

Foreign Editorial Correspondence.—No. 4.

Paris Exhibition, &c.

PARIS, May 28, 1855.

To-day being observed as a general fast, all the galleries, museums and palaces of the city are closed, and all labor upon the public works is suspended. But Sunday being regarded as a holiday in France, the public places are kept open, and additional attractions are usually marked down in the programme of the day. The newspapers duly inform the public that the magnificent water works of Versailles and St. Cloud will be displayed on every other Sunday for a certain length of time, or that a steeple-chase will take place at Long Champs. Whoever cares to keep a strict Sunday here, will find his means of sight-seeing somewhat curtailed, as several attractive features of Paris and its environs are rarely to be seen on any other day. The Palace of Industry is kept open every Sunday, and by an especial arrangement of the Emperor, made with the Company, the public were on that day (yesterday) admitted to the Exhibition free of charge for the first time; and it is reported that over 80,000 persons passed through the entrance wickets.

Some English and Scotch Exhibitors entertaining a different idea of how Sunday should be kept, and considering it of the same importance all the world over, have seen fit to close their exhibition stalls on Saturday night—and keep them closed until Monday morning, evidently preferring "to do no manner of work" on a day especially designated as "holy." This scrupulous regard for Sunday does not suit the convenience of the visitors to the Palace, and even some correspondents of English newspapers are clamoring loudly against the moral courage of these people for attempting to enjoy that liberty of conscience "wherewith they are made free." These writers denounce it as an "insult to the French people—an exhibition of bigotry, unlawful and impertinent;" and they call upon the British authorities "to bring these refractory exhibitors to reason—to a sense of decency."

The works inside the Palace of Industry move slow, and its backward condition begins to dull the ardor and intent which the people have all along taken in its success.

But for the influence of the Government (which is infused into all enterprises of a public nature,) and the consummate tact in selecting a good location for the building, the prologue of failure of the French Exhibition as a financial speculation, might now be pronounced.

The French Exhibition offers varied and decidedly brilliant attractions, and in the aggregate, will occupy nearly as much space as the London Palace; but being divided into several different buildings, there is less uniformity of plan, and less effectiveness of classification. Three of the buildings are given up to the general articles of the exhibition—machinery, &c., while a fourth is devoted to the exhibition of fine arts, and to enter which visitors are required to pay extra. This part of the exhibition contains about 5000 specimens of modern art, from the best artists living, and forms a delightful and truly splendid exhibition. One would never tire of looking at its beautiful collection of gems, did not nature, ever watchful and vigilant, act as a monitor over the senses.

The Imperial Commissioner allows each exhibitor to attach the price to his articles; therefore, the lady visitors are supplied with good facilities, and sharp incentives to make the exhibition a rendezvous for initiatory shopping. I can say of the exhibition in its present shape, that it is fine; but to undertake a notice of the articles by any system of nice discrimination, would be a needless and very unsatisfactory job. There is, however, one specimen of hair work, which merits special attention. I examined it for some time, with admiration for the skill displayed in its fabrication. It is a large concave picture of a pastoral scene in autumn.

The landscape stretches back with all the effect of the painter's art, and in the foreground is a pond of water. Overhung by several varieties of wild grass and shrubbing,

on its bank are represented ducks of different colors, while above them appears the figure of a spread eagle resting upon the stump of a tree. The entire piece is done in human hair, and it made the cold chills run over me to think of the amount of patient industry required in its production. The coloring has been effected by the use of hair of different shades. The artist failing to find *green hair*, was obliged to select a season when the foliage is generally *done brown* by the attacks of frost. The artist, Mr. Lemonnier, occupies a high rank in Paris as an artist in hair.

Turning from the Palace and its fancy trappings and showy ornaments, I purpose to glance at some matters going on outside.—At present, labor seems to be actively employed. This is owing to the vast army required upon the public improvements now in progress. Many are at work on the grounds about the Palace and in the public streets and squares, in putting on the crust of asphalt, commonly used in Paris for side walks and public promenades. It makes decidedly the best walks I have ever seen.

