

into the final specification of any matter not contemplated by him at the time of his application. Improvements in mere details may be inserted in the final specification with perfect propriety ; but such improvements must require the use of the original matter of invention set forth in the provisional specification. Although the latter is only a temporary document, great care should be bestowed on its preparation.

In place of lodging a provisional specification, an inventor may, if he chooses, lodge a complete specification along with his petition. In such a case, his invention is protected from the day the documents are deposited at the Commissioners' office. The disadvantage of this proceeding is, that he has no further opportunity of perfecting his invention in its details. The trials and experiments which an inventor may openly make for six months after obtaining provisional protection, generally suggest a variety of improvements, which may be embodied in the final specification ; but, when a complete specification is lodged at starting, he is debarred from the benefit of further improvements, which, if very important, must form the subject of another patent.

THE NOTICE TO PROCEED.

An applicant, as soon as he thinks fit, after obtaining protection in either of the above-mentioned modes, may give notice of his intention to proceed with his application ; whereupon the Commissioners will cause the application to be advertised in the *London Gazette*, with the view of giving persons who have an opposing interest the opportunity of objecting to it. This notice of the applicant's intention to proceed must be given at least eight weeks before the expiration of the provisional protection.

In case of opposition, the matter is referred to one of the law officers of the Crown, whose decision guides the Commissioners, unless it is overruled by the Lord Chancellor.

Objections to the issue of a patent cannot be delivered after the expiration of twenty-one days from the appearance of the notice to proceed in the *Gazette*. It is very desirable that the applicant should advance as quickly as possible to that stage of the proceedings where he is safe from objection ; and he will do well