cle, and one which will fully compare with the English chain cable iron, both for strength and ductility.

JOHN AGNEW,
RUFUS TYLER,

Report of the Committee of Judges of Musical Instruments.

The committee beg leave to present the following Report:

There were but three instruments (piano fortes) coming under the specification for the medal offered by the Institute, viz. —

A square piano forte, No. 529, Thomas Loud, maker.

Do. Do. No. 204, Nunns, Clarke & Co., makers.

An upright piano forte, No. 530, Loud & Brothers, makers.

All three being made of wood "*the growth of the United States.*" Giving their preference in the first place to square pianos, in general, the choice was confined to the first two named; and, after a minute examination, they agreed, that the one made by Mr. Thomas Loud, was the better instrument of the two. It is, however, due to Messrs. Nunns, Clarke & Co., to state, that the points of difference between their instrument, and that of Mr. Loud, were so trifling that they found great difficulty in coming to a decision.

They further beg leave to state, that the best piano forte presented at the exhibition, without reference to exterior, was No. 528, a square piano forte, manufactured by Mr. E. N. Scherr, but they would also observe, that the treble part of this instrument was three stringed, which gave it an advantage that, perhaps, it would not otherwise have possessed over No. 193, a mahogany square piano forte, made by Messrs. Nunns, Clarke & Co.; this last named, being itself much superior to their first mentioned one of American wood. The committee cannot pass over two upright piano fortes of great merit, one made by B. & W. Nunns, No. 568, which they consider one of the best of the kind for its sweetness and purity of tone, that has ever come under their notice; the other, No. 530, above mentioned, made by Loud & Brothers, for its good tone, and truly tasteful and splendid exterior, the case being made entirely of American bird's eye maple.

A square piano, No. 194, made by A. Babcock, of rose wood, for good tone and handsome exterior, and another, No. 282, made by C. F. L. Albrecht, met the favourable notice of the committee.

They also thought worthy of notice, a piano made by Mr. C. Meyer, with a shifting movement, by which the keys can be raised a semi-tone; this, although not a new invention, may have merit from the manner in which it is applied. An iron framed square piano was also remarked as having good qualities.

For the sake of preserving in musical instruments, piano fortes especially, a simplicity of exterior which the committee deem essential to beauty, they take the liberty of observing, that there were *some* instruments at the exhibition, whose bad taste and extravagant style

of decoration, produced in their minds only a feeling of regret that so much excellent matter was wasted!

In concluding their report, the committee beg leave to suggest to the committee on premiums and exhibitions, that in their future offers of premiums for piano fortes, they should expressly state the class or kind of instrument, the number of strings, whether a grand, or square, or upright piano; the want of such a distinction renders the duties of this committee extremely difficult, as it is scarcely possible to institute a just comparison between instruments of different grades.

All which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM NORRIS,
J. C. B. STANDBRIDGE,
BENJ. CROSS,
W. H. W. DARLEY,
HENRY J. BOLLER.

October 7th, 1833.

AMERICAN PATENTS.

LIST OF AMERICAN PATENTS WHICH ISSUED IN JULY, 1833.

With Remarks and Exemplifications, by the Editor.

1. For *Discoveries in Natural Philosophy, reduced to practice*, made by Horatio Gates Spafford, late of Lansingburg, Rensselaer county, New York, deceased. Granted in pursuance of a special act of Congress, passed July 3, 1832. Issued to his relict and administratrix, July 5.

(Some remarks on this patent will appear in the next number.)

2, For an improvement in the *Truss for Varicocoele*; Amos Hull, city of New York, July 5.

The patentee, after describing the nature of varicocoele, and the precautions necessary in the application of a truss to that disease, insists very particularly on the importance of giving to the pad of the truss that particular degree of inclination which may be most suitable to the state and feelings of the patient. The method recommended for effecting this, is to be used in connexion with the truss patented by Dr. Hull several years since, and reissued under an amended specification, August 17th, 1831. The contrivance which is the subject of the present patent, consists of a circular button turning upon a pivot, and varying in thickness by a regular ascent; its flat sides being inclined to each other. The edge of this wedge-formed button, lies under that through which the spring passes, in the former truss; by turning it round it cants the pad, in any degree which may be required. The same kind of fixtures may, it is said, be applied to other species of hernia, when a similar variation in the pad is desired. This appears to be a simple, and sufficiently good method of canting the pad. Various other modes have been devised for producing the