certain parts of an invention seems to be a disclaimer of the title, so far as it is applicable to such parts. (*y*)

11. Pleas, that the patentee did not particularly describe the nature of his invention; and that the invention described is different from that for which the patent is granted, are proper to raise the question of the

(*q*) 7 Jarman, by Sweet, 503, 579.

(*r*) *Cook v. Pearce*, 8 Q. B. 1064.

(*s*) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 8.

(*t*) *Croll v. Edge*, 19 Law J. C. P. 261; S. C. 9 C. B. 465.

(*u*) See *Cook v. Pearce*, 8 Q. B. 1064.

(*x*) Stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 1. See post.

(*y*) Per Jervis, C. J., and Maule, J., 10 C. B. 390, 396, *Reg. v. Mill*.

sufficiency of the title.(z) If the title is set out in the plea, it must be set out accurately.

[ \*74 ]

## \*CHAPTER XII.

### SPECIFICATION.

#### SECTION I.—GENERAL RULES.

##### *The Language and Construction of the Specification.*

1. EVERY patent contains a condition that it shall be void, if the patentee does not particularly describe and ascertain the nature of his invention, and the manner in which the same is to be performed, by an instrument in writing under his hand and seal, within a certain time named in the patent. This period is allowed to give him opportunities of perfecting his invention by experiments, and calling to his assistance the knowledge and experience of others, in order that he may make his specification as clear, correct, and comprehensive as possible. The object of the specification is to put the public in full possession of the invention, to the end that it may be generally exercised after the expiration of the period of protection granted by the patent.(a)

2. In preparing a specification, it is necessary to examine thoroughly the existing state of the art in which the invention is made, and all improvements and inventions which have from time to time been patented, either here or abroad, or otherwise made public in the United Kingdom or colonies; to compare the new invention with all past knowledge on the subject, and to ascertain exactly in what the improvement consists. The patentee must then consider whether the invention is new in principle, that the claim may be made as large as possible, so as to prevent any adaptations of the principle by different machinery. If it is merely an old principle, carried out by new and improved machinery, the claim

[ \*75 ] \*must be restricted to that which is really new in the mode of working. The invention must be defined in the clearest and plainest terms which the subject admits of; care being taken to avoid claiming principles which the patent does not show how to carry out into practice. The title of the patent must be looked to, that nothing may be claimed which does not fall within the terms of it. Nothing is to be claimed which is not new and useful. Vague generality must be avoided, lest something not new and useful should be embraced. The object and purpose of the patent should be stated, and care taken that purposes are

(z) *Croll v. Edge*, 19 Law J., C. P. 261; 9 C. B. 465; see *Stead v. Carey*, 1 C. B. 496.

(a) Per Lord Mansfield, *Liardet v. Johnson*, *Webst. Pat. Ca.* 54, n.

not stated to which the invention is not applicable. No claim should be made for any invention not indicated by the provisional specification.

3. The mode in which the invention is to be carried into practice is to be stated fully and fairly, in plain language, avoiding the use of terms which, even if scientifically correct, are not well understood in the trade to which the invention has reference. The best manner known to the patentee, of carrying out his invention at the date of filing his specification, should be stated; any improvements made by him after the time of obtaining his patent, and before specifying, should be included. Processes, and the proportions of the ingredients of any composition, must be described with the greatest certainty which the subject may admit of. The uses of all, and any part of any machinery, should be stated, and all ambiguity should be sedulously avoided.

4. No technical words are necessary to explain the subject of a patent. Objections merely formal do not affect the substantial merit of the patentee. The mere terms are not to be considered, but the real nature of the thing described. (b)

The language of the specification is necessarily that of the factory; the technical terms and expressions of the workshop must be used, in order that workmen may understand the description of the invention. (c) Mr. Spence says, "Where perversions of the natural meaning of words exist in the particular trade at the date of the patent, it is not wise to manifest any fastidious disregard of them. It may be necessary sometimes to guard against any peculiar difficulties that may arise [ \*76 ] in ascertaining the true nature or character of the invention, owing to the use in the trade of terms or expressions in a peculiar technical sense, widely removed from that which is their ordinary and natural meaning." (d)

A specification may be correct, scientifically speaking, and yet fail to inform a workman, if the terms used are such as are not commonly known in trade. A specification stated, that there was to be added to size certain proportions of the finest and purest chemical white lead. It was proved that if a workman had gone to a chemist's shop, and asked for the finest and purest chemical white lead, the answer he would have received would have been that there was no such substance known in the trade. He would then have been compelled to ask for the purest and finest white lead. The purest and finest white lead that could have been procured in London, would not have answered the purpose. The Court said, "The purest and finest chemical white lead must be taken to mean the purest and finest white lead usually gotten in the general market for that commodity. The public should have been warned, that what would be called very fine white lead, would not answer, but only white lead of a superlatively fine character." (e)

(b) Lord Kenyon, *Hornblower v. Boulton and Watt*, 8 T. R. 98; *Boulton and Watt v. Bull*, 2 H. Black. 475, 477; see *Minter v. Mower*, *Webst. Pat. Ca.* 141.

(c) *Carpmael's Law Reports on Patent Cases*, Preface.

(d) *Spence on Specifications*, 137.

(e) *Sturtz v. De la Rue*, 5 Russ. 327. This seems to have been a case of fraudulent concealment. See *Report on Patents*, 1829, 106.

5. A specification is not bad which is unintelligible to ordinary workmen, if it is only unintelligible because it uses scientific terms not understood by them. Lord Abinger said, "Where a specification uses scientific terms which are not understood, except by a person acquainted with the nature of the business, the specification is not bad because an ordinary man does not understand it, provided a scientific man does; but where it does not profess to use scientific terms, and an ordinary man reading the specification is misled by it, it is not good."(*f*)

6. Well-known machinery need not be described where the specification directs it to be used in carrying out the object of the patent.(*g*) In [*\*77*] a patent for the hot blast, it was held that the specification need not describe any precise mode of heating air. Persons who are in the habit of constructing heating apparatus, know the ordinary rules and common conditions to be attended to in heating air. It was, therefore, properly left to every one to do it in the way he might think best.(*h*)

7. A specification need not contain everything at length relating to the subject-matter, but may refer to other public instruments, or to general sources of knowledge, which any person of reasonable skill or information on the subject may be fairly presumed to know. But it should not refer to particular works, which a man may, or may not, possess.

A patent and specification being recorded, are instruments of a public nature, of which every one is bound to take notice at his peril. Where a patent recited a former patent, and stated that the patentee had invented certain improvements in the former machine, for which improvements another patent was prayed, and the specification described and figured the whole machine as improved, it was held that the recital in the letters patent of the prior patent incorporated it, and that the insufficiency of the specification of the second patent, which without such reference did not distinguish the old parts of the invention, was cured by reference to the first patent and specification.(*i*)

8. It is said to be settled that a drawing alone may be a sufficient specification.(*k*) But it is more convenient and usual to accompany the drawings by a description. Drawings are not necessary if the patentee so describes his invention as to enable artists to adopt it when the monopoly expires. If the specification can be made intelligible without them, there is no rule of law which requires models or drawings to accompany it.(*l*) If there are drawings, they are to be considered a part of the specification. The meaning of terms used may be narrowed and restricted by reference to the drawings.(*m*)

9. The letters patent and specification are to be taken together as one

(*f*) Lord Abinger, *Neilson v. Harford*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 341.

(*g*) Webst. Pat. Ca. 110, *Crossley v. Beverley*.

(*h*) *The Househill Company v. Neilson*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 687, 713.

(*i*) *Harmar v. Playne*, 11 East, 105.

(*k*) *Brunton v. Hawkes*, N. P. 1 Carp. R. 410, Abbott, C. J.

(*l*) *Boulton and Watt v. Bull*, 2 H. Black. 480.

(*m*) *Barber v. Grace*, 1 Exch. 339. See further, *Bloxam v. Elsee*, 1 Car. & Payne, 558.

instrument. The specification is always \*taken to be a declaration and explanation of the title, ascertaining the nature of the [ \*78 ] grant to the patentee. By stating the object of the invention, the title may confine and limit the specification. The presumption is, that the claim is not larger than the title.(n) The construction of the patent to the extent of saying what the patent truly claims, is a matter of law. The Court, and not the jury, must say whether or not a patent is defective, from the patentee attempting to cover too much by his specification.

The specification may be explained by evidence of the meaning of technical words. The meaning of the words of art, and phrases used in commerce, and any facts and circumstances material to be considered for the purpose of explaining the specification, must be left to the jury.(o) Then it is to be left to the jury, whether, according to their judgment, there is or is not a sufficient description of the invention which the Court thinks is claimed.(p) It is the duty of the jury to take the construction of the instrument from the Court. All questions arising on the face of the patent and specification, except those which relate to the explanation of the terms of art employed, such as questions arising on a comparison of different parts of the specification together, or of the patent and specification, are for the Court.(q)

10. Patents are to be considered as bargains between the inventor and the public, to be judged of on the principle of keeping good faith, and to be construed as other bargains.(r) The Courts endeavour to deal fairly between the patentee and the public, reading the patent and specification so as to ascertain the meaning of the patentee, taking the whole together in a fair and candid spirit. They will not willingly deprive inventors of the advantages which their own ingenuity and talents entitle them to receive, and certainly will not be by any means astute to pick holes in specifications, though \*they will take care that the discovery of the invention is fairly secured to the public.(s) [ \*79 ]

11. Words are to be taken as used in their ordinary and popular sense, unless the usage of the trade has fixed a peculiar meaning on the terms, or the context necessarily gives another sense than the ordinary and popular sense.(t) Terms of art may be explained by evidence, and it is for the jury to say in what sense they are understood in the trade.(u) The question is how they would have been understood at the time of completing the specification.(x) The facts may be such, that, applying

(n) *Crossley v. Beverley*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 117; *The Househill Company v. Neilson*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 678; *Newton v. Vaucher*, 6 Exch. 866.

(o) *The Househill Company v. Neilson*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 678; *Hill v. Thompson and Forman*, 3 Mer. 626; Webst. Pat. Ca. 237, S. C.

(p) *Neilson v. Harford*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 350; *ib.* 370.

(q) *Derosne v. Fairie*, Lord Abinger, N. P. Webst. Pat. Ca. 156.

(r) *Cartwright v. Arnott*, Easter Term, 1800, Lord Eldon, cited 11 East, 107; *Rep. on Patents*, 1829, 192.

(s) *Russell v. Cowley*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 470; *Neilson v. Harford*, Webst. P. C. 310; *Wedlake v. Gardner*, 7 Law Times, 283.

(t) *The Household Company v. Neilson*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 679.

(u) *Derosne v. Fairie*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 156, Lord Abinger, N. P.

(x) *Heath v. Unwin*, 13 M. & W. 593; *Crossley v. Beverley*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 107; *per Alderson*, *Heath v. Unwin*, 19 L. T. 275; 16 Jur. 996.

the specification to them, the words may be construed in some secondary sense. The specification of a patent for buttons claimed the use of "soft or organzine silk, such as is used in the weaving of satin." Coltman, J. having directed the jury, in answer to a question how they are to understand the word "or," that unless the silk was organzine it was not within the patent, the Court of Exchequer Chamber held, that he should have told the jury that "or" might be construed in the sense of "otherwise," instead of disjunctively, if organzine was the only silk used in the weaving of satin. (*y*)

12. The inaccurate use of a word, if what is intended is clear, will not vitiate a specification; as the word "self-adjusting," in Minter's patent. So "baking" for "boiling," and "discoloration" for discharge of colour. So the use of a French word having another meaning in English, as "vice" for screw. It would be otherwise if the meaning was not explained by the context, or if the inaccurate expression could mislead. (*z*)

#### SECTION II.—THE CLAIM.

13. The object and purpose to which the patentee means to apply his [ \*80 ] patent should be kept distinct from that which is \*more properly the process by which the object is meant to be attained. The mixing them together, and not keeping them separate and distinct, tends very much to obscurity in the specification. (*a*)

The plan adopted in the specification in the Electric Telegraph Company's patent for transmitting signals, was to give an account of the whole method of transmitting electric currents for the purpose of giving signals, and the modes of giving those signals, specifying afterwards the parts claimed as improvements, and either expressly disclaiming or leaving unclaimed the rest. In such a specification, the part which describes the matter claimed, is construed much more strictly than that which, though necessarily mentioned, is not spoken of as a new matter, or as the subject of the patent, but only as something known, and necessary to be referred to for the purpose of explaining the claim. The words "metallic circuits" were construed to mean all circuits metallic, as far as it was material to the improvements claimed that they should be so. The Court would not construe the expression with more strictness and precision than was necessary to enable it to fulfil the purpose of explanation for which it was introduced, not so as to narrow the claim of the patentees to signals applied to circuits exclusively metallic. (*b*)

14. The patentee must not claim anything not covered by the title of his patent. A patent was granted for certain improvements in the manufacture of gas, for the purpose of illumination, and in the apparatus used for measuring and transmitting gas. The patent having claimed a

(*y*) Elliott v. Turner, 2 C. B. 446.

(*z*) Minter v. Mower, Webst. Pat. Ca. 141; Neilson v. Hatford, Webst. P. C. 369; Bloxam v. Elsee, 1 C. & P. 558.

(*a*) Gibson and Campbell v. Brand, Webst. Pat. Ca. 629, Tindal, C. J.

