

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COL-  
LATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

*Country-Embellishing.*—"Landes-Verschönerung."—On this word (idea), yet to be introduced into the English idiom—a German periodical puts forth the following graphic description:—"Country-embellishing may, after all, be considered as the very exponent of every other radius of national or governmental activity—as all of them must, by necessity, in fine, centre in, and about to, something tangible, real, material. And where can such appear in any adequate magnitude—save in those, either extensive in themselves, or becoming, so by their aggregate works, which, like huge buildings or other structures, strike and enchant the eyes of the beholder—or like roads, and canals, and dikes, extend in the shape of bands over the expanses of the land; both showing, in contradistinction to the laud of the savage, that here activity, mind, middle-life, are existing, and diffusing their salutary and benign influence. Thus, there is no great name in history, either monarch or statesman, whose mind did not, as well by necessity, manifest itself in such out-works of the mind, as we may call them; in each of which, however, pulsate great purposes, great views, great benevolence for the mass of the nation. Thus were Solomon, Bemisius, Numa, Pericles, Augustus, Charlemagne, Peter the Great, Napoleon. Shew me a great constructor, and behold a great man! (*Ins of Oken.*)"

*Vienna, Austria.*—The Industrial Society of that city (*Gewerbverein*), have, of late, carried out a plan, which deserves commendation and imitation. We allude to an exhibition, and prize-rewarding for industrial drawings—agricultural and horticultural implements and machines, furniture and other house utensils and decorations, patterns and designs of textile and textile art; china, stone-ware, pottery, and all sorts of tissues; in fine, choice and rare tools and implements of every trade and industry. [Our exhibition of national industry seems long in coming.]

*Impure Gas.*—The Cities of "Futurity."—Several of the French periodicals have of late alluded to the insalubrity which manifests itself in the narrow streets of Paris, Rue St. Honoré, Rue de la Harpe, &c., on account of the exhalation of the gas, which penetrates the dwellings, especially on the ground-floor and first story. If the occupants of such rooms are a day out of town, and the door and windows shut, the smell on entering them is terrible and nearly suffocating—which, as a matter of course, must be also the case every night, although to a smaller degree. It is obvious, that if only pure (or nearly so) hydrogen gas were to be burnt, this could hardly be the case; and it is the admixture of sulphuretted or carbonated hydrogen gas which, not being consumed, causes this distress, because such it is to all intents and purposes. Aside the necessity of pure gas—the necessity also of widening our present gas streets is alluded to, which, eventually, will lead in the American right-angle block system of town construction.

*Prague, Austria.*—Dr. Obst, lord of the manor of Ober-Leitensberg, has induced his peasantry (they have mostly perpetual leases) to a very fine and useful undertaking. They have made a compact amongst themselves, to rebuild the whole village after a new and well-concerted plan; the rebuilding of the houses to be done within certain periods of time—the lot to decide priority. But still more important is, that the peasantry have bound themselves, all of them, to assist (in labour of men and cattle, &c.) in the building of these single cottages, which are to be all one story high. The lord of the manor furnishes them with the necessary timber, free of expense. This, then, will be a model-village indeed. Dr. Obst has also established a small library of books and periodicals for his peasantry, play and athletic grounds for the youth, &c.

*The supposed Fresco Painting by Raffaele at Pisa.*—Mr. Gargani Garganetti, of Florence, has just published a little work, by which he proves to evidence, that that mural painting, discovered last year in the convent of St. Onofrio, at Pisa, representing the Last Supper, is the work of Neri de Bicci, made in 1461, and consequently many years before Raffaele was born. It precedes even the Perugin school, and Bicci may be considered the last of the great Giotto galaxy. Vasari does not

mention him but passingly. Mr. G. has discovered in the Strozian library the order of the monastic authorities for this picture, dated 20th March, 1461, and the artist's receipt for his wages, dated 4th Aug. 1462; both which documents are printed in the above little work. J. L.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

