

HOE'S NEWSPAPER PRINTING MACHINES.

On Friday, in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Mr. Groves said he appeared in support of the petition of Mr. William Newton, the nominal petitioner and patentee, for a prolongation of the patent granted to him in 1847. The inventor was Mr. Richard M. Hoe, an American gentleman, and the subject of the patent was a printing machine, which was decidedly the best ever manufactured, and the production of which had called for great devotion of time and labour. Having adverted to the various steps which had been taken to advance the art of printing by machinery, the learned counsel said that at last there was an invention by which the type could be placed round the cylinder, so that when it rolled over the paper the impression was produced. Mr. Applegarth had adopted this plan, and his specification was of earlier date than Mr. Newton's. He did not wish to detract from the value of Applegarth's machine, but all he said was the petitioner's was better, and the *Times*, he understood, used Hoe's machines for printing both paper and supplement, and Applegarth's only for "aids." In Applegarth's machine, the cylinder being vertical, the paper had to be laid on vertically, and was taken down until it was secured by a mass of tapes, and this produced what is technically known as an imperfect register. In Mr. Hoe's invention he remedied this defect. He would now allude to the claims of the petitioner. The first part of the in-

Mr. Hensman, the engineer of the Bank of England; Mr. James Nasymth, the inventor of the steam hammer; and Mr. W. Pol, civil engineer, were then called, and bore testimony to the value of the invention. Mr. Welsby, on behalf of the crown, made no opposition.

Lord Cranworth delivered the judgment of their lordships, who he said were all satisfied that this was a most useful invention—one of great merit and simplicity, as far as simplicity could apply to such an invention. They thought that the inventor had not derived that reasonable profit which he had a right to expect. He had been for several years without profit, and in his accounts he had placed many charges on the debt side of the account with which he might have credited himself. Under all the circumstances, their lordships would advise her Majesty to extend the patent for a period of five years.

vention related to the mode of arranging the type on a portion of the surface of a cylinder, while the other portion of the surface was employed to distribute the ink. The second part of the invention consisted in giving to the inking rollers a vibratory motion. The third part of the invention also related to the rollers; and the fourth part to the securing of the type to the cylindrical bed by means of column rules. One of Mr. Hoe's ten-feeder machines could print from 20,000 to 25,000 newspapers in an hour. The efforts made by the patentee had involved a vast amount of industry and skill. Mr. Hoe had found that, like all inventors, he had an up hill game to fight. He had come over to this country in 1847, but it was nine years from the date of his patent before he could get anything done. At last one of his machines was purchased by *Lloyd's Weekly News*, but from the date of the patent to the present time he had only sold fourteen machines. The petitioner had originally invented another machine, called the Planetarian; but in order to carry out his present invention he had to take his brothers into partnership. He had been to France, in the hope more of getting the machine into public notice than of profit; and in his accounts he charged nothing for his own labour—nothing, in fact, but the costs out of pocket. Those accounts showed that the profits from the patent were 7,000*l.*, but of this 4,000*l.* went to Mr. Hoe's partners, and he himself had only received 3,000*l.* which

was a most inadequate remuneration for an invention of such importance to newspapers at large. But the invention was of the greatest importance to the cheap press, which was obliged to use thin paper, for which Applegarth's machine is not applicable.