(*b*) The Electric Telegraph Company v. Brett and Little, 20 L. J. C. P. n. s. 123.

new mode of manufacturing and setting clay retorts, the patent was held void. (c)

15. The specification must state truly the nature of the invention. A patentee having invented a new mode of combining cotton and silk in the making of lace, by his specification claimed the exclusive liberty of making lace composed of silk and cotton mixed, the same materials having been, previously to the date of the patent, used together. The patent was held void. (d) Where the invention is of a new \*combination of materials previously in use, the specification must clearly ex- [\*81] press that the patent is in respect of such new combination or application merely, and not lay claim to an original invention of the use of the materials. Supposing a previous use to have existed in the case, the specification should recite, that the materials had been in part but improperly made use of, and claim the new mode of application and use. (e)

Bramah's invention of conducting a wire through a hollow tube in a water-closet, was very ingenious and perfectly new; but the patentee having claimed the whole, and not the peculiar improvement, the patent was held void. (f) One Williams added a pipe to supply air to an old stove: the specification having embraced the whole stove, the patent was held bad. (g)

In Saunders v. Aston, the invention was an improved button, in which the flexible shank was substituted for the metal shank, by the aid of a toothed metal collet. Neither the button nor the flexible shank was new, and the operation of the collet was not claimed as the invention. (h)

16. If a person who discovers the application of a principle, and also some mode of carrying that principle out in practice, so as to attain a useful effect, claims the application of the principle, he is entitled to protection against all other modes of carrying the same principle into practice for obtaining the same result. He is not bound to narrow his claim for the purpose of defeating his privilege. Forsyth, having invented and specified the means of exploding gunpowder by detonating-powder, and pointed out certain means by which the invention might be applied, was held entitled to the exclusive application of the detonating mixture as priming, whatever the construction of the lock by which it was discharged. (i)

So Neilson, having discovered the principle, that air heated \*to a high temperature was very effective in blast-furnaces, embodied [\*82] his principle, by directing that it should be heated in a separate vessel, intermediately between the blowing apparatus and the point where the air entered the furnace. (k) It was held not necessary that he should claim any particular form of vessel.

(c) Croll v. Edge, 19 Law J. C. P. 261; S. C. 9 C. B. 465.

(d) Rex v. Else, Webst. Pat. Ca., 76; 11 East, 109, S. C.

(e) Hill v. Thompson, Webst. P. C. 247.

(f) Bramah v. Hardecastle, Holroyd on Patents, 81; Webst. P. C. 76.

(g) Williams v. Brodie, Webst. P. C. 75.

(h) Saunders v. Aston, 3 B. & Ad. 881.

(i) Forsyth v. Rivière, Webst. P. C. 97; per Lord Cottenham, Neilson v. Thompson, Webst. Pat. Ca. 283; Cechrane v. Braithwait, 1 Carp. R. 493, N. P.; Neilson v. Baird, Decisions of the Court of Session, 2d series, vol. vi. 51.

(k) Neilson v. Harford, Webst. P. C. 331, 372; S. C. 8 M. & W. 806; Russell v. Cowley, Webst. P. C. 463.

Watt's patent merely claimed, in general terms, that the steam was to be condensed in vessels distinct from the cylinders, though occasionally communicating with them, without particularizing the size, shape, or mode of communication with the cylinder. The patent was held good by the Court of Queen's Bench, the Court of Common Pleas having been previously equally divided upon it.<sup>(l)</sup>

17. But the patentee must be careful not to make his claim larger than his invention. A patent for a combination of materials and processes to form artificial stone, stated a method of making it, in the course of which alkali (American pearl-ash) was used, to be neutralized by acid (sulphuric acid). It stated that other alkalies and acids would answer, but none that the patentee had tried, so well as those named; and claimed as the invention the processes of mixing the powdered materials, alkalies and acids, as described. It was proved, that some acids and alkalies would not answer the purpose; the Court said, if it was a claim of all alkalies and acids, it was bad, because some would not answer; if it was a claim of those only which would produce the desired effect, it was bad, for not ascertaining them.<sup>(m)</sup> If the claim is too general, [ \*83 ] \*it precludes persons from working out inventions which have not been really made by the patentee.<sup>(n)</sup>

A patentee claimed specific machinery for giving a vibratory motion to the selvages of cloth, and went on to say, that it was not possible to state every method practicable in detail, but that it must be understood, that any mode of moving even one side or selvage of the cloth whilst the other remained stationary, would be considered an evasion, if for the purpose of drawing the threads into diagonal positions by mechanical means, instead of manual labour. It was urged that this claim was too large.<sup>(o)</sup> The test would seem to be,—Is the *principle* to be applied new? If new, then the claim may be general, and will cover any mechanical means of producing the effect. If not new, if the same thing has previously been done by manual labour, then a claim to do it by any machinery, being a claim for the machinery only, is bad.

18. If a specification speaks of the future intentions of the patentee, that part of it is not necessarily to be treated as a claim, but may be considered, according to the language of the specification, as merely theoretical. Watt's specification stated his intention, in some cases, to apply a degree of cold, not capable of reducing the steam to water, but

(l) Hornblower v. Boulton and Watt, 8 T. R. 95; Boulton and Watt v. Bull, 2 H. Black. 463. This case is of the highest importance, as first establishing that the wide application of a great principle may be the subject of a patent; but the specification must by no means be taken as a model, notwithstanding the verdicts in the two cases here referred to. It is said that a latitude was given to Mr. Watt in favour of his great services, which the courts have never allowed in any other case, because they took it for granted, on very insufficient evidence, that the directions were such as to enable other persons to practise the invention; but they were not so in fact. Those who wanted to practise the invention could not do it by that specification. It told them what they were forbidden to do during the term of the patent, but did not tell them how to do it. See Report on Patents, 1829, 31.

(m) Stevens v. Keating, 2 Exch. 772.

(n) Rep. 1851, 96.

(o) MacAlpine v. Mangnall, 3 C. B. 517. See Wyeth v. Stone, ante, 9.

of contracting it considerably, so that the engines should be worked by the alternate expansion and contraction of the steam, but stated no means by which the intention could be carried into effect. Rooke, J. thought that no action could be maintained in respect of that, for he could not anticipate the protection before he was entitled to it by practical accomplishment. (*p*)

19. Where the effect produced is some new substance, or composition of things, it should seem that the privilege of the sole working or making ought to be for such substance or composition, without regard to the mechanism or process by which it has been produced, which is subordinate to the main invention, viz. the new substance. (*q*)

20. If the patentee claim a principle, while his invention is nothing more than an application of the principle by new \*machinery, his patent is bad. A patentee claimed the principle of introducing [ \*84 ] fuel at the lower part of the grate, in a perpendicular or oblique direction. The principle was not new. The patent was held bad, though the application of the principle, as described and invented, was new and useful, and might have been well claimed. (*r*)

An inventor of a peculiar mode of connecting two retorts, used in the manufacture of sulphate of soda, muriatic acid, and chlorine, with each other, and with the whole apparatus for condensing, claimed "the invention of two retorts worked in connection with each other." The use of two chambers with separate furnaces not being new, the Court held that the claim embraced too much. (*s*)

A claim that the invention is the application of a self-adjusting leverage to the back and seat of a chair, whereby the weight on the seat acts as a counterbalance to the pressure on the back, is a claim of the principle. The claim was held bad, because it appeared that a chair, on the same principle, had been made and sold before; although the operation of it was encumbered by additional machinery. Had the patentee rightly described his invention, and confined his claim to an improvement on such former mode of applying the principle, his patent might have been good. (*t*)

21. If the invention is of a new combination of old parts, or a new process by means of such combination, the specification will be bad if the parts are claimed separately.

Where an invention did not consist of two distinct parts, but of a combination of old and new processes, and had in fact one entire single object only, namely, macerating flax, and spinning it, when macerated, by a machine, in which the drawing and retaining rollers were placed at a certain distance from each other, the specification having claimed the processes separately, the patent was held void. (*u*)

22. When a person obtains a patent for a machine, consisting of an

(*p*) Rooke, J. *Boulton & Watt v. Bull*, 2 H. Bl. 480.

(*q*) Per Eyre, C. J. *Boulton and Watt v. Bull*, 2 H. Black. 492.

(*r*) *Rex v. Cutler*, 1 Starkie, 354. (*s*) *Gamble v. Kurtz*, 3 C. B. 425.

(*t*) *Minter v. Mower*, 6 A. & E. 735; *S. C. Webst. P. C.* 142; see *Reg. v. Bynner*, 2 Law Times, 420.

(*u*) *Kay v. Marshall*, 5 Bing. N. C. 492; *Kay v. Marshall*, M. R. 1 Beav. 535; see *Gibson v. Brand*, 4 M. & G. 179, 199.

[\*85] entirely new combination of parts, though all \*the parts may have been used separately in former machines, the specification is correct in setting out and claiming the whole combination as the invention; but if a combination of a certain number of the parts of a machine has previously existed in former machines, the patentee merely adding other combinations, the specification should only claim such improvements, though the effect produced be different throughout. The combination of the parts before used should be disclaimed, and the claim restricted to the improvements invented.(x)

23. The invention must be described in such a manner as to lead people clearly to know in what the invention consists.(y) The specification must point out correctly what the invention is, in order that the public may know what is the prohibited manufacture. They are entitled to this knowledge, in order that they may be saved inconvenience. If it is left ambiguous in respect of what the privilege is claimed, the patent is bad.(z) Unlearned men look at the specification, and suppose everything they find there is new. If the whole is not new, it is hanging terrors over them.(a)

24. The specification should clearly define the limits of the new invention, and strictly confine the claim to that which is really novel; for if the patentee by his specification states simply the whole machinery which he uses, and claims the whole as new, and does not expressly or intelligibly restrict his claim to some particular part, or to the combination of the whole, his patent must be taken to be a patent for the whole and for each particular part, and will be void if any particular part turns out to be old, or the combination itself not new.(b)

25. But it is not necessary that it should do so in express terms. In ascertaining whether a specification claims a combination, or the whole [\*86] and every part of a machine, the whole \*specification must be read together with candour and indulgence, to see what really is claimed and described as the invention; it must be read as a person of ordinary understanding would read it, and not scanned, word by word, as a plea would be.(c) If, taking the whole specification together, and giving its words a fair and reasonable interpretation, the Court can see that the specification only claims the improvement on the old machine, it will be sufficient.(d)

Thus, if known machinery is referred to as such, is not described with particularity, and is spoken of or treated as well understood, while the new machinery is described in great detail, and from the object of the patent as stated, or any other expressions in the patent, the Court can

(x) *Bovill v. Moore*, 2 Marsh, 211; see *Allen v. Rawson*, 1 C. B. 551.

(y) *Morgan v. Seward*, Webst. Pat. Ca. 173; *Jupe v. Pratt*, Webst. P. C. 145; *Holmes v. London and North-Western Railway Company*; 20 Law Times, 112, C. P.

(z) Per Lord Cottenham, *Neilson v. Thompson and Forman*, Webst. P. C. 283; *Macfarlane v. Price*, 1 Starkie, 199.

(a) *Bramah v. Hardecastle*, Webst. P. C. 76, n.

(b) *Bovill v. Moore*, Dav. P. C. 361; per Lord Abinger, *Carpenter v. Smith*, Webst. P. C. 532; cited 5 Exch. 322.

(c) *Sellers v. Dickinson*, 5 Exch. 312.

(d) *MacAlpine v. Mangnall*, 3 C. B. 515.

see that the new machinery is distinguished from the old, the patent will be upheld.(*e*)

26. Evidence is not admissible to explain and support the patent, by showing what the specification claims as new. The nature of the claim must be determined by the specification alone.(*f*)

SECTION III.—DESCRIPTION OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE INVENTION IS TO BE PERFORMED.

27. The invention must be specified in such a way as that others may be taught to do the thing for which the patent is granted, for the end and meaning of the specification is to teach the public, after the term for which the patent is granted, what the art is. It must put the public in possession of the secret, in as ample and beneficial a way as the patentee himself uses it. The patent is the reward for the patentee's disclosure of his invention. Unless, therefore, the discovery be true and fair, or if the specification be in any material point false or defective, the patent cannot be supported.(*g*)

28. If two or more inventions be comprised in one patent, \*and either be insufficiently specified, the whole patent fails. If [*\*87*] a person runs the hazard of putting two inventions into one patent, he cannot hold his patent unless each can be supported as a separate patent.(*h*)

29. The description of the manner in which the invention is to be performed is to be such that if fairly followed out by a competent workman, without invention or addition, would produce the manufacture for which the patent is taken out.(*i*) In Arkwright's case, the specification described the several parts of improved machines for preparing silk, cotton and wool for spinning. It did not describe the entire machines as put together. It was impossible to say how they were to be made. There were no sufficient directions to enable a workman to put the parts together. Witnesses prove that it could not be done from the written specification; that the machine in a complete state was easy to describe, but that if they had hit upon the same machine as that invented, they should not have known it to be such from the written description.(*k*)

30. If a specification contain an untrue statement in a material circumstance, of such a nature that, if literally acted upon by a competent workman, it would mislead him, and cause the experiment to fail, the specification is bad and the patent is invalidated.(*l*)

(*e*) Haworth v. Hardeastle, Webst. Pat. Ca. 484; 1 B. N. C. 182; Nickells v. Ross, 8 C. B. 679; see, as to the latter case, Reg. v. Nickles, Hindmarch on Patents, 186.

(*f*) Nickels v. Ross, 8 C. B. 702, 722; Reg. v. Nickels, Hindmarch on Patents, 188; Macfarlane v. Price, 1 Starkie, 179.

(*g*) Rex v. Arkwright, Dav. Pat. Ca. 106. Buller, J.

(*h*) Morgan v. Seaward, Webst. P. C. 173.

(*i*) Neilson v. Harford, Webst. P. C. 371.

(*k*) Rex v. Arkwright, Dav. P. C. 106, 114.

(*l*) Neilson v. Harford, Webst. P. C. 371; see Beard v. Egerton, 2 C. & K.; S. C. 8 C. B. 201, 212, per Wilde, C. J.; Turner v. Winter, Dav. Pat. Ca. 154; S. C. 1 T. R. 602.

