

## Miscellaneous.

## Foreign Correspondence.

LONDON, 12th Feb., 1851.

Since my last letter was sent away, the list of admission fees for the Great Exhibition has been published by the Commissioners. Season tickets will be £3 3s. for a gentleman, and £2 2s. for a lady, that is, three guineas in the one, two in the other case, and allowing \$4,84 for each pound, a gentleman's ticket amounts to the snug price of \$15.21. These tickets are not to be transferable. On the first day of the Exhibition none but those who have season tickets will be admitted. On the second and third days after the Exhibition is opened, the price will be £1 for one day. On the fourth day it will be five shillings sterling, and on the 22nd day it will be reduced to 1s., excepting on Friday, when it will be 2s. 6d., and on Saturdays, 5s. No person is to go to the door expecting to get change, for none will be given. This is to prevent confusion and interruption at the entrance. Those friends who come here from our Republic must not forget this. They must go, excepting our big-bugs, on the first four days of the week, and have the exact change for tickets in their pockets. No person will be admitted to any part of the building during the Fair, unless he has a pass signed by Mr. Digby Wyatt, the Secretary. The application of every foreign exhibitor for a pass will be referred to the Commissioner of his country for his report, before it will be granted. Day tickets must be worn on a conspicuous part of the dress, and delivered up when leaving the building.

Before any person can enter the building, he will be required to sign the following declaration: "I hereby declare that I will conform to all such rules as the executive committee may find it necessary to make, for the convenience of the public and the exhibitors in the management of the exhibition; that I will not part with my ticket of admission, or be a party to the admission of any person not privileged to enter; and that I will give my best assistance at all times in protecting the general property and interests of the exhibition."

Strangers calling upon persons having the privilege of entrance, must wait in an ante-room, but not be permitted to enter the building. By referring to the name of the person wanted, and ascertaining if his number is deposited, the gate-keeper will be able to inform the visitor whether such privileged person is in the building or not, and if not, such visitor must be required to leave.

There is a strictness and closeness about all the arrangements, which would never be required at home in America. The value of the property exhibited, the sharpness and unscrupulous character of the Cockney thieves, account for all this, every person is forbidden to touch goods not his own, and all our locofoco exhibitors are forbidden to introduce matches or light of any kind. There is one grand rule adopted, viz., "no fees or payments of any kind to any officers or servants of the exhibition will be permitted, and any person receiving any will be dismissed."

A number of very ingenious articles and machines for the exhibition have already been brought into public notice, and it will excite no little pride in the bosoms of Americans, if their countrymen compete successfully with the well tried skill of the old European countries.

A most wonderful file, finished by a Sheffield file forger, named Hiram Younge, has been highly extolled. The length is 54 inches, breadth 3¼ inches, thickness ¾ of an inch, weight 28 lbs. With some small exceptions, the whole surface is covered with ornamental designs, all cut by hand with hammer and chisel, in a style which for artistic beauty is truly astonishing. The tangs (it is a double-tanged file) are sunk by filing, and are ornamented on one side with the national arms and the words "God save the Queen," on a shield; a front view of the cutlers' hall on the other, while the motto "Pour parvenir a Bonne foy." The other tang represents Atlas bearing the globe, with two lions couchant;

beneath are the Sheffield arms, and a cornucopia on each side. On the reverse side appear the cutlers' arms with the emblem of industry—beehives and bees on the wing—on each side. On the moulding these words appear—"Cut, designed, and executed by Hiram Younge, a member of the Sheffield file trade." The centre or body of the file is ornamented on one side with an accurate, full length view of the great palace of industry, in perspective, forming an elegant and spirited sketch. The reverse side is occupied by a beautiful view of that imposing structure, the Sheffield Infirmary; while on the ends, between the centre and the tangs, are four views, illustrating the process of the file manufacturing.

It revolves on pivots, so that every part can be inspected in succession with ease, and the position varied to bring out the innumerable effects which change of position discloses, and exhibiting a pleasing variety of light and shade. The lighter parts possess that peculiar bright richness observable on highly ornamented silver plate. But the most remarkable feature in this elaborate ornamentation is a number of trees in full foliage, luxuriant as the work of the pencil. Each separate shade is effected by a distinct style of perfect tooth.

Along with this triumph of English art, and which the French and Swiss must try hard to surpass, there will be exhibited a tiny steam engine, with all its connected parts, weighing only about one ounce, yet perfect in every respect, and running at a high velocity—making all of 600 strokes per minute.