The boring at the Artesian well, Southampton Common, is to be proceeded with, it is said, on the recommendation of those members of the British Association who took an interest in the subject. Little further expense will be added to the 20,000*l.* already expended, and little further time will accomplish the end in view, so far, at least, as regards the proper depth of boring; as the new and expeditious method of operation spoken of in last week's *BUILDER*, is to be henceforth adopted. The great expense, and the no less great inferiority of the gas with which Southampton is supplied, has led to a determination that new and extensive gas works shall be erected for the supply of a superior article at something like the price fixed in the North of England, namely 4*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet, instead of 10*s.* to 12*s.* as at present for the supply of so inferior an article.—The traffic between Portsmouth and Gosport was interrupted on Sunday week by the snapping of one of the chaise of the floating-bridge while it was in the centre of the passage.—The erection of the new market house at Dorchester is to be speedily commenced. Premises adjoining the Town Hall have been taken down, and it is intended to carry out the original proposition of rebuilding the Guildhall, with a spacious room attached for a Corn Exchange and public exhibitions. In addition, also, to the public cemetery alluded to in our last impression, and other sanitary improvements, a water company on the plan of the gas company is suggested.—The contemplated restorations in St. James's church, Bristol, lately noticed by us in *THE BUILDER*, have so pleased a respectable diaceter, that he has volunteered to supply the glass at his own expense. The name of so liberal and patriotic a diaceter ought to be recorded.—The plan of Mr. Wilson, the Architect of Bath, for the proposed Wesleyan College there, has been approved of, and a site selected near the Land-down-road above St. Stephen's church.—Land for the site and 100*l.*, in aid of the erection of the national schools at Stratton, Cornwall, have been given by Lord Cateret.—The Worcester nailers are endeavoring to obtain an advance of 10 per cent. on their wages.—The new church of St. Andrew, Bordesley, which was to be consecrated on Wednesday last, consists of a chancel 32 feet, a nave, 26 feet, a north aisle, and a tower of three stages with a spire at its west end. The style is middle pointed. Of the sittings, about 1,000 in number, more than one-half are free.—Oundle church is to be restored at a cost of 3,000*l.*, of which 1,750*l.* have been already subscribed.—Benefield Church, near Oundle has recently been extensively altered, at least, if not restored.—St. Paul's Church, Bedford, too, appears, from the sad account of it given by a correspondent of the *Northampton Mercury*, to have passed of late into just such "sacrilegious hands" as those whose ignorant and barbarous doings of an older date are now being everywhere else undone by judicious restorers of our old and venerable churches. "We know not to whose hands the care of this church is entrusted," says our present authority, "but if to those who called in the aid of Mr. Blore to render their school-building honourable to their town, and the memory of its benefactor, we trust they will again invoke his, or similar aid, to restore this noble church to its ancient magnificence."—The Cambridge commissioners of paving, &c., have at last agreed to disburse the trifling necessary to repair the bridge at St. John's College, the dilapidated state of which, as we lately remarked, was so disgraceful to the authorities both of college and of city.—At a recent meeting of the paving commissioners, Mr. Walter, the architect, produced his plan, and that of Mr. Morris, the architect, for the proposed arcade at Black-bear-yard, from which it appears that the plan adopted was the best available in so close and confined a locality, and was so adopted pre-

cisely because the passage in that plan was an open one, conducive as far as possible in the public health. The locality being one radically ineligible for such a purpose, however, a committee was appointed to confer with the trustees of Storey's charity on the subject.—A somewhat "curious and interesting" scene occurred the other day, in presence of the mayor and other commissioners, on the reading of a report on the state of certain paving contracted for by a Mr. Brady, whom the commissioners appeared to be desirous to get rid of, "as it was quite clear he could not perform it;" while Mr. Brady, for his part, appeared to be equally desirous to get rid of the commissioners, "because they had not paid him till the fifteenth day, instead of fourteen days after he had first taken the contract."—"The Norman Tower, at Bury St. Edmund's," says a contemporary, "has now undergone the *experimentum crucis*. The great eastern arch is removed, and the centre of that front is supported by shores until the arch can be replaced. It will give some idea of the magnitude of this undertaking if we state the preparations made for the security of the structure. A bed of concrete and brickwork, a yard and a half thick, was first laid down, upon which four upright timbers, 27 feet long and 14 inches square, were raised, to catch the ends of two "needles" or horizontal timbers, 11 feet in length and 2 feet thick, bound together with iron and let into the sides of the centre pier between the first-floor windows. On Tuesday, last, the jacks and pillars to support the new arch being completed, the hideous breach was effected, and the shattered state of the ashlar and core fully bore out the statements as to the peril in which this part of the edifice had stood until the precaution was taken of inserting the temporary centre. A chasm is now presented, about 15 feet wide, and the same height from the spring of the arch, in which the massive structure, 60 feet high and nearly 6 feet in thickness, has no other perpendicular support than the shores above mentioned; but the sound union effected in all the fissured parts above, and the immense power of the iron ties by which the tower is bound together at four stages, probably rendered the buttresses at the angles sufficient to hold up the centre without the additional precautions which have been prudently taken. The insertion of the new arch will be commenced immediately, and proceeded with as expeditiously as consists with the solidity of the work. The process excites much interest, even amongst the commonest observers, and the surprise is very great at the restoration having been thus carried on from the top downwards, nothing of the masonry remaining to be done above, but the addition of the coping to the parapet between the turrets."

PREVENTION OF EPIDEMIC AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

LORD MORLEY'S Act in this effect is about to be put into prompt operation in the parish of Tottenham. A meeting of the inhabitants has been held, and a committee is appointed to take into consideration, the provisions of the Act of Parliament for the Removal of Nuisances, and the Prevention of Contagious and Epidemic Diseases, and to receive the suggestions of the parochial authorities as to the best mode of carrying the same into effect, for the benefit of the parish at large.

They will meet at stated periods to receive information "of the filthy and unwholesome condition of any dwelling-house or other building, or of the accumulation of any offensive or noxious matter, refuse, dung, or soil, or of the existence of any foul or offensive drain, privy, or cesspool" in the parish, in order that the committee may view the same, and take measures "for cleansing, whitewashing, or purifying of any such dwelling-house or other building, or for the removal or abatement of such nuisances" as shall be certified to be such by competent authority, as in such Act is mentioned.

It is to be hoped that other parishes will immediately follow the example thus set in Tottenham.

RE-PAVING CHEAPSIDE.—On Saturday last, orders were issued from the office of the Commissioners of Sewers for the re-paving of Cheapside with stone instead of wood.