

**A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW METHOD OF
PROPELLING LOCOMOTIVE MACHINES,
AND OF COMMUNICATING POWER
AND MOTION TO ALL OTHER KINDS OF
MAHINERY**

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A Description of a New Method of Propelling Locomotive Machines, and of Communicating Power and motion to all other kinds of Mahinery by William Mann

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WILLIAM MANN

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*Presented by the Author to George
8th Oct.*

A DESCRIPTION

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NEW METHOD OF PROPELLING

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TO

ALL OTHER KINDS OF MACHINERY.

BY THE PATENTEE,

WILLIAM MANN,

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	5
<i>General observations on mechanical power, and on concentrating and packing it up for various purposes.</i>	
II. On concentrating and packing up power in elastic metal	6
III. On packing it up with an elastic fluid	7
IV. On compressing and packing up gas, in metallic reservoirs, to make it portable	7
V. On packing up mechanical power with the aid of atmospheric air to make it portable	8
<i>On the application of portable power to propelling locomotive machines on turnpike roads.</i>	
I. Advantages to be derived therefrom	8
II. Method of using portable power	9
III. An estimate of the quantity of power requisite to propel a locomotive machine ten miles	11
IV. An estimate of the number of cubic feet of compressed air, at different densities, requisite to propel a locomotive machine twenty miles	12
V. Weight of the reservoirs, with observations on their strength	13
VI. An estimate of the expense of propelling a locomotive machine twenty miles, with air compressed by steam power, at the London price of coals ..	15
<i>Observations on various kinds of power.</i>	
I. Comparative expense of animal labour and steam power, when employed in drawing or propelling vehicles at a speed of ten miles per hour	16
II. An estimate of the productive labour of a horse, when employed at different degrees of speed ..	17
III. An estimate of the quantity of power obtainable from tread mills, and suggestion as to its use ..	18
<i>Methods of supplying machines with power on long lines of road.</i>	
I. By means of fixed steam engines at intermediate stations on the roads	19
II. By a range of metallic pipes	20
III. By sending the power forward on the roads	21

PAGE

An estimate of the first cost and outlay of capital for eight locomotive machines, to run daily between London and Manchester, with the daily expenditure and probable daily receipts.

I. First cost and outlay of capital	22
II. Daily expenditure	23
III. Probable daily receipts	23

On the application of portable power to propel locomotive machines on rail roads.

I. Advantages of this application of power	24
II. An estimate of the quantity of power requisite to propel a ton weight one mile on a rail-road	25
III. An estimate of the quantity of power a locomotive machine could carry on a railway, and the distance twenty tons weight might be propelled with a single charge	25
IV. An estimate of the quantity of goods that could be conveyed between Liverpool and Manchester, from the power generated by two steam engines	26
V. An estimate of the expense of conveying goods from Liverpool to Manchester	27
VI. Advantages of this method when required to propel small machines	27

Application of this method to Post-office packets, &c. 28

II. Method of supplying them with power, by the action of water wheels	28
--	----

On working cranes in Docks, &c.

Method of supplying manufacturing towns with mechanical power, &c.

II. An estimate of the quantity of power that might be conveyed by a single pipe	31
--	----

On projectile force

Conclusion

APPENDIX

(A) Description of the patent condensing pumps	45
(B) Containing a table shewing the lift of a cubic inch of air under sixteen different degrees of density.	53
(C) An estimate of the strength of metallic reservoirs ..	55
(D) Containing a calculation of the distance which one charge of power would propel a locomotive machine on a railway	56

INTRODUCTION.



Before entering on this subject it may be premised, that the matters herein contained are intended to be made intelligible to the unscientific, as well as the scientific, reader, and therefore the necessary illustrations will be taken from the most familiar objects, and the calculations stated in a way, that every person, conversant with the elements of common arithmetic, will readily understand.

By the method of communicating power and motion, as hereafter described, it will be found :

That if atmospheric air were compressed to the same density as portable gas, a quantity might be carried by a locomotive machine sufficient to propel it twenty miles, and the cost not exceed one penny per mile.

That a locomotive machine, when drawing twenty tons on a rail-way, could carry sufficient to propel it upwards of a hundred miles.

That the cost of power to convey goods on the rail road from Liverpool to Manchester, being 31 miles, would not exceed one halfpenny per ton.

That cheap mechanical power could be obtained from the waste coal produced at the coal mines, and supplied to the artizans in the manufacturing towns, in the same way that the inhabitants of Surrey are now supplied with light, from gas manufactured in Kent.*

And that artillery, and all such machines, as are now called fire-arms, might be supplied with power which would give a projectile force equal to gun-powder, at less than the one hundredth part of the present cost of that article.

General observations on mechanical power, and on concentrating and packing it up for various purposes.

I. The cheap mechanical power derived from wind, water, and steam, has very generally superseded animal labour, in those cases where it is practicable to convey the work required to be performed to the power that is to perform it. But as the machines used to generate and produce such power are, of necessity, stationary,—the grist must be carried

* The gas is manufactured near Greenwich.

to the mill, the mill cannot be carried to the grist; such being the case, whenever it becomes necessary for the operative power to travel along with any kind of machines in performing the work, as in all cases of land conveyance and field labour in agriculture, then those mechanical generators of cheap power have hitherto been totally useless, and recourse, of necessity, had to the expensive labour of animals.

The object contemplated in the present patent, is to concentrate, pack up and make portable such mechanical power, so that it may afterwards be used at any time and place, however distant from the mills, engines and machinery by which it is generated.

The idea of packing up and making portable any thing so evanescent as power may appear somewhat fanciful, until we call to mind that it has been familiar to us from our infancy.

II. The watch-maker furnishes a machine so ingeniously constructed, that its owner can, in a few seconds, pack into a small piece of elastic metal, called the spring, as much power as will propel and keep the machinery in motion upwards of thirty hours.

III. The air-gun shews another, (and for many purposes a better method of packing up power) an elastic fluid is then used instead of an elastic metal,