Thus, if a whole class of substances are stated as fit to be employed as carrying out the invention, and one of the class will not answer, the patent will be avoided. A safety-fuze was to be made with a centre of gunpowder, or other proper combustile matter, prepared in the usual pyrotechnical manner of fireworks, for the discharge of ordnance. Had it been proved that port-fire would not have answered, the patent would have failed.*(m)*

If several modes of operation are described as a mode of welding [ \*88 ] tubes, by passing them between rollers over a mandrel, \*and also through dies and over a mandrel, and either does not answer, the whole patent is bad, because a person reading the specification might be led to use machinery which would fail of its purpose.*(n)*

31. Where the use of any substance in a particular state is directed, if an ordinary practical man cannot obtain it in that state, the specification must show him how to do so. The specification of a patent for refining sugar by filtration of the syrup of cane-juice through charcoal, made by the carbonization of bituminous schistus, stated that it was convenient, before the carbonization, to separate the sulphurets of iron which were mixed with it. It was proved that sulphurets of iron were found combined mechanically with the ordinary bituminous schistus found in this country, and evidence was given to show that its presence was injurious. It was held to be incumbent on the patentee, either to show that the presence of iron was not injurious, or that the schistus known in England could be used with advantage, or that the method of extracting the iron was so simple that a person ordinarily acquainted with the subject might remove it with ease.*(o)*

32. It must enable a person reading it to construct a machine fitted for all the useful purposes suggested. A specification of a machine for sharpening knives and scissors, directed the edges should be passed backwards and forwards, in an angle formed by the intersection of two circular files. It stated that other materials might be used, according to the delicacy of the edge. It was proved that for scissors there ought to be one circular file, and a smooth surface, but two Turkey-stones might also succeed: the specification was held bad, as it neither directed the machine for scissors to be made with Turkey-stones, nor a circular file and a smooth surface.*(p)*

33. If the information communicated by the specification would be sufficient in all ordinary cases, or such cases as are likely to occur, that is sufficient. The possibility of suggesting theoretically a case in which it would be impracticable to carry out the direction in the specification, if no such case \*would be likely to occur in practice.*(q)* [ \*89 ] The question left to the jury by Baron Alderson in *Morgan v. Seaward*, was, "If a man ordered a paddle-wheel with floats to be set *at*

*(m)* *Bickford v. Skewes*, Webst. P. C. 214; 1 Q. B. 938; *Stevens v. Keating*, 2 Exch. 778.

*(n)* *Reg. v. Cutler*, 3 C. & M. 215.

*(o)* *Derosne v. Fairie*, 1 C. M. & R. 476; Webst. P. C. 168.

*(p)* *Felton v. Greaves*, 3 C. & P. 611.

*(q)* *Morgan v. Seaward*, Webst. P. C. 180, Alderson, B.; *Neilson v. Baird*, Decisions of the Court of Session, 2nd series, vol. vi. 51.

*any angle likely to be required* on entering and going out of the water, and vertical at the bottom, could an ordinary workman of competent skill execute the order by following the directions in the specification?"

34. A defect in the specification will not be cured, though a man ordinarily acquainted with the particular trade, applying his general knowledge to the description in the specification, would not be misled. This would be to support the specification by a fresh invention.<sup>(r)</sup> A patent for dressing cloth directed the use of a hollow roller so contrived as to inclose the list, or forrel (the draughtsman having apparently confounded forrel, or end, with the list, or selvage). Scientific witnesses having proved that they did not know how such a roller could be contrived, the patent was cancelled.<sup>(s)</sup>

35. Mere inaccuracy in a drawing may not be fatal. The whole specification must be read together, and such a construction put upon it as will support a patent, if it can be fairly done. An ambiguous direction, which if followed literally, would render the whole experiment fruitless, will not vitiate the patent, if taking the whole specification together, it is capable of another sense, and a person of fair intelligence would not be misled by it.<sup>(t)</sup>

36. Every specification must describe the invention in the clearest and most unequivocal terms of which the subject admits; and if it appears that there is any unnecessary ambiguity affectingly introduced, or anything which tends to mislead the public, the patent is void. James's patent stated, that a yellow colour would be produced by calcining the lead after the alkali had been separated from it, till it should acquire the colour wanted. It was proved to be necessary that the lead should be fused. It was said that the specification directed the heat to be continued till the effect was \*produced. The Court said, it should have shown by what degree of heat the effect was to be produced. [*\*90*] Fusion was not mentioned; indeed, by mentioning calcination, it seemed that fusion was to be avoided.<sup>(u)</sup> The patent was held bad.

The specification of a patent for making seidlitz powders gave three distinct recipes for preparing the ingredients being three common processes for preparing well-known substances, which might have been procured in any chemist's shop. Abbott, C. J., said, people were led to suppose a laborious process necessary to the production of common things. The public were misled by the specification.<sup>(v)</sup>

37. The patentee is bound to give to the public the most improved state of his invention. If he can make the article with cheaper or better materials than those specified, his patent is void because he does not enable the public to derive the same benefit that he himself does.<sup>(w)</sup> If he withholds any information that is of importance, his patent is avoided.

<sup>(r)</sup> Neilson v. Harford, Webst. P. C. 371. Parke, B.; see Morgan v. Seaward Alderson, B. N. P. Webst. P. C. 176.

<sup>(s)</sup> Rex v. Fussell, 1 Carp. R. 449.

<sup>(t)</sup> Beard v. Egerton, 8 C. B. 165.

<sup>(u)</sup> Turner v. Winter, Dav. P. C. 145; Galloway v. Bleadon, Webst. P. C. 524, Tindal, C. J.

<sup>(v)</sup> Savory v. Price, Ryan & Moody, 1.

<sup>(w)</sup> Turner v. Winter, Dav. P. C. 154; S. C. Webst. P. C. 81.

Zinck had a patent for making verdigris. He was accustomed to put aquafortis into his boiler, but did not mention it in his specification. The aquafortis enabled him to make the verdigris with less labour. Gibbs, C. J., said it was a prejudicial concealment.(*x*)

If in the description of the mode of carrying out the invention, things are mentioned which are unnecessary, if they are thrown in for the purpose of puzzling people who read the specification, the patent is void.(*y*)

In making steel trusses, the patentee was in the habit of using tallow in tempering the steel. Having omitted to state it in the specification, his patent was held void.(*z*)

The omitting to mention anything which the patentee knows to be useful, though it relates only to the degree of utility, as partitions in a cylinder for heating air for a hot-blast furnace, will be fatal to a patent.(*a*)

[\*91] 38. If the application of a principle is claimed, the specification \*must point out at least one mode in which the invention can be carried into effect. If that is done, and the patentee honestly discloses the best mode with which he is acquainted, and the apparatus so constructed is of some value, the specification is sufficient. The greatest improvements subsequently made will not affect its validity. The specification of a patent for the application of the hot blast to furnaces, the air under blast being heated at a particular stage of the process, not claiming any as the best contrivance for heating the air, but merely pointing out one which was stated not to be material to the useful effect, was held to be good, though it turned out afterwards, that this form was very inferior to those which persons in the trade, using the invention, ultimately adopted. The only question for the jury was held to be—will any contrivance which heats the blast produce that beneficial effect? Supposing the mode described not to be perfect in its details (in the case above mentioned the hot blast had a tendency to destroy the furnace, and the old dry twines in use at the time of its adoption), the question is, does the evidence show that without improvement the invention, as described, is of no practical utility?(*b*)

39. If the patentee knows that any particular substance will not answer, he should say so, and not leave it to be inferred that it may be used. A patentee stated, that a cloth for conducting paper might be made of any suitable material, but that he preferred it made of linen warp and woollen weft, knowing at the time that no other cloth would answer. The patent was held void.(*c*)

40. The specification must embrace all the patentee's discoveries and improvements in the mode of carrying the invention into effect, up to the day of completing the specification.(*d*).

(*x*) Wood v. Zimmer, Holt's N. P. C. 60; Webst. P. C. 83.

(*y*) Rex v. Arkwright, Davie's Pat. C. 118; Webst. P. C. 69.

(*z*) Liardet v. Johnson, Bull. N. P. 76. See Morgan v. Seaward, per Alderson, B. Webst. P. C. 174.

(*a*) Neilson v. Harford, Webst. P. C. 337.

(*b*) The Househill Company v. Neilson, L. J. C. Hope, Webst. P. C. 694, 696.

(*c*) Crompton v. Ibbotson, Danson & Lloyd, 33; Webst. P. C. 83.

(*d*) Jones v. Heaton, Webst. P. L. 13.; Webst. P. C. 404, n. per Lord Mansfield. See Webst. P. C. 54, note *e*.

Time is allowed that the patentee may make experiments, and have an opportunity of calling to his assistance the knowledge of others on points where his learning or practice falls short.

If a person, at the time of applying for a patent, has in his [\*92] \*mind an invention capable of producing the proposed effect, and has brought it to a degree of perfection, and afterwards, within the time allowed by the specification, renders it more complete by the introduction of improved mechanical contrivances for carrying into effect the same principle in parts of his machine, that will not make the patent void. Not only is he at liberty to introduce these improvements into his specification, but it his bounden duty to do so. A patent was obtained for a gas-meter. After the grant of the patent, and during the interval allowed for specifying, the patentee made an improvement in the manner of sealing the ends of the induction and eduction pipes, by buckets and hoods. The meter was merely rendered more complete by the introduction of improved machinery. It was held that the patentee was right in specifying this improvement. No deception was practised on the Crown because the inventor had discovered, and the intention of the Crown was to grant a patent for an improved gas apparatus.(e) We have already seen that no distinct substantive invention, made subsequently to the grant of the patent, can be included.

41. The mode of operation must be ascertained with the greatest degree of precision that the subject reasonably admits of. A specification for the composition of a medicine, must state the proportions of the drugs employed. That of Dr. James's powder, for fevers, mentioned only the articles of which the powders were composed, and omitted to mention the relative proportions and quantity. No patent could stand on such a specification.(f)

If a patent is for a particular combination of ingredients already in use, the relative proportions and quantities should be ascertained.(g)

42. If the patent is for a process, a certain and precise process must be described. It will be bad if it does not state for what length of time the process is to be continued, or give some other criterion for ascertaining when, or by what intensity of operation, the effect intended will be produced.(h)

\*But it is sufficient if the process be described with as much [\*93] accuracy as the subject reasonably admits of, and if a criterion, the best according to the knowledge of the inventor, is pointed out. In the patent for the daguerreotype process, in describing the second operation, the specification alleged that the time necessary for the operation could not be stated, because it depended upon several circumstances; but there was a direction that the plate should be kept in the iodine box till it assumed a golden-yellow tint. The Court thought the direction sufficiently plain to be understood by an operator of fair intelligence.(i)

(e) Crossley v. Beverley, Webst. P. C. 118, at Nisi Prius.

(f) James's patent, per Lord Mansfield, cited Webst. P. C. 54, note e.

(g) Hill v. Thompson, 8 Taunt. 382; 8 C. Webst. P. C. 243, citing Turner v. Winter, Webst. P. C. 77.

(h) 2 B. & Ald. 353. Rex v. Wheeler. (i) Beard v. Egerton. 8 C. B. 206, 216.

43. Where a general rule is given for the proportions of the ingredients in a composition of matter, it has been held, in the Supreme Court of the United States, that the specification may direct the use of other and variable proportions in exceptional cases, according to the quality of the ingredients employed, though the proportions can only be exactly known after the particular qualities of the ingredients have been ascertained. If the qualities of the ingredients generally differ so widely that the rule given is of no value, or if the improvement cannot be used without ascertaining in every case by experiment the proportions to be employed, the invention is not patentable; if otherwise, the specification is sufficiently certain.<sup>(k)</sup>

44. The relative proportions of the parts of machinery should be pointed out. In Arkwright's patent, one pair of rollers appeared to be something smaller than the other, but how much, or what were to be the relative dimensions, the specification did not state.<sup>(l)</sup> There should be a scale or something to enable the workman to form an idea of the relative dimensions of the parts. So it seems that in the specification of a patent for a screw propeller, consisting of sections of a complete screw, the specification should define what section, as whether half or a sixteenth of an entire turn of the screw, is proper to be used.<sup>(m)</sup>

[ \*94 ] 45. If ingredients are directed to be used in a composition, \*and the articles which would probably be supplied to a purchaser at a shop in this country, as being those mentioned, are inferior for the purpose of the patent, to others which are only ordinarily procurable abroad, the patentee in the specification should state where they are to be procured of the best description for the purposes of the patent.<sup>(n)</sup>

46. A patent which casts upon the public the expense and labour of experiments and trial, is undoubtedly bad.<sup>(o)</sup> Artists of the same trade must be enabled to do the thing for which the patent is granted, without any new inventions or additions of their own.<sup>(p)</sup> If it be said that the mode of carrying out the process, though not ascertained, will be well and easily known to a person of competent skill, the inventor will not in reality have given any useful information to the public.

The specification of a patent for paving-blocks in the form of two solid rhombs, placed one in front of each other in opposite directions, so that each side of one of the blocks was levelled both outwards and inwards. The angle of the bevel was not stated. Lord Abinger said, unless the jury thought any angle less than a right angle be sufficient, the specification was bad, as experiments would be rendered necessary.<sup>(q)</sup>

47. The specification ought to be framed so as not to call on a person to have recourse to more than the ordinary means of knowledge (not invention), which a workman of competent skill in his art and trade may be presumed to have. It may call upon him to exercise all existing

(k) Wood v. Underhill, 5 Howard's S. C. R. 1, cited Curtis on Patents, 169.

(l) Rex v. Arkwright, Dav. P. C. 108, 112, 122.

(m) See Lowe v. Penn, 7 Law Times, 203, Q. B.

(n) Sturtz v. De la Rue, 5 Russ. 327; Derosne v. Fairie, Webst. P. C. 157.

(o) Rex v. Wheeler, 2 B. & Ald. 349, 353.

