
LEAD PENCILS.

As I was the inventor and patentee of the pencil now universally known as "Lund's Pencil," as my father's money founded the firm of S. Mordan & Co.; as my father was one of the largest purchasers of Cumberland lead, as correspondence with the firm of Brookman & Langdon will prove, inasmuch as that firm learnt of my father, and possibly he learnt of them;—allow me a word on the above subject.

Mr. Brockedon was an artist. Mr. Brockedon gained a Council Medal at the Great Exhibition of 1851, for his discovery and invention of purified and compressed Cumberland lead.

The respected firm of S. Mordan & Co., and the respectable firm, Brookman, Langdon, & Co., know well with what anxiety the gradually exhausting quarry or mine of Cumberland filled their minds. Every market-day more and more lead was rejected; the gritty refuse of the once valuable but now nearly exhausted mine.

Mr. Augustus Mordan told me that Mr. Brockedon suddenly acquired a Bright idea—for the *peaceful reform* of—not the British constitution, but black lead of Borra-daile.

Mr. Brockedon pulverised the gritty refuse of rejected heaps of market-days: he separated the grit from that unctuous substance of Cumberland which so puzzles philosophers and geologists, and is so coveted by artist and by draughtsman. Mr. Brockedon took the fine dust, and (probably *in vacuo*) submitted it to great pressure, much harder pressure than bill-discounter gives when he puts "the screw on;" much harder pressure (though that is hard) than Jacob gives to Nancy in the return home pleasure-van.

With a palpitating hand doubtless Mr. Brockedon removed that which was no longer dust, but solid "clay" from the press: with delight did he exhibit the "new solid" to Mr. Augustus Mordan,

After that, until Mr. Brockedon's death, I feel certain that all that could be done for artists and draughtsmen was done by Brockedon, by S. Mordan & Co., and,—for writers who had been used to the *touch* of the genuine article,—by that Lund, the excellence of whose manufactures requires no comment from me.

But Mr. Brockedon is dead. His invention did not die with him, for Lund's best pencils are filled with the lead of Brockedon: Mordan's are likewise: Brookman's are—probably.

Has the writer of a complaint in your impression of the 27th ult. tried the pencils of these firms?

I can testify to much difficulty in getting a pencil firm at the extreme point, black, and capable of proper erasure by plain, old-fashioned indiarubber. As to that new-fangled eraser, something between a hearthstone and a Kamptulicon knife-board, it would rub its way through anything.

The firms I have named in the foregoing statement thoroughly understand the subject, and only require perhaps a little spurring by artists and draughtsmen. The fact of Mr. Brockedon getting a Council Medal shows that the subject was considered a very important one.

W. RIDDLE.
