

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 suspicion 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 them 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 not preaching on the subject of honesty and morals, for every inventor will make the utmost attempt to dodge the fraudulent man without much advice, and yet inventors are apt to run to any agent so long as he has his sign up and is known to be reliable. The requisite that is too often overlooked, the one that is most difficult of attainment, and the one that is the most important, is mechanical knowledge with experience; or in other words, the perfect attorney must be a mechanical expert, while the second condition, equally as important but readily recognized by all inventors, is a knowledge of and an experience in the patent law, court decisions and the patent office rules of practice. The third qualification is literary ability.

How few attorneys are graduates of a technical college or school; how few have been scientific students further than in acquiring a superficial knowledge by private study—almost worse than none;—