(p) Rex v. Arkwright, Dav. P. C. 106; Webst. P. C. 66.

(q) Macnamara v. Hulse, 1 Car. & Mar. 471.

knowledge common to the trade, but nothing more.<sup>(r)</sup> It need not be so circumstantial or so explanatory, that persons entirely ignorant of the elements of the science to which the subject belongs, may thereby alone be able to learn and use the invention, nor, on the other hand, should the description be so concise as to become obscure. It must be intelligible and useful to persons of moderate knowledge of the art to which it relates. If a person having \*a little knowledge of the [ \*95 ] science which led to the invention, can immediately see the method pointed out, and easily apprehend it without study, without any invention of his own, and without experiments, the disclosure is fully and fairly made.<sup>(s)</sup> In the case of Watt's patent, the jury found that the specification was of itself sufficient to enable a mechanic acquainted with the fire-engines previously in use, to construct fire-engines producing the effect of lessening the consumption of fire and steam, upon the principle invented by Watt.<sup>(t)</sup> In Arkwright's case it was held, that it was sufficient if persons conversant with machinery, having the machine in its unimproved state described to them, could construct the newly-invented machine from the description in the specification.<sup>(u)</sup>

48. The specification is addressed to those employed in making the apparatus to which it refers, but not to common labourers, or workmen employed under those who furnish and construct such apparatus, or any person, not a person of skill, conversant with the trade.<sup>(x)</sup> No sort of specification would enable a ploughman, utterly ignorant of the whole art, to make a watch.

Speaking of the specification of the hot-blast apparatus, Lord Justice Clerk Hope said,—“The condition is not satisfied if men of the greatest science, first-rate engineers even, understand it, and would know what to do or what instructions to give. The specification is for the benefit of trade when the patent is out,—it is addressed to those engaged in particular departments of trade, and who are to be employed in the trade when the patent is out; those who are competent to make similar apparatus for similar purposes. But the question is not as to common labourers or workmen employed under those who construct such apparatus. Such is the subdivision of labour, that in many trades, the most skilful [ \*96 ] \*workmen, one conversant only with parts and portions of machines, could not put together an entire machine.”<sup>(y)</sup>

49. It is not sufficient if, after several trials and conversation with persons employed by the patentee, or having seen the patentee's machine, a mechanic is able to construct the machine from the specification, so as to

<sup>(r)</sup> Morgan v. Seaward, Webst. P. C. 174, Alderson, B.; Galloway v. Bleadon, Webst. P. C. 524.

<sup>(s)</sup> Per Sir J. Campbell, arg. Neilson v. Harford, Webst. P. C. 306; per Parke, B. ib. 314. The Househill Company v. Neilson, Webst. P. C. 692.

<sup>(t)</sup> Boulton v. Bull, 2 H. Black. 463.

<sup>(u)</sup> Arkwright v. Nightingale, Webst. P. C. 60; Dav. P. C. 37. See Harmar v. Playne, 11 East, 107.

<sup>(x)</sup> Alderson, B. Webst. P. C. 174, Morgan v. Seaward; Elliot v. Aston, Webst. P. C. 224, Coltman, J.; Harmar v. Playne, 11 East, 108.

<sup>(y)</sup> The Househill Company v. Neilson, Webst. P. C. 692.

produce the useful effect. (z) An engineer who has been employed by the patentee in making models, should be asked, could he, with his ordinary knowledge and skill, without the peculiar knowledge he has attained on the subject, construct the engine from the specification? (a)

50. The intelligibility of the specification is a question for the jury: so also is its fairness and sufficiency. (b) It is not necessary that a process described in the specification should have been actually tested. The evidence of scientific persons, that in their opinion it would or would not answer, is sufficient, and the jury may, if they please, rest on that evidence; but it is more satisfactory, that the invention, if alleged to be imperfect, should be tested by experiment; and if the experiment is not made, it may lead to the suggestion or belief, that the party impugning it abstains from causing the experiment to be made, because he knows it will answer too well. (c)

#### SECTION IV.—FILING. ENROLMENT.

51. All letters patent to be granted under the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852, require the specification to be filed in the High Court of Chancery. No enrolment is to be necessary. (d)

Before the 1st of January, 1849, specifications were enrolled in the Petty Bag Office, the Rolls Chapel Office, or the Enrolment Office. Since [ \*97 ] that time, by stat. 11 & 12 Vict. cap. 94, s. 14, which was re-enacted by stat. 12 & 13 \*Vict. cap. 109, s. 15, specifications have been enrolled in the Enrolment Office in Chancery. The original specifications were returned to the patentee, a copy, with the date of the enrolment, being made on the roll. A certificate of the date of the enrolment was written on the specification returned to the party. The expense of making the copy on the roll, which was considerable, will now be saved.

All specifications to be filed in pursuance of the conditions of letters patent, and all complete specifications accompanying petitions and declarations, before grant of letters patent, shall be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office. (e)

52. Under the Patent Law Amendment Act, all specifications in pursuance of the conditions of letters patent, and all complete specifications accompanying petitions for the grant of letters patent, shall be respectively written bookwise upon a sheet or sheets of parchment, each of the size of twenty-one inches and a half in length, by fourteen inches and three-fourths of an inch in breadth; the same may be written upon both sides of the sheet, but a margin must be left of one inch and a half on every side of each sheet. (f)

(z) *Rex v. Arkwright*, Webst. P. C. 67.

(a) *Morgan v. Seaward*, Webst. P. C. 180.

(b) *Hill v. Thompson and Forman*, Lord Eldon, Webst. P. C. 237; 3 Mer. 626, S. C. *Galloway v. Bleadon*, Webst. P. C. 524.

(c) *Neilson v. Harford*, Webst. P. C. 316, Parke, B.; *Reg. v. Steiner*, Lord Campbell, Times, Dec. 6, 1851.

(d) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 27.

(e) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 28. Order of Lord St. Leonards, 1852, 1.

(f) Order of Lord St. Leonards, 1852, 2.

In case reference is made to drawings in any specification deposited or filed under the Act, an extra copy of such drawings shall be left with the specification. *(g)*

The drawings accompanying such specifications shall be made upon a sheet or sheets of parchment, each of the size of twenty-one inches and a half in length, by fourteen inches and three-fourths of an inch in breadth; or upon a sheet or sheets of parchment, each of the size of twenty-one inches and a half in breadth, by twenty-nine inches and a half in length, leaving a margin of one inch and a half on every side of such sheet. *(h)* The Lord Chancellor recommends applicants and patentees to make their elevation drawings according to the scale of one inch to a foot.

Specifications enrolled in Chancery are subject to a stamp-duty of £5. and a progressive duty of 10s. upon every entire quantity of 1,080 words over and above the first 1,080 words: *(i)* but as this duty [*\*98*] only applies to specifications to be enrolled or recorded, it will not be payable on specifications to be filed under the Patent Law Amendment Act. A stamp-duty of £5 is, however, payable on filing the specification. *(k)*

53. After the sealing of letters patent, the time for specifying mentioned therein cannot be enlarged except by Act of Parliament. *(l)* The time is to be reckoned exclusively of the first day, and inclusively of the last. *(m)* The specification may be left at the office at twelve o'clock at night on the last day. It was held sufficient if the specification was delivered to be enrolled, though it was not actually enrolled till a subsequent day. *(n)* Once deposited in the office, the specification becomes a public document. The clerk of the enrolments cannot receive it conditionally. Accordingly, the late Master of the Rolls refused to vacate or cancel the enrolment of a specification left at the office and enrolled by the clerk, contrary to directions not to enrol it till further order. *(o)*

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## \*CHAPTER XIII.

[*\* 99*]

### DISCLAIMER AND AMENDMENT.

#### SECTION I.—BY STATUTE.—MODE OF ENTERING

I. WE have seen that if an objection is sustained against any one of

*(g)* 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 28.

*(h)* Order of Lord St. Leonards, 1852, 3. See ante, p. 52.

*(i)* Stat. 55 Geo. 3, cap. 184, schedule, tit. "Specification." Stat. 13 & 14 Vict. cap. 97, schedule, tit. "Progressive Duty."

*(k)* Stat. 16 Vict. cap. , schedule.

*(l)* Ex parte Hoops, 6 Vesey, 598; S. C. nom. Ex parte Koops, Rep. 1829, p. 192.

*(m)* Watson v. Pears, 2 Camp. 294; Derosne v. Fairie, Webst. P. C. 154, Lord Abinger; 14 M. & W. 582, Russell v. Ledsam.

*(n)* Com. Dig. Patent, E.

*(o)* Ex parte Brough, 7 Beav. 104.

many important inventions, included in the same patent, the whole patent is avoided. In such cases, amendments may now be made by a disclaimer of the part of the invention to which such objections apply.

Statute 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 1, amended by 12 & 13 Vict. cap. 109, s. 15, and extended to patents granted under the Patent Law Amendment Act, by statute 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 39, for the better protecting the rights of patentees, and the more ample benefit of the public from letters patent, enacts, that any person who, as grantee, assignee, or otherwise, hath obtained, or shall obtain, letters patent, may, if he think fit, having first obtained the leave of the Attorney-General or Solicitor-General, in case of an English patent, or the Lord Advocate or Solicitor-General of Scotland in case of a Scotch patent, or of the Attorney-General or Solicitor-General for Ireland, in case of an Irish patent, certified by his fiat and signature, enter a disclaimer of any part either of the title of the invention, or of the specification, stating the reason for such disclaimer. The patentee may, with such leave as aforesaid enter a memorandum of any alteration in the said title or specification.

It is provided that the disclaimer, or memorandum of alteration, must not be such as to extend the exclusive right granted by the letters patent.

On the disclaimer, or memorandum of alteration, being duly entered [\*100] as prescribed by the several statutes, it is to be \*deemed and taken to be part of the letters patent and specification in all courts whatever.

2. Disclaimer and memorandums of alteration were by the first-mentioned statute, to be entered with the clerk of the patents of England, Scotland, or Ireland respectively, and enrolled with the specification. A reference to the enrolment of the disclaimer was made upon the enrolment of the specification.

3. As to disclaimers and memorandums of alteration enrolled after the 1st of January, 1849, by statute 11 & 12 Vict. cap. 94, s. 14, which was re-enacted by 12 & 13 Vict. cap. 109, s. 15, disclaimers and memorandums of alteration are to be enrolled in the Enrolment Office, whether the specification of the invention to which such disclaimer or memorandum of alteration relates has, or has not, been enrolled in the said Enrolment Office.

4. As to disclaimers and memorandums of alteration of patents granted under the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852, statute 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 39, enacts that every disclaimer or memorandum of alteration shall be filed in the office appointed for filing specifications in Chancery under that Act, with the specification to which the same relates, in lieu of being entered or filed, and enrolled as required by the Act of 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, or 12 & 13 Vict. cap. 109. This section appears to apply only to disclaimers relating to specifications filed under the Patent Law Amendment Act.

5. The Attorney-General, or Solicitor-General, or Lord Advocate, before granting his fiat for the entry of a disclaimer or memorandum of alteration, may require the party applying for the same to advertise his disclaimer or alteration in such manner as to such Attorney-General, or Solicitor-General or Lord Advocate shall seem right, and shall, if he so re-

quire such advertisement, certify in his fiat that the same has been duly made.<sup>(a)</sup>

6. As to patents, before the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852, any person may enter a caveat against a disclaimer or alteration, in like manner as caveats are now used to be entered; which caveat being so entered shall give the party entering the same, a right to have notice of the application being heard by the Attorney-General, or Solicitor-General, or Lord Advocate respectively.<sup>(b)</sup> The fee is five shillings on each caveat.

\*Caveats should be entered at the chambers of each of the law officers. [\*101]

7. By rules made shortly after the passing of the Act 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, the person applying must present a petition to the Attorney-General or Solicitor-General, stating what the proposed disclaimer or alteration is, when a time will be appointed for hearing the applicant. The petition should be accompanied by a copy of the original specification, and of the proposed disclaimer or alteration.

If on the hearing, the Attorney-General or Solicitor-General should think fit to disallow the proposed alteration or disclaimer, no further proceeding is necessary. If he should think fit to allow it without any advertisement, then, on being applied to for that purpose, he will put his signature to the fiat authorizing the clerk of the patents to make the required enrolment.

If it appear to the Attorney or Solicitor General that any advertisements ought to be inserted, then he will give such directions as he may think fit relative thereto, and will fix any time not sooner than ten days from the first publication of any such advertisement, for resuming the consideration of the matter. Caveats may be lodged at any time before the actual issuing of the fiat; and any party lodging a caveat is to have seven days' notice of the next meeting.

The fiat must be written or engrossed on the same parchment with the disclaimer or alteration at the foot thereof.

8. With regard to disclaimers and memoranda of alteration under the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852, section 39 provides, that applications for leave to enter a disclaimer or memorandum of alteration shall be made, and all caveats relating thereto shall be lodged at the office of the Commissioners, and shall be referred to the law officers mentioned in 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 1.

The application for leave to disclaim must be impressed with a stamp of £5; a caveat with a stamp of £2.<sup>(c)</sup>

9. The practice has hitherto been to have two copies of the disclaimer, one on parchment and the other on paper, both of which were signed by the Attorney or Solicitor General. The one on paper was deposited with the clerk of the patents; \*the one on parchment was usually acknowledged before the proper officer in Chancery, and then en-rolled. [\*102]

It seems that the person entering the disclaimer is not bound to enter

(a) Stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 1.

(b) 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 1.

(c) Stat. 16 Vict. cap. , schedule.

the original document, signed by the Attorney-General: the entry of a copy is sufficient. *(d)*

10. No appeal lies to the Master of the Rolls from the decision of the Attorney-General in allowing a disclaimer or memorandum of alteration. *(e)* The law officers are liberal in permitting the entry of disclaimers and memorandums of alteration. If the disclaimer or memorandum of alteration entered in pursuance of such leave is not such as is warranted by the statute, it is simply void.