These brief touches of inventions will give readers of the Scientific American an idea of some things they may expect to see at the Great Fair, and those who will not attend the Exhibition may expect to hear regularly, if possible, from me about its wonders.

EXCELSIOR.

## Gigantic Bird.

At a late sitting of the Academy of Sciences, M. Charles Bonaparte, Prince of Canino, presented a sketch of a large bird discovered by Mr. Parkins on the banks of the White Nile. It stands on legs four feet high, with a body like a stork, and a head like a whale. It has received the name of *baldniceps*, and the specific name of *rex*. At another sitting M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire presented the bones and eggs of a huge bird, a native of Madagascar. Two of the eggs are entire, but the other is broken. It is calculated from the measurement made, that each of them can contain eight litres of liquid, or as much as six ostrich eggs, or 135 hens eggs. M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire supposes this gigantic bird to be a perfectly distinct genus. He has given to the genus the name of *oppornis*, and to the species that of *maximus*. The remains exhibited were last year obtained at Madagascar by a merchant captain named Abadie, and by him sent to the Isle of Reunion, and thence to France.

## Large Production of Printing Cloths.

This production of printing cloths at Providence, R. I., is not now far from 75,000 pieces weekly, and when the business is good, considerably more. About 16,000 pieces are consumed by the parties who manufacture them, the others are sold.

## A Reduction of Fare.

An effort is now being made to prevail on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to reduce the fare between Baltimore and Frederick to \$1.80. A corresponding reduction of fare, it is thought, will also be made by the proprietors of the line of stages between Hagerstown and Frederick. The object is to prevent the Pennsylvania Railroad from monopolizing the travel.

The Gopher, a species of ground squirrel with pouches on the outside of its cheeks to carry the dirt from its hole, is very plenty in Missouri and Iowa; but has never yet crossed the river into Illinois or Wisconsin. It only works at night, burrowing in holes under ground, subsisting on the roots of trees, grasses, and vegetables. There are persons who have suffered by their depredations for twenty years, who have never been able to catch, or even see, one of those nocturnal depredators.

## Manufacture of Jewelry in Newark.

We learn from the Newark Daily Advertiser, that there are in that city 18 manufacturers of jewelry, employing 600 hands, at an average of \$12 per week. The weekly produced of manufactured articles is about \$35,000, or \$1,820,000 a year. In the manufacture of watch cases alone, about fifty hands are employed. In some manufactories chains are made; in others principally rings, while in others almost every article yet invented for the adornment of the person of both sexes, are manufactured. The gold used for a year past has been mostly the product of California, brought to Newark assayed and in bars; the precious stones forming a part of the ornaments are imported from Europe ready cut for use. The jewelry manufactured is sold principally to houses in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, who supply orders for it from various parts of the United States, West Indies, and elsewhere, while a few of the manufacturers have established warerooms in New York, where they receive orders from abroad direct to themselves. Five steam engines are already used in Newark, in the polishing and other processes of this branch of manufacturing.

## Navigation and Shipbuilding of the United States.

The Annual Report on the Commerce and Navigation of the United States, by Senator Corwin, presents some very interesting information relative to the rapid increase of our internal commerce especially. In 1815 the tonnage of foreign shipping was 854,254 tons; of inland navigation tonnage, 513,813 tons. In 1850 the foreign tonnage had arisen to 1,585,711 tons, and the inland tonnage to 1,949,743. In 1815 the foreign tonnage exceeded the inland 60 per cent. Now, the inland exceeds the foreign 25 per cent. The "registered tonnage" has increased 700,000 tons; but the "enrolled and licensed" tonnage has increased 1,400,000 tons. The whole increase from 1820 to 1850 (a period of thirty years), is 175 per cent. Now the growth of population in that period is 130 per cent., proving the growth of commerce and navigation to be faster than that of the people! Among the most obvious causes of this fact is the introduction of steam navigation on the western rivers. The steam tonnage on all the western rivers exceeds 300,000 tons; but this had no existence in 1815, the period of comparison in the above table.