Cakes of asphalt, about the size of a half brick, are melted into a liquid, and while in this state a quantity of granulated stone is mixed with it; then, by means of large iron ladles, it is carried to the spot where it is to be used, and then poured out—and as soon as this is done, the mass is hastily spread by means of a spatula, and in a few minutes it hardens ready. In countries where flagging stone is not easily procured, such a system recommends itself. It would scarcely answer, however, in cold climates, as the frost might cause it to crack.

The principal streets are macadamized, and appear to be excellent. I cannot say how far such a system could be made serviceable in American cities, but here, with all the omnibuses and carriages, it is regarded as better than the square stone block pavements, which have heretofore been extensively laid down.

I am not troubled to find the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN here. It is well-known among the scientific men of Paris, and would meet with a still more extensive circulation if the English language were more generally known. I have heard this opinion frequently expressed by intelligent men here. They are surprised at its low price, and I will state what is a fact—that the postage amounts to more than the subscription price. This acts as an embargo on its circulation to some extent.

In a few days I expect to take a ramble over some parts of the continent, and on my return I hope to find the mechanical department in better order for examination than it is at present. I have heard it significantly hinted, that the display of new inventions will fall below par. We shall see.

S. H. W.

PARIS, June 4th, 1855.

My last apprised you of my intended early departure for Germany, and my arrangements are yet unchanged—I shall leave tomorrow. "Then why another letter from Paris?" you say. Why indeed! For one of the best of reasons—because I have something to write about. What think you of such a thing as the arrest of Horace Greeley? Now don't say it is impossible, or all moonshine, for I can assure you it is perfectly true. I have this moment returned from a visit to his uncomfortably close quarters, where I found him engaged in studying French law while he lavishly dispensed American politeness to his many sympathizing visitors.

Mr. Greeley was not presented to the prison authorities as an "absconding debtor," "a fast liver," or a "genteel swindler," for whoever is acquainted with his characteristics will at once acquit him of these. The facts, as at present developed, appear to run thus:

A French exhibitor at the New York Crystal Palace had a fine piece of statuary accidentally destroyed, and the defunct condition of the Association rendered it improbable that he would ever recover the loss. His wits have been sharply exercised to find out some remedy for his misfortune. The travail of his ingenuity came to an issue on Sat-

urday, and, with writ in hand, under the convey of a posse of police, the Sevastopol of Mr. Greeley's domicile was stormed, and he was taken prisoner.

It will be remembered that upon the attempted resurrection of the New York Exhibition under the touch of Barnum's wand, Mr. Greeley became one of the directors, and it appears that the injured French exhibitor has lately received an official circular of the Association, with a piratical line drawn under Mr. Greeley's name.

This was the signal of attack, and Mr. Greeley was thereupon shoved into prison to await the decision of the tribunals as to his personal liability in the matter. If this can be made out under the existing statutes of France, there is no knowing how long he may feel obliged to remain in Clichy, for this point once established, other imperial claimants might pounce upon him, and thus render his situation very oppressive.

Mr. Greeley had abundant means at his command to effect his discharge if the officers would have accepted bail, but this they would not do. Nothing would satisfy them but the payment of the claim of 12,000 francs, the estimated value of the statue, which Mr. Greeley very properly declined to give, preferring to suffer imprisonment until his legal position could be settled. If he had paid the claimant the amount, it would of course have been past recovery, and before he could procure permission from the Prefect of Police to leave the country others might have caused his arrest on similar claims.

The Secretary of Legation, Mr. Piatt, and Maussell B. Fields, Esq., President of the American Commission at the Palace, used every exertion to procure his liberation on Saturday, but no; and so with one grand splurge an American citizen was put under lock and key. The fact was announced to a party of Americans who had assembled at a feast given by Mr. Field to the American Commission, and, as Mr. Greeley was expected at the feast, his detention, especially under such pretexts of arbitrary assumption, caused much indignation.

It is but an act of justice to the French exhibitor to state, that he entirely disclaims any intention to oppress Mr. Greeley. His object is to secure pay for the broken piece of statuary which he had so carefully carved out, and he avails himself of that redress offered to him through the French law. He declares that he has already written thirty-six letters to the New York Association, and can get no satisfaction, and as Mr. Greeley's arrival in Paris was notified to him by his agent in New York, he felt bound to take his chance at him as a director of the Association.