11. If a disclaimer is entered in fact, in order to raise the point that such disclaimer is not in accordance with the statute, the facts must be brought before the Court, by a plea confessing the entry of the disclaimer in fact and alleging the circumstances, showing that it is not an entry made in accordance with the statute. Under a plea setting out the facts and concluding with a special traverse of the entry of the disclaimer, according to the statute, nothing is put in issue except the entry of the disclaimer in point of fact. *(f)*

12. It has been questioned, but apparently without good reason, whether, after the entry of one disclaimer, the patentee can further amend his specification by a second. Such entries have been permitted by the law officers. *(g)*

13. A disclaimer or memorandum of alteration may be entered after the verdict for the Crown, on a scire facias. In such case the patentee should apply to the Court to suspend its judgment, or to the Attorney-General to stay the proceedings, in order to give him time to disclaim. *(h)* See post, "Scire Facias."

14. It was urged in *The Queen on the prosecution of Davis v. Mill*, that if the title of a patent is too large for the inventions specified, when those disclaimed have been struck out, the patent would be avoided. *(i)*

[\*103] The Court thought that the title was not too large, and therefore did not decide the point; but Jervis, C. J. said, "It is doubtful whether in truth the disclaimer, when properly read, is a disclaimer of the specification only. It adverts to an infirmity which may apply to the title as well as to the specification, and proceeds to disclaim those parts of the invention described in the specification as being the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth parts of the said invention. That may be a disclaimer of the title so far as it is applicable to those parts."

15. The question who is the proper person to enter a disclaimer in cases where the patent has been assigned, has been much debated. In the first case on the subject, it was said that the person authorized to disclaim was the original grantee, though he might have parted with all his interest, if the Attorney and Solicitor General consented. *(k)*

16. In order to obviate such difficulties, statute 7 & 8 Vict. cap. 69,

*(d)* Wallington v. Dale, 6 Exch. 285.

*(e)* Sharp's patent, Ex parte Wordsworth, Webst. P. C. 641.

*(f)* Wallington v. Dale, 6 Exch. 285.

*(g)* See Rubery v. Barrs, cited Carpmael on Patents, 94.

*(h)* Bynner v. Reg. 9 Q. B. 547; Reg. v. Bynner, note to Smith v. Upton, 6 M. & G. 260.

*(i)* Reg. v. Mill, 20 L. J. N. S. C. P. 16; 10 C. B. 379.

*(k)* Spilsbury v. Clough, 2 Q. B. 466; Webst. P. C. 255.

s. 5, enacted that, in case the original patentee had parted with the whole or any part of his interest by assignment to any other person, it should be lawful for such patentee, together with such assignee, if part only had been assigned, and for the assignee, if the whole had been assigned, to enter a disclaimer and memorandum of alteration, and that such disclaimer and memorandum of alteration having been entered and filed, should be valid and effectual in favour of any person in whom the rights under the letters patent might be vested, and that no objection should be made in any proceeding whatsoever, on the ground that the party making such disclaimer or memorandum of such alteration had not sufficient authority in that behalf. Section 6 contains similar provisions with respect to disclaimers and memorandums of alterations entered before the passing of the Act.

In a case after the passing of this Act, on a motion in arrest of judgment, on the ground that it appeared on the record that the disclaimer had been entered by the original patentee after he had assigned all his interest, and that he had therefore no power to do so, the Court of Exchequer determined that the defendant could not take the objection, because the proviso of the statute 7 & 8 Vict. cap. 69, s. 6, prevented him from saying that the patentee had no authority to enter it.<sup>(l)</sup>

\*17. By stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 39, the filing of a disclaimer or memorandum of alteration under that Act, in pursu- [\*104]  
ance of the leave of the law officer duly certified, shall, except in cases of fraud, be conclusive as to the right of the party to enter such disclaimer or memorandum of alteration under the Act; and no objection shall be allowed to be made in any proceeding upon or touching such letters patent, specification, disclaimer, or memorandum of alteration, on the ground that the party entering such disclaimer or memorandum of alteration had not sufficient authority in that behalf.

#### SECTION II.—EFFECT OF DISCLAIMER OR AMENDMENT BY STATUTE.

18. By stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 1, the disclaimer and memorandum of alteration are to be deemed and taken to be part of such letters patent, or such specification, in all courts whatever, provided that no such disclaimer or alteration shall be receivable in evidence in any action or suit (save and except in any proceeding by *scire facias*) pending at the time when such disclaimer or memorandum of alteration was enrolled; but in every such action or suit the original title or specification alone shall be given in evidence, and deemed, or taken to be, the title and specification of the invention for which the letters patent have been, or shall be granted.

A memorandum of alteration is part of the specification, and must be dealt with in the same manner as the specification.<sup>(m)</sup>

19. It seems that where a disclaimer is entered to part of a patent, the amended patent has all the incidents of a valid patent from the time of the original grant. Where, however, a patent was originally void,

(l) Wallington v. Dale, Exch. 19 Law Times, 187.

(m) Reg. v. Mill, 20 L. J. N. S. C. P. 16; 10 C. B. 379.

but amended by filing a disclaimer of part of the invention, it has been held that the disclaimer has not a retrospective operation, so as to make a party liable for an infringement of that part of the patent which is not disclaimed prior to the time of entering such disclaimer. The Court said the act would be unjust to make a man who was acting consistently with the law at a certain time, a wrong-doer by relation.<sup>(n)</sup>

[\*105] \*20. The Court of Exchequer said they would engraft a modification on the words of the Act, and read it as if it had been "part of the letters patent from thenceforth."<sup>(o)</sup>

In a subsequent case, in the Common Pleas, Jervis, C. J., said, if it had not been for the case of *Perry v. Skinner*, he should have thought it plain, upon reading the Act of Parliament, that the intention of the Legislature was to allow a specification to be amended at any time by a disclaimer; and that the disclaimer having been perfected after proper precautions taken, and terms imposed by the law officers, should be deemed part of the original specification in all courts whatever, except in actions pending at the time of its enrolment. He said he regretted that he was obliged, even indirectly, to question the decision in *Perry v. Skinner*.

Maule, J., thought that the inconvenience apprehended by the Court of Exchequer in *Perry v. Skinner* did not arise. The Act gives not an absolute power to any one to enter a disclaimer, but only a power to apply to the discretion of the Attorney or Solicitor General, who may grant or refuse leave to enter such disclaimer as he, acting judicially on behalf of the public, shall deem best for the public interest. That must be taken to be a provision made by the Legislature for the prevention of inconvenience as regards the public. In the case before the Court, he thought himself bound by the Act of Parliament to take the disclaimer to be part of the specification as from the date of the specification.<sup>(p)</sup>

It would seem that a second patent for the same invention, or an improvement upon it, taken out between the time of the filing the original specification and the date of the disclaimer of part of the invention described, can confer no rights on the second against the original patentee.<sup>(q)</sup>

21. The entry of a disclaimer to part of a specification does not necessarily admit that the patent is bad. The object of the disclaimer is not merely to set right the description of the alleged invention where it is known to be wrong, but to obviate any doubt that may arise on the specification; therefore the mere statement of a disclaimer upon the record [\*106] does \*not show that the patent, as originally granted, was void before the disclaimer.<sup>(r)</sup>

22. With regard to disclaimers entered after the 1st of October, 1852, by stat. 15 & 16 Viet. cap. 83, s. 39, no action shall be brought upon

(n) *Perry v. Skinner*, 2 M. & W. 471. See per Cresswell, J. 1 C. B. 167; *Stead v. Carey*, 1 C. B. 520, Erle, J.

(o) *Perry v. Skinner*, 2 M. & W. 471.

(p) *Reg. v. Mill*, 20 L. J. n. s. C. P. 16; 10 C. B. 379.

(q) *Stocker v. Warner*, 1 C. B. 148, 166. See *Stead v. Carey*, 1 C. B. 521.

(r) *Stocker v. Warner*, 1 C. B. 148.

any letters patent in which, or on the specification of which, any disclaimer or memorandum of alteration shall have been filed in respect of any infringement committed prior to the filing of such disclaimer or memorandum of alteration, unless the law officer shall certify in his fiat that any such action may be brought notwithstanding the entry or filing of such disclaimer or memorandum of alteration. Sir John Romilly was never in the habit of allowing a disclaimer without imposing a condition that the patentee should bring no action for infringements prior to the disclaimer.(s)

23. The entry of a disclaimer need not be replied to a pleading alleging the want of novelty, or the like, on part of the invention. In a proceeding by *scire facias* to repeal a patent after issue joined, the defendant procured to be enrolled a disclaimer of some of the claims in the specification. The Court held that the disclaimer, though enrolled after issue joined, was admissible for the defendant, and was to be read as part of the original specification put in by the prosecutor.(t)

24. The following case has occurred as to the costs in case of a disclaimer pending a *scire facias*. Pending a *scire facias* to repeal a patent, the patentee disclaimed a part of his invention under 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 1; the prosecutor still proceeded, and ultimately failed. Sir John Romilly said, that a patentee who disclaimed must take the consequence of having it assumed, in the absence of evidence, that the patent was invalid previous to the disclaimer. But he thought that after the disclaimer the prosecutor was bound to know that the patent was good, and ought then to have discontinued the action. By consent he would so order the taxation, otherwise he could only give leave to the patentee to put the bond in suit, to enable him to recover the subsequent costs.(u)

## SECTION III.—AMENDMENT AT COMMON LAW.

[\*107]

25. The Lord Chancellor has no power to alter the date of a patent which had been dated as of the day of the delivery of the privy seal bill, and not, as the patentee supposed, as of the day when the order for sealing was made and the seal affixed, though, in consequence of such mistake, the patentee did not enrol his specification until the four months limited in the patent for that purpose had expired.(x)

26. But clerical errors may be amended at common law. Where a clerical error was made, the word "recovering" having been written instead of the word "covering" in the Queen's warrant, and the error was copied in the Queen's bill, the Signet bill, the Privy Seal bill, and the letters patent and enrolment, the error having been corrected in the Queen's warrant and the Privy Seal bill, the Lord Chancellor and Master of the Rolls, by a joint order, directed the letters patent to be altered and resealed, and the enrolment altered to correspond with the amended letters patent, on the terms that the patentee should abate on

(s) See 14 Beav. 314; Report on Patents, 1851.

(t) Reg. v. Mill, 20 L. J. N. S. C. P. 16; 10 C. B. 379.

(u) Reg. v. Mill, 14 Beav. 312.

(x) Ex parte Beck, 1 Bro. P. C. 578; Webst. P. C. 430, n.

and pay the costs of all actions then pending, and that no action should be brought for any infringement before the resealing. (*y*) The date of the patent was not altered.

27. With regard to erroneous enrolments, the Master of the Rolls has no authority to make any alteration in the enrolment of a patent or specification, except for the purpose of correcting mere verbal or clerical errors, proved to have arisen from mistake or inadvertence. The enrolment must correspond strictly with the patent. The title of the party derived from the Crown rests on the letters patent only, and the enrolment only permitted to be used for the purpose of showing what the grant is. He has no jurisdiction to remove an erroneous claim. (*z*)

28. Clerical errors and errors of mistake appear to have been always amendable at common law. (*a*) In Whitehouse's \*patent the word [\*108] "wire" having, by a clerical error, been written in the enrolment instead of "fire," the enrolment was amended by Lord Gifford. (*b*)

29. In every case that has occurred, it has plainly been intended to do no more than amend mere slips or clerical errors made by the parties or the agents of the parties; and not only has strict evidence of error been required, but in order to enable any third party to dispute the validity of the amendment and of the order, it has been directed that the order itself should be indorsed on the enrolment. (*c*)

30. No alteration of an enrolment of letters patent will be permitted which could make the enrolment differ from the original letters patent.

[\*109]

## \*CHAPTER XIV.

### CONFIRMATION AND EXTENSION OF PATENTS.

#### SECTION I.—CONFIRMATION.

1. It sometimes happens that the patentee is a true inventor, and believed himself to be the first inventor, yet, by reason of some other person having invented or used the same thing before the date of his patent, without his knowledge, his patent could not have been supported, though he has been the first person to bring the invention into use in this country. This led to hardships. A man who had brought to perfection an invention of great public utility, was liable to have his patent defeated, by evidence of former forgotten discoveries which had never led to any practical result.

(*y*) Nickels's patent, Webst. P. C. 656, 664. See also Anon. Webst. P. C. 663, cited by Lord Cottenham. See Nickels v. Ross, 8 C. B. 673.

(*z*) Sharp's patent, Ex parte Wordsworth, Webst. P. C. 641.

(*a*) Webst. P. C. 657, n.

(*b*) Whitehouse's patent, Webst. P. C. 648, 649, note *m*. See also Redmund's case, 5 Russ. 44, cited by Lord Langdale; Sharp's case, Webst. P. C. 649; Rubery's patent, Webst. P. C. 649, note *m*.

(*c*) Nickel's patent, Webst. P. C. 659, 656; Turn. & Phil. 48.

2. By stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 2, if in any suit or action it shall be *proved*, or specially found by the verdict of a jury, that any person who shall have obtained letters patent for any invention or supposed invention, was not the first inventor thereof or of some part thereof by reason of some other person or persons having invented or used the same or some part thereof, before the date of such letters patent; or if such patentee or his assigns shall discover that some other person had, unknown to such patentee, invented or used the same, or some part thereof, before the date of such letters patent, it shall and may be lawful for such patentee and his assigns to petition his Majesty in council to confirm the said letters patent, or to grant new letters patent; the matter of which petition shall be heard before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; and such committee, upon examining the said matter, and being satisfied that such patentee believed \*himself to be the first and original inventor, and being satisfied that such [\*110] invention, or part thereof, had not been publicly and generally used before the date of such letters patent, may report to his Majesty their opinion, that the prayer of such petition ought to be complied with; whereupon his Majesty may, if he think fit, grant such prayer; and the said letters patent shall be available in law and equity, to give to such petitioner the sole right of using, making, and vending the said invention, as against all persons whatsoever, any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding; provided also, that any person, party to any former suit or action touching such first letters patent, shall be entitled to have notice of such petition before the presenting of the same.