## Were the Hebrews Acquainted with Butter.

We have received a letter from Mr. N. R. Merchant, of Guilford, N. Y., directing our attention to the recent article on Butter, No. 23, wherein it is said that butter was unknown to the ancient Hebrews. He mentions several passages, such as Gen. xviii. 8, &c., where butter is mentioned. We know that butter is mentioned quite a number of times in the sacred writings, but those acquainted with biblical criticism agree that the word *chamea*, translated butter, signifies cream or thick milk, and not the substance we know by the name of butter. In Job xx. 17, it says, "he shall see brooks of butter." This was not our butter. In Proverbs, churning of milk is mentioned, but the original words signify squeezing, not agitation, like our churning.

(For the Scientific American.)

## Yankee Clocks.

I noticed in your paper, a few weeks since, an article on Yankee Clocks, which was quite interesting to me; and I would state, for the gratification of the curious, that I have one, made by E. Terry & Sons, Plymouth, Conn., which has stood on the same shelf for more than twenty-five years, and has never stopped running (except by accident or neglect) but about 8 or 10 times, occasioned by intense cold—and it has not cost the first cent for repairs, and is, withal, a first rate time keeper. J. C.

## India Rubber Patent Controversy.

There has been quite an amusing controversy going on in the Tribune between Horace H. Day, and Wm. Judson, respecting the Good-year India Rubber Patents. Between the two the public is not much enlightened. Our laws—most miserably carried out, or defective in respect to trials—are to blame for delays in settling patent cases.

## Praising Tea.

Oh! what varieties of pain do we not make our women suffer! And, in those varieties, what a part of *confidante* has that poor tea-pot played ever since the kindly plant was introduced among us! What myriads of women have cried over it, to be sure! What sick beds it has smoked by! What fevered lips have received refreshment out of it! Nature meant very gently by women when she made that tea-plant! And, with a little thought, what a series of pictures and groups the fancy may conjure up and assemble round the tea-pot and cup. *Millissa* and *Sacharisa* are talking love secrets over it. Poor *Polly* has it and her lover's letters on the table; his letters, who was her lover yesterday, and when it was with pleasure, not despair, she wept over them. *Mary* comes tripping noiselessly into her mother's bed-room, bearing a cup of the consoler to the widow, who will take no other food. *Ruth* is busy concocting it for her husband, who is coming home from the harvest field. One could fill a page with hints for such pictures.

## Influence of Ozone.

In the village of Roggendorf, in Mecklenburg, towards the end of 1846, slight catarrhal affections were prevalent; the air at that time contained only slight traces of ozone. At the commencement of the year 1847, these affections assumed the most serious forms of bronchial and catarrhal diseases, and whooping-cough affected a large proportion of the population. At this period there was perceived a considerable increase in the proportion of ozone contained in the atmosphere, and influenza was immediately developed. On the 9th of January, the ozonometer showed a still greater increase in the proportion of ozone in the air; the same day ten persons died of the influenza, and the disease gradually progressed to such an extent, that on the 21st few persons had escaped it. During all this time there was a perfect connection between the presence of ozone and propagation of the disease. Since sulphurous vapors prevent entirely the formation of ozone, it follows that the workmen employed in manufactories in which sulphur is concerned should escape its influenza. M. Splenger has fully proved that this is really the case.—[Hæule Zeitschrift.

## Responsibility for Baggage.

A bill has been introduced into the New York Senate, providing that when the baggage of persons travelling on steamboats has been checked, and is not delivered on being called for by the party holding the check, he may be a competent witness in any suit brought by him for the loss of his baggage, to prove its contents as value. Put it through.

Rose bugs have been so common in some of the Eastern States, that on the sea-shore they have floated in winrows on the sand, having been driven into the sea by winds, and drowned. They have only made their appearance in this region, in any considerable quantities, within three or four years.

## Valuable Property.

The property on the northeast corner of Broadway and Grand street, known as the Broadway House, has lately been sold for \$90,000. The lot is 100 feet square, and the new owners design erecting on it a new building covering the entire lot.

## One Eyed Thompson.

A notorious individual, bearing the above name, put an end to his life last Monday in our city prison. He poisoned himself by morphine, and left behind him a letter which bears unequivocal evidence of a moral obliquity of mind stamped with the deepest infidelity to honesty. He was a forger, spy, and quack, but was intelligent, ingenious, and this made him very dangerous to the community by his knowledge in fabricating bills, and changing their value by chemicals.

## Communications.

We have a number of communications on hand awaiting attention and examination. Our correspondents must have patience—we have to exercise a great deal of it.