FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.

Report of the Committee of Inventions, on an improvement in the Fire-ladder, for which improvement a patent has been obtained by SAMUEL LEHMAN, of the city of Philadelphia.

The Committee of inventions, having had referred to them for their examination, a model of an improved fire-ladder, invented by Mr. Samuel Lehman of this city;

Report, that they have attended to that duty, and that the following is the construction of the machine. The ladder is divided into two parts, each ordinarily to be about twenty-five feet in length; the lower section lies upon a strong carriage, to which it is affixed by a hinge-joint; upon this, is placed the upper section, which is retained in its place by iron hooks or clips, which allow it to slide upon the lower section, so that it may be drawn out, and with the lower section, form, when elevated, a ladder of about forty feet in height, a sufficient lap being allowed, to insure the necessary strength. The carriage has two wheels at its forepart, and at the other end there are projecting handles, or shafts, with legs, or supports, the whole being similar to those of a common wheel-barrow, or truck, with two wheels. The ladder is so balanced upon its carriage, that the handles may be lifted, and the whole guided by a man of ordinary strength, whilst three or four persons may draw it by means of ropes, attached to it for that purpose.

In order to elevate the ladder, a windlass is affixed to the under part of the carriage; and two posts, firmly braced, are mortised into the upper part of the frame, near the foot of the ladder; these rise, perpendicularly, to the height of seven or eight feet, and have sheaves at their upper ends, round which pass ropes from the windlass, the ends of which ropes, are attached to the lower section of the ladder, seven or eight feet from the hinge-joint. On turning the windlass the ladder will be elevated, and when raised to the proper angle, it is sustained by means of two long braces, or arms, attached to it by staples, the lower ends having iron straps, with holes which slip on the extremities of the axle-tree.

The upper section of the ladder is made to slide up by means of a second axle, under the carriage, the rope from which passes over a roller at the upper end of the lower, and is attached to the foot of the upper section; by means of this it may readily be forced up to the requisite height.

There are some other appendages, which being of minor importance, it is not deemed necessary to describe. The whole manifests considerable ingenuity, and the parts are well arranged. The Committee, however, are of opinion that it is too bulky for use in a large city, where ground is valuable, as it would require a house nearly thirty feet in length, about eight in width, and ten in height; this they apprehend will operate as an insuperable objection to its adoption here, especially, as the means already possessed by us of extinguishing fires, are of the most efficient kind, and the common ladder is very rarely used. There are, undoubtedly, many situations in which

such an instrument may be very advantageously employed, not only in cases of fire, but also for attaining different elevations by means of the same ladder, which may be easily raised and removed. The Committee have not thought it necessary to notice certain apparatus heretofore invented, with similar views, as they are not acquainted with any which materially interfere with the arrangement of that now under consideration.

By order.

THOMAS P. JONES, *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, August 19th, 1826.

FOR THE FRANKLIN JOURNAL

EDUCATION IN MEXICO.

Extract of a letter from a distinguished Member of the Franklin Institute, now in Mexico.

In the city of *Puebla de los Angeles*, on the route from Vera Cruz to this place, there is a society formed, for the dissemination of education, to all classes of the community. The short stay I made in that city, did not permit me to obtain a full knowledge of the principles upon which it is formed; but I was told, that it supported an elementary school, (*de primeras letras*) in which, about 500 boys are gratuitously taught reading, writing, &c. and connected with this, is a drawing school, in like manner, gratuitous; in which, about one hundred pupils are instructed. From the drawings which I saw, I was satisfied that some of them had made great progress. I was informed, that the scholars remain as long as they please in the school. No false pride prevents the rich (who are members of the society) from sending their sons to this school, to be instructed with the poor. It is gratifying to add, that notwithstanding all the abuse lavished upon the catholic clergy, as inimical to the diffusion of education, this society has been in a great measure supported by the liberal zeal of the Bishop, and of another respectable prelate, who is at present in his 80th year, and whose whole life has been devoted to the extension of learning, and to the diffusion of the principles of equal rights in all men. The society appears to include many objects, which, with us, would be divided between many. To promote the public good, by educating the poor; to encourage the fine arts; and to extend support to the useful arts, are, however, its principal objects.

In that city there are many manufactories, principally of Cloth, Cotton, Pottery, Glassware, &c. I visited many of them, and intended to prepare a notice of them for our Journal; but my stay there was too short, to allow me to do justice to the subject. Their pottery is remarkably good; I can assure you, that I wish we could have shown at our late exhibition, any that could compare with that made in this country.

MEXICO, May 23, 1826.