It is Mr. Greeley's misfortune to have been connected with a complicated and badly managed affair at home, and he is surprised to find himself here a victim of his own action. The real difficulty in his position is, therefore, attributable to the severity of the law, rather than to any bad motive on the part of the artist.

I still hope and believe, however, that Mr. Greeley will be promptly discharged. I wish this, not only for his own sake, but also for the protection of Americans who wish to come here. An American doing business in Paris remarked to me this morning, that he should feel obliged to quit the place at once if the law should be made to apply with such stringency.

"Horace Greeley's Life in a French Prison," will form another interesting chapter in his biography. Romance and reality are elements essential to the life of an editor, and the more diverse and startling they are the better—for the readers amusement.

The fact of Mr. Greeley's arrest and imprisonment in Paris, aside from all unpleasant consequences to him, is one of the most amusing things I have ever met with. Imagination may gather up a number of laughable thoughts out of it.

Who will ever live to see the end of the New York Exhibition? Its sickening trail is dragging itself over all who were unfortunate enough to meddle with it. August Belmont,

of New York, formerly one of the directors of the Exhibition is now here, and I presume he might find himself in limbo were it not that he is a foreign Ambassador, and therefore not liable to arrest.

I presume the affair will be speedily arranged, and do not doubt that so soon as it is terminated, Greeley will be on the wing, i. e., a bird of passage. He has seen the elephant to his satisfaction, and if he ever gets out of the scrape he will be off for home and no mistake.

S. H. W.

P. S.—Since writing the above I learn that Mr. Greeley has been set at liberty. I suppose the Judge found out that Greeley's liability (if there were any) is regulated by the New York laws, and not by those of France.

The Reptiles of Texas.

A correspondent of the Charleston (S. C.) *Mercury*, who has resided in Texas for several years, describes his experience with the poisonous reptiles of that country. He states he was bitten four times by snakes, in which he tried whisky as an antidote, but found it of no benefit. Warm applications and tobacco were found effectual. In one case he tried the cupping glass and found it better than anything else. He says, "The centipede varies in length from five to ten inches. Its jaws work horizontally, and it has about fifty feet upon each side, each of which is well armed with a sharp and poisonous nail.—The centipede upon the whole, has more points of resemblance than of dissimilarity to the common earwig of this section. Both the tarantula and centipede are extremely poisonous, but which is the most so, it is difficult to tell. I have frequently seen lizards held to them, both, and never knew one to run exceeding three feet, after being bitten by either. The centipede is generally found about old logs and dilapidated trees in the woodlands, and are seldom seen upon the large prairies. The tarantula is also mostly confined to the woods and fields, though they sometimes take a tour in the prairies.

The stinging lizard has no resemblance to any of its relatives, either lizard or alligator; but has a body more the shape of a cricket, with legs like a spider, and a long tail, the largest part being at the greatest extremity from the body, which envelopes the sting which, though very painful, is not very dangerous."

Statistics of Lowell Manufacture.

The capital invested in the manufactories of Lowell, on the 1st of January, amounted to over \$14,000,000. There are fifty-two mills, running 371,838 spindles, and 11,407 looms. At these and other departments of the woolen and cotton manufacture, 8,723 females, and 4,642 males are employed. This working force produce weekly 2,230,000 yards of cotton cloth, 30,000 yards of woolen, 25,000 yards of carpeting, and 50 rugs, consuming therefore 735,000 lbs. of cotton, and 90,000 lbs of wool.

The Usefulness of Toads.

Toads feed on all kinds of worms, and should never be killed in gardens. The canker worm is a favorite food with them; they are useful in destroying all kinds of garden grubs.

The Olive Tree in the South.

R. Chisholm has written a letter to the Charleston *Mercury* (S. C.), in which he states that he has cultivated two kinds of the olive for ten years, and that its fruit ripens fully in the low countries of the South. He has now three hundred trees under cultivation, but he believes that it cannot be cultivated at present for the sake of its oil, as cotton is a more profitable crop.

Sea Island Cotton in Texas.

The Galveston *News* states that sea cotton is successfully cultivated in several parts of the State, and that there is a general disposition at various places, from Gonzales to the Gulf, to go into the cultivation of this description of cotton. Not less than one thousand acres, the *News* is informed, will this year be cultivated in this cotton in Western Texas.