3. A party intending to apply by petition for the confirmation of a patent, shall give public notice thereof by advertising in the London Gazette three times, and in three London newspapers, and three times in some county paper published in the *town* where or near to which he carries on any manufacture of anything made according to his specification, or near to or in which he resides, in case he carries on no such manufacture; or published in the *county* where he carries on such manufacture; or where he lives, in case there shall not be any paper published in such town. The advertisements must state that he intends to petition her Majesty under the said section; the object of such petition; and give notice of the day on which he intends to apply for a time to be fixed for the hearing of the matter of his said petition, which day shall not be less than four weeks from the date of the publication of the last of the advertisements to be inserted in the London Gazette; and that on or before such day, notice must be given of any opposition intended to be made to the petition.(a)

4. Any person intending to oppose the said application, has a right to be heard before the Judicial Committee. He must lodge notice to that effect at the Council Office on or before the days so named in the said advertisements; and having lodged such notice, shall be entitled to have from the petitioners four weeks' notice of the time appointed for the hearing.(a)

(a) Rules of the Privy Council respecting the confirmation of Patents, rule 1, 5 and 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 1.

[\*111] \*5. Petitions must be presented within one week from the insertion of the last of the advertisements required to be published in the London Gazette. (b)

All petitions must be accompanied by affidavits of advertisements having been inserted according to the provisions of the rules of the Privy Council above mentioned; and the matters in the affidavits may be disputed by the parties opposing, upon the hearing of the petitions. (c)

6. All parties to any former action or suit touching letters patent in respect of which petitions shall have been presented, and all persons lodging notices of opposition, shall be entitled to be served with copies of petitions presented; and no application to fix a time for hearing shall be made without affidavits of such service. (d)

Parties served with petitions shall lodge at the Council Office notice of the grounds of their objection to the granting the prayer of such petitions. (e)

The Judicial Committee will hear the Attorney-General or other counsel on behalf of the Crown, against granting any application for the confirmation of a patent, in case it shall be thought fit to oppose the same on such behalf. (f)

7. The power of recommending the confirmation of a patent is exercised with great caution, and a strong case must be made out by the applicant. The petitioner must show that he considered himself the inventor, by proving the experiments which led to his discovery.

The Judicial Committee refused to recommend a confirmation where a manufacture, substantially identical with the invention of the patentee, had been carried on beneficially prior to the patent, and had never been abandoned, though the invention had not been publicly and generally known, and the petitioner offered to grant licenses to the two persons who had alone used it. (g) So where the right of a prior patentee might have been affected, though the first patent was thirty years old. (h) So [\*112] in the case of a Scotch patent, where the \*invention had been in use in England before the date of the Scotch patent. (i)

But where there was no evidence of user in England, France, or elsewhere; but the invention was described in the specification of an expired French patent, a copy of which was in the British Museum, the Judicial Committee, after directing notice of the day of hearing to be given to the French patentee, confirmed the patent. (k) Probably, where there has been a user against the consent, and in fraud of the patentee, the patent would be confirmed.

If the patent is for several things, and one is old, the proper course is for the patentee to disclaim, not to apply on a confirmation. (l) Costs will be given against an unsuccessful applicant.

(b) Rules Pri. C. rule 3.

(c) Rules Pri. C. rule 4.

(d) Rules Pri. C. rule 5.

(e) Rules Pri. C. rule 6.

(f) Rules Pri. C. December, 1835.

(g) Card's patent, 12 Jurist, Pri. C. 507; S. C. 6 E. F. Moo. 207.

(h) Westrupp and Gibbins's patent, Webst. P. C. 554.

(i) Robinson's patent, 5 E. F. Moore, 65.

(k) Baron Heurteloup's patent, Webst. P. C. 553.

(l) Westrupp and Gibbin's patent, Webst. P. C. 554.

## SECTION II.—CONFIRMATION BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

8. Patents are sometimes confirmed and extended by Acts of Parliament. The following case has occurred as to the effect of such confirmation.

Stead's patent for wooden pavement having become void, by reason of the patentee not enrolling his specification within the time limited by the patent (four months), the non-enrolment having been caused by inadvertence and misinformation, was confirmed by Act of Parliament 4 & 5 Vict. cap. 91, s. 31, without any saving of the rights of strangers. The specification having been enrolled within six months, the Act provided that the letters patent should be as valid and effectual as if the specification had been enrolled within four months. One Carey, in the interval between the expiration of the time originally limited for the enrolment and the passing of the Act, while Stead's patent was void, obtained a patent for an improvement on Stead's patent. It was held that the statute effected a complete confirmation, and that Carey could not use Stead's invention.<sup>(m)</sup>

## \*SECTION III.—EXTENSION OF TERM.

[\*113]

9. If any person who now hath or shall hereafter obtain any letters patent shall petition his Majesty in council for a prolongation of his patent, and his Majesty shall refer the consideration of the petition to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; upon hearing the applicant, and any person who shall oppose the grant, and inquiring into the whole matter, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council may report to his Majesty, that a further extension of the term in the said letters patent should be granted, not exceeding seven years; and his Majesty is empowered, if he think fit, to grant new letters patent for the said invention for a term not exceeding seven years after the expiration of the first term.<sup>(n)</sup>

10. Statute 7 & 8 Vict. cap. 69, s. 2, provides for cases in which it can be satisfactorily shown, that the expense of the invention has been greater than an extension for seven years would suffice to reimburse. It enacts, that if any person, having obtained a patent for any invention, shall, before the expiration thereof, present a petition to her Majesty in council, setting forth that he has been unable to obtain a due remuneration for his expense and labour in perfecting such invention, and that an exclusive right of using and vending the same for the further period of seven years, in addition to the term in such patent mentioned, will not suffice for his reimbursement and remuneration, then if the matter of such petition shall be by her Majesty referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the said committee shall proceed to consider the same after the manner of, and in the usual course of its proceedings touching patents; and if the said committee shall be of opinion, and

<sup>(m)</sup> Stead v. Carey, 1 C. B. 496.<sup>(n)</sup> Stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 4.

shall so report to her Majesty, that a further period greater than seven years' extension of the said patent term ought to be granted to the petitioner, it shall be lawful for her Majesty, if she shall so think fit, to grant an extension thereof for any time not exceeding fourteen years, in like manner, and subject to the same rules as the extension for a term not exceeding seven years is now granted.

[\*114] 11. The third section of this Act provides, that nothing in \*the Act contained shall prevent the Judicial Committee from reporting that an extension for any period not exceeding seven years should be granted, or prevent her Majesty from granting an extension for such lesser term than the petition shall have prayed.(o)

12. The powers of the above Acts are declared to extend to letters patent to be granted under the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852.

13. The new letters patent may be made subject to any restrictions, conditions, and provisions. They are to extend to, and be available in and for such places as the original letters patent extended to and were available in. They are to be sealed and bear date as of the day after the expiration of the term of the original letters patent which may first expire.(p)

14. In granting extension of patents to assignees of patent rights, the Legislature indirectly remunerate patentees by increasing the value of patent rights.

The power of obtaining renewals of patents was not confined to grantees, but extended to assignees, under the stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 4.

The Legislature intended to compensate the assignee as well as the patentee for labour bestowed and capital expended without adequate remuneration, in bringing a useful invention to perfection.(q)

Stat. 7 & 8 Vict. cap. 69, s. 4, reciting that doubts had arisen touching the power of granting an extension of the term of letters patent, in cases where the patentees have assigned their right, enacts, that it shall be lawful for her Majesty, on the report of the Judicial Committee, to grant such extension, either to an assignee or to the original patentee, or to an assignee and the original patentee conjointly.

Section 7 makes valid new letters patent granted to assignees before the passing of the Act, except in cases where actions, proceedings in sci. fa., or suits in equity, were pending at the time of the passing of the Act.

[\*115] \*15. The Privy Council makes no distinction between legal and equitable titles. There seems no reason why an equitable assignee should not be the sole petitioner.(r) But it seems that the renewed letters patent will be granted to the person who has the legal interest in the original patent at the time of the application.(s)

16. In order to obtain a prolongation of the term, by stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 4, the petitioner must advertise in the London Gazette

(o) Stat. 7 & 8 Vict. cap. 69, s. 3. (p) Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 40.

(q) *Russell v. Ledsam*, 14 M. & W. 574; in error, *Ledsam v. Russell*, 16 M. & W. 633. In Dom. Proc. 1 H. L. C. 687.

(r) *Noble's patent*, 15 Law Times, 1.

(s) *Wright's patent*, Webst. P. C. 563; *Southworth's patent*. Webst. P. C. 488.

three times, and in three London papers, and three times in some country paper, published in the town where or near to which he has carried on any manufacture of anything made according to his specification, or near to or in which he resides, in case he has carried on no such manufacture; or published in the county where he carries on such manufacture, or where he lives, in case there shall not be any paper published in such town, that he intends to apply to her Majesty in council for a prolongation of his term of sole using and vending his invention. He must petition her Majesty in council to that effect. Any person may enter a caveat at the Council Office. Notice shall be given by the petitioner to any person or persons who shall have entered such caveats. The petitioner shall be heard by his counsel and witnesses to prove his case, and the persons entering caveats shall likewise be heard by their counsel and witnesses.

17. Where the party applying for an extension of his patent is resident abroad, and carries on no manufacture of articles made according to his specification in England, advertising in the papers published in the town or county where the persons to whom he has granted licenses are resident, is a sufficient compliance with the requisitions of the Act.<sup>(t)</sup>

18. The advertisements must give notice of the day on which the applicant intends to apply for a time to be fixed for hearing the matter of his petition, which day shall not be less than four weeks from the date of the publication of the last of the advertisements in the London Gazette, and that on \*or before such day caveats must be entered.<sup>(u)</sup> [\*116] It is now the practice to include in one advertisement the notice of the intention to apply for an extension, and the notice of the day on which application will be made to fix a day for the hearing of the petition.<sup>(x)</sup>

The names of all the persons petitioning for an extension must appear in the advertisements. If the name of a person who is an equitable assignee of the letters patent is not mentioned as applying, as well as those of the persons having the legal interest in the letters patent, he will not be heard as a petitioner.<sup>(y)</sup>

19. Any person intending to enter a caveat shall enter the same at the Council Office, on or before the day named for that purpose in the advertisements; and having entered such caveat, shall be entitled to have from the petitioner four weeks' notice of the time appointed for the hearing.<sup>(z)</sup>

Special permission will sometimes be given to a party to enter a caveat at a later period:<sup>(a)</sup> but an application by the Lords of the Admiralty to enter a caveat, and be heard against a petition for an extension of a patent, such caveat not having been filed within the time required by the

(t) In re Derosne's patent, 4 E. F. Moo. 416.

(u) Rules of the Privy Council respecting the Confirmation and Prolongation of Patents, rule 2.

(x) Webst. P. C. 559, n.

(y) Noble's patent, 15 Law Times, 1.

(z) Rules Pri. C. rule 2.

(a) Macintosh's patent, Webst. P. C. 739.

rules of the Privy Council, was refused, as the Attorney-General was present to watch the interests of the Government.(b)

20. Every petition must be presented six calendar months before the expiration of the term. Stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, s. 4, provided that the application for renewed letters patent must be prosecuted with effect before the expiration of the term originally granted. In consequence of a case of peculiar hardship which occurred under it,(c) the clause was repealed. Stat. 2 & 3 Vict. cap. 67, enacts, that if an application for an extension has not been prosecuted with effect from any other causes than the neglect or default of the petitioner, the Judicial Committee may en-  
[\*117] tertain the application and report \*thereon, though the term may have expired before the hearing of the application; and her Majesty may grant such extension, provided that no such extension or new letters patent shall be granted, if a petition shall not be presented six calendar months at the least before the expiration of such term, nor in any case, unless sufficient reason shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Judicial Committee, for the omission to prosecute with effect the said application by petition before the expiration of the said term.

21. Prosecuting with effect, means the obtaining the report of the Judicial Committee, or the approbation of it by the Crown. It seems that there is no necessity for the new letters patent to be actually issued before the expiration of the original term. A plea that the renewed letters patent were granted after the expiration of the term in the first letters patent is bad.(d) Compliance with the condition need not be averred by a party in pleading the renewed letters patent.

22. Petitions must be presented within one week from the insertion of the last of the advertisements in the Gazette.(e)

All petitions must be accompanied by affidavits of advertisements having been inserted according to the provisions (section 4) of the statute, and the first and second of the rules of the Privy Council; and the matters in such affidavits may be disputed by the parties opposing, upon the hearing of the petitions.(f)

The party applying for an extension of a patent must lodge at the Council Office four written or printed copies of his specification. Four copies of a publication containing the same will be sufficient. If the specification has not been published, and if the expense of making four copies of the drawings would be considerable, the lodgment of one copy only of such drawings will be deemed sufficient. All copies mentioned in this rule must be lodged not less than one week before the day fixed for hearing the application.(g)

All persons entering caveats shall be entitled to be served with copies  
[\*118] \*of the petition presented; and no application to fix a time for hearing shall be made without affidavits of such service.(h)

(b) Pettit Smith's patent, 7 E. F. Moore, 133.

(c) Bodmer's patent, Webst. P. C. 740.

(d) Russell v. Ledsam, 14 M. & W. 574; Ledsam v. Russell, in error, 16 M. & W. 633; Ledsam v. Russell, 1 Ho. Lords Ca. 698.

