

statement fully explains the situation. We are glad to know that the number of inventors who are "green" enough to be entrapped by such transparent "schemes," is small.

Many of these "cute" fellows also offer to promptly sell each patentee's invention, hold out enticing inducements, and offer rewards of special mention in papers they claim to publish (which are practically their individual circulars) and a special reduction of fees for taking out their next patent, as they also claim to be "patent attorneys." They begin by saying "only a small commission will be charged after a sale has actually been made," and then immediately proceed to bleed their victims by demanding a sum for alleged "advertising," "preparing cuts or pictures" of the invention, printing "circulars," "letter-heads," "preparing models" and a special write-up, or a flattering "history" of the inventor. Many inventors have thus expended from \$50 to \$100 or more before realizing that they have been imposed upon, and yet have no sale of the patent or a prospect of sale. We know of cases where inventors have paid as much as \$150 to these frauds on the pretence that they will have made a "finely constructed model" and after repeated demands for it, a miserable affair of cheap construction, costing perhaps \$5.00 or \$6.00, would be sent to them; but they can get no redress, as these "green goods" are like "gold brick" men or the Irishman's flea, which, when caught, "was not there."

Inventors, as a class, are a confiding, honest set of men, and being honest themselves, are slow to suspect others, hence many easily become victims. We advise all who have been victimized to write to the Commissioner of Patents setting forth all the circumstances and we believe such action will result in having the wrong doers disbarred from practicing before the Patent Office.

In closing this article, we beg to present to the reader the following article, written by Edward P. Thompson, M.E., an authority on the subject, and published in the INVENTIVE AGE of November, 1897.

"HONESTY AND ABILITY OF PATENT SOLICITORS."

There is danger of over-looking the incompetent attorney, while busy with the denouncement of the man who is tricky or dishonest; cases are possible in which an inventor may be cheated financially by a smart agent, and yet a fair quality of service may be rendered; but no exception occurs that will show the accomplishment of first class results by a half prepared person, no matter how trustworthy he may be. I am