

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Events Occurring at the U. S. Capitol.

Patents About Patents—How the Inventors Fare Who "Run Their Own Show."

From our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6th, 1887.

There are ten books in the secret archives of the United States Patent Office for which patent attorneys in Washington would be willing to give \$100,000. They are the books containing the names and addresses of inventors whose cases have been rejected during the past ten years. There have been an average of 25,000 cases filed in the Patent Office every year for the last ten years and a yearly average of 18,000 patents granted. Last year there were 35,000 applications filed and 24,000 patents issued, the largest number in any one year. On this showing something like 60 per cent. of the applications have been patented. So there have been during the last ten years about 100,000 rejected cases. These in part include cases defeated in interference and applications allowed, but on which final fees have not been paid.

Now good attorneys get fully 90 per cent of their cases allowed and patented; hence there must be some reason for only 60 per cent of the applications being allowed. The reason is this: fully 8,000 inventors every year make out their own cases and try to get them through the Patent Office. Not knowing the routine they almost invariably get involved in the meshes of red tape and the intricacies of Patent Office procedure. The difficulty may be slight, a mere informality, a defective drawing, an improperly worded application, an indefinite specification, or a slight interference requiring a few amendments, which a skilful patent attorney could make in half an hour. But to the inventor these prove an insurmountable obstacle; his application is rejected, and he gives up in disgust or despair.

Applications for patents in the United States Patent Office go first to the twenty eight principal examiners, according to the subject matter. If they are rejected, two years are allowed in which to amend them or take other necessary action. If no action shall have been taken at the end of two years, such cases are treated as abandoned, and are sent to the division where they are entered in the books which the Patent Attorneys so much covet. Fully 50,000 of the rejected cases of the last ten years fall under these conditions. At a low estimate 25,000 of these rejected cases put in the hands of a competent attorney, could be patented. A patent attorney's fees on such conditional cases would be about \$25 per case—a gross sum of \$250,000. Count out one hundred and twelve, an increase of 144 over last year. The one word which comes from Japan is now, of no country may it be more truly said that it is religiously at a crisis in its history. The question is, Shall Japan be infidel or Christian? Her fate is in the balance. God help the Church of Canada to come to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

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Colborn. The Rev. Mr. Kestle is holding revival services in the Benmillier Methodist church. Mr. Traux, of Goderich, took the Rev. Mr. Kestle's appointment at Zion Methodist church, last Sunday.

Live Men in Coats. St. Louis, March 4.—Charles Murphy, a river man, died in the hospital here Tuesday, and his wife occurred that night in a feverish state. The mourners were chiefly river men, and the only consolation was her. About 3 o'clock in the morning the mourners dwindled down to a half dozen, and they became festive. There were five other coffins in the stable, and they were placed on the floor, and each man stretched himself in a coffin. As there were not enough coffins to go around the corpse was dumped out and placed in a sitting position in one corner of the room with a pitcher of beer near the head. The live men then took possession of the coffin.

4 Catarrh Cured. Health and sweet breath secured, by Shiloh's Catarrh Remedy. Price 50 cents. Nasal injector free. For sale by J. Wilson, Druggist.