(e) Rules Pri. C. rule 3.

(g) Rules Pri. C. December 21, 1835.

(f) Rules Pri. C. rule 4.

(h) Rules Pri. C. rule 5.

23. All persons served with petitions shall lodge at the Council Office, within a fortnight after such service, notice of the grounds of their objections to the granting of the prayer of the petition.<sup>(i)</sup>

24. In questions as to the prolongation of patents, what is usually taken into consideration as the ground of the grant is,—first, the merit of the inventor; secondly, the value and utility of the invention; thirdly, whether the patentee has received a sufficient remuneration.

25. The Court does not in any very direct way consider whether the patent is valid, or not, at law. If it is palpably bad, the patent will not be extended; but unless this is clear, the Court is usually inclined to assume that it may be a good patent, and leave the question of its validity to be determined at law. If the specification is vague and imperfect, that defect may influence the Privy Council in determining whether or not it is expedient to recommend an extension.<sup>(k)</sup> Questions of novelty and utility will not be minutely entered into, particularly after a decision in favour of a patent in a court of law; for the new letters patent are subject to all the objections which might have been made to the original letters patent. In the case of Kay's patent, at the time of the application for a prolongation, proceedings were pending in which the validity of the patent was in question. The Judicial Committee said they would have adjourned the petition, had it been possible to obtain the decision of a court of law on the validity of the patent before it would have expired. For the purposes of prolongation they assumed the patent to be valid.<sup>(l)</sup>

26. The ingenuity of the inventor will be considered.<sup>(m)</sup>

Swaine's invention of producing mineral waters was considered by the \*Judicial Committee very meritorious, the result of much care, labour, and science, and very useful in its effects. On evidence [\*119] that the patentee had sustained a loss, the Court granted an extension of the term for seven years.<sup>(n)</sup>

So where the petitioner had been occupied for four years in experiments in carrying out his invention, and had subsequently made improvements which he had patented, the Court extended the first patent for seven years.<sup>(o)</sup> The merit of an importer is much less than that of an inventor.

The fact that, subsequently to the date of a patent for an invention, great improvements have been made upon it, affords no reason for denying the inventor an extension of his patent, if he has great merit, and is shown not to have reaped a due benefit in proportion to his merit. The improvement may be evidence of the value of the invention.<sup>(p)</sup> It is

(i) Rules Pri. C. rule 6.

(k) In re Pinkus's patent, 12 Jur. 233; Pri. C. Erard's patent, Webst. P. C. 557, note; Lowe's patent, Mechanics' Magazine, Feb. 28, 1852, 174; Woodcroft's patent, 10 Jurist, 363, Pri. C.

(l) In re Kay's patent, Webst. P. C. 568; 3 E. F. Moo. 24.

(m) Whitehouse's patent, Webst. P. C. 477; Roberts's patent, Webst. P. C. 575; Downton's patent, Webst. P. C. 566.

(n) Swaine's patent, Webst. P. C. 559.

(o) Wright's patent, Webst. P. C. 575.

(p) Galloway's patent, Webst. P. C. 725; Soames's patent, Webst. P. C. 734.

otherwise if the main benefit arising from such invention is derived from improvements subsequently introduced by others than the inventor.(*q*) It will be prudent for the inventor to prove his expenditure of money and time in perfecting the invention.

27. The small amount of any step made in improvement, will not dispose the Lords of the Privy Council to undervalue the importance of a discovery, if the patent involve a new principle or a new process; but where the invention consisted of merely a new application of a known process, which might readily suggest itself to anybody, as the principle of the separation of oils into stearine and elaine by pressure, applied to cocoa-nut oil, though the benefit resulting to the public was shown to be great, the term was only extended for three years.(*r*)

28. The Court will consider how far the invention has been of any benefit to the public.(*s*)

[ \*120 ] Where great benefit to the public was produced by the \*invention, as where the cost of the article (sugar), to the production of which the invention related, was diminished 20 per cent., the term was extended, though the amount of discovery was small, and considerable profits had been realized by the patentee.(*t*) Where the invention is of small commercial value, an extension will be refused.(*u*)

29. The spirit and activity of the patentee in expending capital and using efforts to bring forward his invention, are material to be considered.(*x*) Where the invention had not got into use in consequence of disputes between the patentee and persons who had agreed to join him as partners in carrying out his invention, and the invention was not brought into operation till a short time before the expiration of the term, the committee refused to recommend an extension.(*y*) So where it had not got into use in consequence of a defect not cured till the tenth year of the term.(*z*)

It is strong evidence against the utility of an invention, if from the time when the patent was granted until the time for applying for a prolongation of the term, the thing invented has never been brought into practical operation in any way calculated to promote the public service. The fact that the invention had been previously published in a foreign work, and that a knowledge of it might have been acquired by persons here, will be considered as diminishing the benefit reaped by the public from the invention.(*a*)

30. It is a general rule, that some explanation must be given if the invention has not been brought into use.

As where a man has shown great ingenuity in an invention, but from

(*q*) Woodcroft's patent, Webst. P. C. 740; Lowe's patent, Mechanics' Magazine, Feb. 28, 1852, 174.

(*r*) Soames's patent, Webst. P. C. 729.

(*s*) Simister's patent, Webst. P. C. 721.

(*t*) Derosne's patent, 4 E. F. Moore, 418. See Morgan's patent, Webst. P. C. 737.

(*u*) Soames's patent, Webst. P. C. 735.

(*x*) Patterson's patent, 13 Jur. 593; S. C. 6 E. F. Moore, 469.

(*y*) Bell's patent, 10 Jur. 363.

(*z*) Pinkus's patent, 12 Jur. 233, Pri. C.

(*a*) Per Lords Campbell and Brougham, Soames's patent, Webst. P. C. 729.

want of adequate capital and means, has been unable to obtain a sufficient return. So if these difficulties have been increased by disputes with persons in partnership with the inventor in his patents.(b)

\*The difficulties of introducing the manufacture into public use in consequence of its novelty, are important to be considered.(c) [ \*121 ]

As if the prejudices of workmen, or a combination of the trade against him, have impeded the patentee.(d) So if from its nature the invention is one not likely to come into immediate use, or if the explanation of its not being brought into use is, that it is intended for a particular class of persons, as government officers, who have not yet adopted it.(e)

31. Though, on account of combinations against the patentee, there seems no reasonable ground for supposing the extension will be beneficial, the Court will not refuse to extend the patent.(f)

32. It must be shown that the inventor has not been duly rewarded in proportion to his merit. The patentee having made about £7,000 by an invention, proved to be of great value in flax-spinning, the patent was extended for three years.(g)

A patent for a self-acting mule was extended for seven years, it having been proved that there was a loss on the whole, though the profits for the last three or four years of the patent had been at the rate of £5,000 a year.(h)

Proof that nothing was made for seven or eight years is generally required.(i)

33. In estimating the profits of a monopoly, a fair manufacturer's profit on the capital employed must be deducted.(k) The expense incurred in litigation may be deducted.(l)

Losses by a fire, supposed to have been caused by incendiaries, have been taken into consideration in determining a question as to the extension of a patent for self-acting machinery.(l)

\*Profits realized by the sale of articles for exportation must be included.(m) [ \*122 ]

34. Since the passing of stat. 14 & 15 Vict. cap. 99, s. 2, the patentee will be able to prove his own case in this respect, which he should do by the production of his books and accounts. Before the passing of this Act, it was decided that where the patentee had not sold any of his patent machines, and therefore had not kept any book, but had allowed a gas company to use his invention for the purpose of making it known, and the manager stated that the company had never paid anything for the use

(b) Wright's patent, Webst. P. C. 576; Swaine's patent, Webst. P. C. 559; Downton's patent, Webst. P. C. 565.

(c) Stafford's patent, Webst. P. C. 563; Kollman's patent, Webst. P. C. 564.

(d) Erard's patent, Webst. P. C. 557; Jones's patent, Webst. P. C. 577.

(e) Southworth's patent, Webst. P. C. 486; Bates's patent, Webst. P. C. 739.

(f) Jones's patent, Webst. P. C. 577. (g) Kay's patent, Webst. P. C. 572.

(h) Roberts's patent, Webst. P. C. 575.

(i) Downton's patent, Webst. P. C. 565.

(k) Galloway's patent, Webst. P. C. 729.

(l) Roberts's patent, Webst. P. C. 573.

(m) Hardy's patent, 13 Jur. 177; 6 E. F. Moo. 441, S. C.

of it, the Court thought it sufficient *primâ facie* evidence that no profits had been made. *(n)*

35. The Court will take into consideration the annoyance that the patentee has suffered from litigation. *(o)*

36. The Judicial Committee will not recommend an extension if the patentee has not enforced his rights, but has allowed infringements of his patent, and never effectually asserted his title at law. *(p)*

Where a patentee, having obtained a patent for several inventions, some of which were not new, omitted to disclaim, and permitted persons to infringe the part of his invention which was new, till near the conclusion of the term of the patent, persons who had erected machinery, relying on his acquiescence, opposed the extension; and the Court, taking his remissness into consideration, refused it. *(q)*

37. The extension of the term of a patent for an improved method of printing in colours, by the combination of copperplate printing and wood engraving, was opposed by the apprentices of the patentee, on the ground that they had served their time upon the expectation that on the expiration of the original patent, they would be able to exercise the trade taught them by the patentee; but as it appeared that they had been instructed, and could earn fair wages as wood-engravers, the Judicial Committee recommended the extension of the patent without any condition. *(r)*

[\*123] \*38. Since the coming into operation of the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852, her Majesty's order in council is sufficient warrant for the insertion, in new letters patent, of any restrictions, conditions, and provisions mentioned in the order. *(s)* Before the passing of this Act, it had been frequently the practice for the Judicial Committee to impose terms as conditions of the renewal of a patent, but the discretion of the Crown was not in any manner fettered by such recommendation. The Judicial Committee, under stat. 5 & 6 Wm. 4, cap. 83, had to report merely as to matters between the public and the party applying. *(t)*

The patentee of an invention, an improved railway axle, which was of great merit and great importance to the public, after having made great efforts to bring his invention into use, had lost money by it. He afterwards assigned his patent, and the assignees spent a considerable sum in establishing a plant and works, but had lately made large profits. The patentee and the assignees having applied for an extension, the Judicial Committee postponed recommending an extension till one-half of the profit of the patent, during the extended term, should have been secured to the patentee. They then recommended an extension subject to a condition, that the price of the axles should not be raised. *(u)*

In Whitehouse's patent an extension was granted to the assignee; the Judicial Committee recommended, that the term should be extended, on

*(n)* Lowe's patent, 10 Jur. 363. *(o)* Whitehouse's patent, Webst. P. C. 477.

*(p)* Pinkus's patent, 12 Jur. 233, *i. C.*

*(q)* Simister's patent, Webst. P. C. 421.

*(r)* Baxter's patent, 13 Jur. 593, *Pri. C.*

*(s)* Stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 40. *(t)* Ledsam v. Russell, 1 H. L. C. 687.

*(u)* Hardy's patent, 13 Jurist, 177, *Pri. C.*; 6 E. F. Mod. 441; *S. C.*

the assignee securing an annuity to the patentee during such extended term. The new patent contained a proviso, that the patent should be void if the annuity was not secured.(x)

In the case of Pettit Smith's patent, an extension of letters patent was granted upon condition that the commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral should have the right of using the invention for the service of her Majesty without any license from the patentee.(y)

Though a person who has obtained a patent cannot be put under any terms as to the manner in which he shall exercise \*his inven- [\*124] tion, in Whytock's case, a patentee having refused to grant a license to a particular person, the Judicial Committee made it a condition of the prolongation, that a license should be granted.(z)

SECTION IV.—PRACTICE ON HEARING BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE, ETC.—NEW PATENT.

39. The Judicial Committee have power to examine witnesses, or direct depositions to be taken in writing by the registrar.(a) The attendance of witnesses, and the production of deeds, evidences, and writings, may be compelled by a subpoena, to be issued by the president for the time being.(b) The Judicial Committee may appoint one or other of the clerks of the Privy Council to take any formal proofs.(c) They may direct the examination of witnesses on interrogatories either at home or abroad, under the powers of 13 Geo. 3, cap. 63, and 1 Wm. 4, cap. 22.(d)

Parties may have copies of all papers lodged in respect of any application for the confirmation or prolongation of a patent at their own expense.(e)

40. The Judicial Committee will hear the Attorney-General or other counsel on behalf of the Crown against granting any application for the confirmation or prolongation of a patent, in case it shall be thought fit to oppose the same on such behalf.(f)

In cases of unopposed applications, the Attorney-General attends and watches the case of the petitioners. He represents the Government, and the public generally.(g) The rule respecting the number of counsel entitled to be heard, is the same in the Privy Council as in the House of Lords, —two only on either side. Two counsel only will be heard to oppose the petition, unless the parties have independent and \*distinct grounds [\*125] of opposition, founded on separate and independent interests.(h)

(x) Whitehouse's patent, Webst. P. C. 473.

(y) In re Pittit Smith's patent, 7 E. F. Moo. 133.

(z) Whytock's patent, 28 Newt. Lond. Journ. 449.

(a) Stat. 3 & 4 Wm. 4, cap. 41, ss. 7, 9.

(b) Stat. 3 & 4 Wm. 4, cap. 41, s. 9.

(d) Stat. 3 & 4 Wm. 4, cap. 41, s. 14.

(f) Rules Pri. C. December, 1835 n.

(g) Webst. P. C. 557, n.; Pettit Smith's patent, 7 E. F. Moo. 133; Downton's patent, Webst. P. C. 567.

(h) Woodcroft's patent, 3 E. F. Moo. 171; Lord Brougham, in re Downie and Arrindell, 3 E. F. Moo. 419.

(c) Stat. 7 & 8 Vict. cap. 69, s. 8.

