It is reported (although a detailed account has not yet been made public) that a patent for a new mechanical pianoforte has been applied for which will comprise a compass of at least seven octaves, and by means of which the present pianofortes are equipped. The instrument will be of an entirely new form, and the mechanism will be of such a nature as to allow the player time to change the key of the instrument, seeing that the new clarinet only requires about one bar’s rest in order to pass from the key of B flat to that of A, and vice versa. The same invention can also be applied to clarinets in E flat and F sharp. The clarinets, however, being more complicated in mechanism, and remaining perfectly in tune in the chromatic scale of the two octaves the new clarinet can play—all of this will no doubt make brava passages in every key, without encountering, as in clarinets at present in use, not only difficulties of execution and imperfect intonation, but little homogeneity of tone, the necessity of using several fingers on each key, and the consequence of the form and flexibility of fingering that such passages present to the clarinet player of to-day in keys with sharper. Professor Ossietzky unites the individual qualities of the two instruments; the brilliant tone of the clarinet in B flat, and the sweetness of the clarinet in A.

General W. T. Sherman has accepted an invitation to attend the New England Fair, which will be held in Worcester, Mass., on September 7.


The history of inventions in this country and other countries shows that inventors have in almost all cases commenced with a complicated idea, and have simplified and made practicable. The reverse of this is curiously enough the case with the invention of mechanical musical instruments, in which, for the most part, a certain simplicity has been lost, and as a result instruments have been made more and more complicated. The Mechanical Organinet Co. of this city fully comprehends this fact and by judicious purchases now control what may be described as a string of patents, out of which there seems to be very little basis on which a new device in this line can be founded.

The piano manufacturer of New York are an upright set of men, but this thing seems to have been carried to a point where uprightness ceases to be a virtue.

It is reported that in spite of the fact that the Sterling Organ Co., of Denver, was turned out of business for several months, and was several times in filling their orders. A prominent dealer in these instruments states that he has much trouble in keeping the supply equal to the demand.

A writer in the Philadelphia Sunday Mirror says: "Whether the Miller piano is the best or the other it is good. We want a good deal of worriment." This is a trifle indefinite; does the writer mean that the Miller piano is giving the Steinway or Weber piano a good deal of worriment, or does he mean that these instruments cannot get their orders for these instruments filled at New York manufactories, or the makers of these instruments are making these piano manufacturers in the city of New York.

Nickel & Gross, the well-known firm of action makers, were seen promenading together on 14th Street, on the morning of the 1st inst. Our funny man says that their friendly actions towards one another were due to the fact that they felt good over a trade they had just been making together.

Mr. Carl Fink, the champion salesman, and Mr. Wessel, of Wessels, Nipp, and Gross, the well-known firm of wholesale dealers in pianos and organs, are coming to this city for a traveling sojourn. They will be found in this city at least a month’s notice.

We have received many letters concerning the note which we published in the last paragraph. The question is: 'Whether the Miller piano is the best or the other it is good. We want a good deal of worriment.'

Mr. J. McTammany, Jr., manufacturer of the McTammany organette, of Youngstown, Ohio, has dissolved, and E. M. Wilson has been appointed a partner. Mr. Wilson is the same Mr. Wilson who was an active gentleman in the Tippecanoe days, and he has been appointed receiver. It is thought that the assets will pay the debts.

An interesting Exhibition of Ancient and Modern Musical Instruments is announced to take place at the Alexander Palace, London, from July 2 to 25. Several valuable ancient instruments have already been promised, and eminent manufacturing and trading firms have signified their intention of co-operating in the undertaking. Lectures will be given on the improvements in the pianoforte, and all other forms of musical expression that have come to be affected, and illustrated by performances of efficient players on the various instruments displayed.

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Erilo Berliner, of Boston, Mass., has patented a resonator for violins. No. of patent 243,104. Application filed April 28, 1880.

The Baltimore Industrial Exposition and Musical Festival Association is getting into shape. The building committee, the Clarinet Players, and a charter with a warrant for $100,000 have been appointed receiver. It is thought that the assets will pay the debts.

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