(e) Rules Pri. C. rule 7.

41. The rules of evidence are as nearly as possible the same as those in a court of law. The papers containing the requisite advertisements must be put in and proved. Service of notice on the parties who have entered caveats must be proved. Defects in proof cannot be cured by any admission of an opposing counsel.(i)

If the petitioners are assignees, their title must be proved, though no notice has been given of an intention to dispute the title.(k)

42. The Court has the power to give costs by statute 3 & 4 Wm. 4, cap. 31. Costs will generally be given in case of successful opposition. The Court acts upon the principal, that if a party entitled to oppose does come and oppose successfully, if costs are not given, it would discourage people coming forward for the benefit of the public.(l) The Court will refer it to a master to tax all such extraordinary costs as may have been incurred on behalf of the applicant in consequence of the caveat and opposition, where they think that there was no ground for the opposition.(m) Probably no costs would be allowed except costs incurred in the matter of the petition.

The master of the High Court of Chancery, or other officer to whom it may be referred to tax the costs incurred in the matter of any petition presented under the said Act, shall allow or disallow, in his discretion, all payments made to persons of science or skill, examined as witnesses to matters of opinion chiefly.(n)

43. Before the passing of the recent Act, it was said that the Crown might grant renewed letters patent at any interval after the end of the term, so that the new term did not exceed seven years from the end of the old one, but that persons who might use the invention in the interval [\*126] between the \*expiration of the old term and the sealing of the new letters patent were not responsible.(o)

The proceedings by the patentee to obtain a new patent after a report of the Judicial Committee in favour of an extension, have hitherto been the same as those necessary in order to obtain a patent in the first instance.

Now, however, by stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 40, in the granting of any new letters patent her Majesty's order in council shall be a sufficient warrant and authority for the sealing of any new letters patent and for the insertion in such new letters patent of any restrictions, conditions, and provisions in the said order mentioned; and the Lord Chancellor, on the receipt of the said order in council, shall cause letters patent, according to the tenor and effect of such order, to be made and sealed in the manner herein directed for letters patent issued under the warrant of the law officer: provided always, that such new letters patent shall extend to, and be available in and for such places as the original letter patent extended to and were available in:

(i) Galloway's patent, Webst. P. C. 725.

(k) Wright's patent, Webst. P. C. 561.

(l) Westrupp and Gibbins's case, Webst. P. C. 556; Macintosh's patent, Webst. P. C. 739.

(m) Webst. P. C. 567, Downton's case.

(n) Rules Pri. C. rule 8.

(o) Ledsam v. Russell, 1 H. L. C. 698; Russell v. Ledsam, 14 M. & W. 574; Ledsam v. Russell, 16 M. & W. 641.

Provided also, that such new letters patent shall be sealed and bear date as of the day after the expiration of the term of the original letters patent which may first expire.

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\*CHAPTER XV.

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THE RIGHTS CONFERRED BY LETTERS PATENT.—INFRINGEMENT.

SECTION I.—WHAT ACTS ARE FORBIDDEN.

1. LETTERS patent grant to the inventor and his assigns the Queen's especial license, full power, sole privilege, and authority, that he and his assigns, and such others as he shall agree with, and no others, shall, during the term, "make, use, exercise, and vend his said invention within the kingdom," &c.; and that he and they "shall have the whole profit accruing by reason of his invention" during the term; and to the end that he may have the full benefit and sole use of his invention, that no person within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, &c., during the continuance of the term, shall, "either directly or indirectly, make, use, or put in practice the invention, or any part of the same, or in any wise counterfeit, imitate, or resemble the same, or make, or cause to be made, any addition thereto or subtraction from the same, whereby to pretend himself the inventor or devisor thereof, without the consent, license, or agreement of the patentee, his executors, &c., in writing under his hand and seal, first obtained."

2. By stat. 21 Jac. 1, cap. 1, s. 1, it is enacted, that all letters patent for the sole buying, selling, making, working, or using anything within this realm, are altogether contrary to the laws of the realm, and so are utterly void and of none effect. Section 6 excepts grants of privilege of the sole *working or making* of any manner of new manufactures within the realm to the true and first inventor of such manufactures, which others, at the time of making such letters patent, shall not use.

\*3. The privilege granted appears, therefore, to be only for the sole making and working of the new manufacture, as distinguished from a privilege for buying, selling, or using anything. [\*128]

Mr. Hindmarch says, "The only thing which can be the subject of the privilege granted by a patent is the art by means of which the articles are made or manufactured.(a) The subject of the grant is the sole right or exclusive privilege to use the invention, which must be a new art of manufacturing vendible articles or commodities.(b)

4. If a man employ others to make articles according to the patentee's process, and sells such articles himself, that is a use of the invention by

(a) Hindmarch on Patents, 92.

(b) *Ib.* 230. See *Boulton v. Bull*, 2 H. Black. 486, Heath, J.

him, upon the principle that he who does a thing by the hands of another does it himself.(c)

5. If a person sells articles made according to the patent, such a sale is a breach of the patentee's right, and within the prohibitory clause of the patent. Proof that articles essentially similar to those patented were purchased at the shop of the defendant, is sufficient.(d) The right to exercise the invention would be fruitless if goods made according to the patent, either here or elsewhere, in places to which the patent does not extend, could be sold in the ordinary course of trade in this country.

6. It has been questioned whether, if an article patented here, purchased abroad, or in a part of the kingdom to which a patent does not extend, for the private use of the purchaser, is sold here as part of his effects, it would be an infringement of the patent. To that Lord Eldon said he did not know an answer.(e) Probably vending means selling and offering for sale in the way of trade.(f) The exposing of an article intended to imitate, and which does imitate, the invention of the patentee for sale, is not an infringement.(g)

[\*129] 7. If a machine patented is merely made by a person for \*the purpose of an experiment for his amusement, or as a model, it has been said not to be an infringement.(h) The same law has been laid down in the United States by Mr. Justice Story.(i) Coleridge, J. in *Minter v. Williams*, observed that there might be an innocent using and exercising of the invention.(k) It is suggested by Mr. Curtis, referring to a decision of Mr. Justice Washington, that the motive of testing the practical utility of an invention is no answer to the charge of having "used" it; that it is not quite clear that in prohibiting the making or using of a patent article, the legislature of the United States intended to recognise the distinction above mentioned.(l)

8. It appears to be a matter worthy of consideration, whether, taking the language of the patent and the statute together, the mere possession and use of a patented article otherwise than in the process of manufacturing is an infringement of the patentee's right.(m) In other words, where the patent is for the thing made, whether the mere use of it without license is an infringement. If so, no one can safely buy the smallest patented article without inquiring into the title of the dealer of whom he buys it. A man may be bound to know of the existence of a patent. If he makes, or causes to be made, or sells in the way of his trade, articles in contravention of it, he may be liable. But he cannot be bound to know whether an article which he buys in a shop was made by the license of the patentee or not.

(c) *Gibson and Campbell v. Brand*, 4 M. & G. 189.

(d) *The University of Oxford and Cambridge v. Richardson*, 6 Vesey, 709; *Gibson and Campbell v. Brand*, Webst. P. C. 630, Tindal, C. J., N. P.; *Cornish v. Keene*, Webst. P. C. 502, Tindal, C. J., N. P. (e) Per Lord Eldon, 6 Vesey, 709.

(f) Per Coleridge, J., 4 A. & E. 255, *Minter v. Williams*.

(g) *Minter v. Williams*, 4 A. & E. 251.

(h) See *Jones v. Pearce*, Webst. P. C. 125.

(i) *Swain v. Guild*, 1 Gailison's Rep. 485, 487; Curtis, 249. So in France, *Perpigna*, Manuel des Inventeurs; 277. (k) *Minter v. Williams*, 4 A. & E. 256.

(l) *Watson v. Bladen*, 4 Washington's Rep. 583; Curtis on Patents, 248.

(m) See notes Webst. P. C. 259, 543: Hindmarch on Patents, 492.

In a recent case in the Court of Exchequer, it was urged that no one could buy a patent article without a license under seal. Alderson, B. answered this by saying, the object of the grant of the Crown is to prevent others than the patentee from making the patented article for sale, not from the use of it.<sup>(n)</sup> Letters patent say no one shall make, use, or put in practice the invention; which does not apply to the case of a \*party buying a patent article in a shop, and using it. He [\*130] seemed to consider that the words, "whereby to pretend himself the devisor," overrode the whole clause.<sup>(o)</sup>

In *Stocking v. Llewellyn*, the bill alleged that the defendant had built and used patent cabs; an injunction was asked to restrain him from using them. The Vice-Chancellor stated that the relief was asked in respect of building; it did not appear that the defendant had built, but only that he had bought and repaired the cabs. The injunction was dissolved with costs.<sup>(p)</sup> However, in *Gillett v. Wilby*, an action against the owner of a cabriolet for infringing a patent, Coltman, J. left the question to the jury whether the cabriolet alleged to have been an infringement was used or let out for hire by the defendant. No objection was taken by the defendant's counsel to this ruling.<sup>(q)</sup>

9. An architect is not liable to an action for an infringement, where a contractor building a house and using the materials under his directions, employs in the construction of it, without license, articles which infringe a patent right.<sup>(r)</sup>

10. In a case before Vice-Chancellor Turner, the foreign owners of a ship, without fraud, and in ignorance of the patent, caused to be made and attached to their vessel, not being a British ship, in their own country, a screw propeller, on a principle which was covered by an English patent. The vessel came to England with a cargo for the purposes of trade. The Vice-Chancellor restrained by injunction the use of the screw propeller while the vessel should be within the waters over which the English patent extended.<sup>(s)</sup> In addition to the question whether the mere innocent use of a patented invention is an infringement, it may well be doubted whether in this case there was any *use or exercise within the kingdom* within the meaning of these words in the granting part of the patent. The coming of the vessel into our waters seems to have been merely incidental to the use and exercise of the invention in the ordinary course of the foreign \*employment of the vessel on the high [\*131] seas. The fact that, in coming to the shores of this country, the screw was used in English waters was merely accidental. The use seems to have been, in reality, no more a use in this country than would have been the use of a railway engine patented here in bringing trains from Scotland to a depot on the border, not coming further into this country than would be necessary to enable an engine licensed here to take out the

(n) See *Holmes v. London and North-Western Railway Company*, C. P. 20 Law Times, 112.

(o) *Chanter v. Dewhurst*, 12 M. & W. 825.

(p) *Stocking v. Llewellyn*, 3 Law Times, 33.

(q) *Gillett v. Wilby*, 9 C. & P. 336; Webst. P. C. 270; more fully reported 2 Carp. R. 540.

(r) *Denley v. Blore*, 38 Newt. Lond. Jour. C. S. 224.

(s) *Caldwell v. Van Vlissingen*, 9 Hare, 415; S. C. 16 Jurist, 115.

train. The arguments, from inconvenience, against the soundness of the decision seem very forcible.

11. The Dutch government having remonstrated against the decision in the principal case, it was by stat. 15 & 16 Vict. cap. 83, s. 25, enacted, that no letters patent for any invention granted after the passing of that Act should extend to prevent the use of such invention in any foreign ship or vessel which may be in any part of her Majesty's dominions, or in any of the waters within the jurisdiction of any of her Majesty's Courts, where such patent invention is not so used for the manufacture of any goods or commodities to be vended within, or exported from her Majesty's dominions. Provided always, that this enactment shall not extend to the ships or vessels of any foreign state of which the laws authorize subjects of such foreign state having patents, or like privileges, for the exclusive use or exercise of inventions within its territories, to prevent or interfere with the use of such inventions in British ships or vessels, or in or about the navigation of British ships or vessels while in the port of such foreign state, or in the waters within the jurisdiction of its courts, where such inventions are not so used for the manufacture of goods or commodities to be vended within or exported from the territories of such foreign state.

12. The French law says, "Ceux qui auront sciemment recélé, vendu, ou exposé en vente, ou introduit sur le territoire Français, un ou plusieurs objets contrefaits, seront punis des mêmes peines que les contrefacteurs.(t)

Persons who in good faith have bought for their own use and not for purposes of trade, articles infringing the right of the patentee, may not be liable to the payment of damages, but the articles will be confiscated.

[\*132] \*The following cases have been decided:—"Il faut que les produits étrangers aient été introduits avec une intention évidente de faire fraude à la roi Française. Celui qui a fait l'importation est excusable s'il a agi de bonne foi."—Douai, 11 Juillet, 1846.

"Celui qui a acheté une machine réputée contrefaite ne peut être poursuivi à cause de l'usage qu'il en fait pour ses besoins personnels."—Rouen, 22 Mai, 1846.(u)

"Bonne foi ne peut être invoquée par celui trouvé en possession d'objets contrefaits destiés à être débités. Elle peut l'être par celui qui a acheté pour son usage un instrument qu'il ne savait pas être breveté."—Cour Royale de Paris, 3 Juillet, 1839; Cour de Cassation, 28 Juin, 1844.(x)

13. The American statute gives a right of action for damages in case of "making, using, or selling, the thing patented.(y) The act of 1793 was repealed by the Legislature, and the present statute enacted, in consequence of a doubt whether the language of the former Act did not couple making and using together, so that making without using, or using without making was not an offence.(z) In America the mere use

(t) Loi du 5 Juillet, 1844, sur les brevets d'invention, art. 41. See Guide Pratique des Inventeurs. Truffaut, Paris, 1844.

(u) Codes Annotés (Teulet, D'Auvilliers, et Sulpicy, Paris, 1850), tome ii. table générale 11. Perpigna, Manuel, &c. 364.

(x) Manuel des Inventeurs (Perpigna), 318, 354, 357.

(y) Act of July, 1836, ss. 5, 14, cited Curtis on Patents, 245.

(z) Per Story, *J. Whittemore v. Cutter*, 1 Gallison Rep. 429, 433; Curtis on Patents, 247.