

THE IRON TRADE.—The apprehension of a complete paralysation of the iron work trade in Newport, in consequence of the stoppage of the Monmouth and Glamorgan Bank, is dreaded, and the mischief is said to be already felt. The Cwm Brane iron works had drawn 250,000*l.* out of the bank; the Blaenafon and other works, 150,000*l.* The liabilities are said to be about three-quarters of a million; the cash in hand not two thousand*l.* The proprietary had branches at Abergavenny, Tredegar, Pontypool, Monmouth, and Chepstow. —We hear, from good authority, says the *Cambrian*, that Mr. Stephenson, as chief engineer of the Alexandria and Cairo Railway, has just concluded two contracts with our ironmasters—one with Sir J. Guest, Bart., for 5,000 tons of rail, at 5*l.* per ton; and another with Alderman Thompson, for the same amount of rails, at 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton. Other orders to a large amount are rumoured to have been received by the other principal ironmasters of the district. —The Cleveland iron district, according to *Herapath*, covers an area of several thousand acres, lying between Guisborough and Stokesley, in the county of York. The stone contains from 30 to 40 per cent. of iron, and the seam is from 12 to 20 feet thick, lying from 1 to 20 feet below the surface, and is estimated to produce 40,000 tons per acre. The supply will, therefore, be unlimited, and can be raised for a long time at a cost not exceeding 6*d.* per ton. 50,000 tons have been already smelted in Northumberland, producing 33 per cent., and a contract was recently made by the two proprietors to supply an iron work with 200,000 tons per annum for seven years at 8*s.* 3*d.* per ton, delivered at Middlesbrough, which on a low estimate will yield a profit of 200,000*l.* It is contemplated to erect ironworks on the property already secured in connection with the rail, and to concentrate the latest improvements, thus to produce iron in quantity at about 8*s.* per ton below present rate.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—A telegraphic congress lately assembled at Vienna to draw up measures for facilitating telegraphic communications between different countries. It proposes to establish a union between different states; to have translators employed, so as to transmit all despatches without delay; to have a uniform tariff; to pay their receipts into a common fund, and to divide them afterwards between the states, in proportion to the length of their telegraphic lines, &c. The new arrangements are, it is said, to come into operation on 1st January next; and, if France shall accede to them, it will be possible to send a despatch in a very few minutes from Trieste to Calais or Ostend. Already, says the *Athenæum*, we have chronicled the completion of the line from Ostend to Trieste, a line of more than 2,000 miles, crossing rivers, wastes, lakes, and Alps in its way, and, we believe, only twice interrupted, by the Rhine, at Cologne, and by the Elbe, at Dresden, in the whole distance. The foreign journals now inform us that the system is spreading rapidly in the east of Europe. By the close of this year there will be three great lines of telegraph in operation in the interior of Hungary:—one from Pesth to Szabolcz, along the new railway; one from Czegold to Szegedin; the third from Czongrad to Arad. These wires will connect together more than twenty towns of more or less manufacturing importance. The Turkish Government, we learn, has determined to introduce the telegraph system into that country. The electric wire becomes every day a more absolute social necessity in Europe.

ADORNMENT OF ROADS.—POPLARS.—The *Staats Anzeiger* contains a curious edict from the Department of Public Works, in Prussia, by virtue of which all the *allées* of poplars along the public roads are gradually to be removed, and replaced by trees of another kind. The reason alleged is the damage the poplars do to the neighbouring fields. Where cultivation is high and the population numerous, fruit trees are to be planted along the roads; but in ordinary cases oak is the wood selected; next, the chestnut, the plane, and the linden. In damp and moory places the alder and the ash are recommended. The conversion is to

be made in two periods, partly to avoid throwing on the market too great a quantity of poplar wood at once, and depressing the price, already very moderate, that species being in no great repute, and partly from an artistic regard to the appearance of the highways, or the *Aesthetische Gesichtspunkt* of the change. This part of the Prussian decree, says the *Times* justly, might be recommended to the special attention of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. If many complaints are made that the change will spoil the prospect (for even an alley of poplars has its value on a level) the improvement is not to be pressed. The decree is accompanied by a diagram, showing the present condition of the avenues, and how they will look when changed.

BRAMLEY FALL STONE.—We have received a letter from a gentleman who says he is the proprietor of the original Bramley Fell quarries, complaining of our remark that of late years the original Bramley Fell quarry has been nearly exhausted, and asserting that so far from being exhausted it is "capable of supplying twenty thousand feet per month." The correctness of our remark is confirmed by the report of the Building Stone Commissioners in 1839, where, under the head of Bramley Fell (old quarry), they say, "this quarry is nearly exhausted: the stone is now difficult and expensive to obtain, in consequence of the great thickness of head." That the author of the letter, which is dated from Bramley Fall, near Leeds, may be quarrying a stone called Bramley Fall stone is very possible; but that this is the real Bramley Fell so constantly specified by the late Mr. Rennie and Mr. Telford, and so well known for its extraordinary strength and durability, we have yet to learn.

CHEAP HYDROGENOUS LIGHT.—We some time ago noticed a French invention whereby an abundance of hydrogen gas, nearly pure, was said to be got by decomposing steam in retorts charged with wood charcoal intensely heated, and made fit for illumination, after the absorption of its carbonic acid in lime, by merely passing it through platinum wire gauze over the ordinary argand burner, the platinum being scarcely, if at all, oxidizable, and therefore said to be subject to little or no waste though used for some years. It is said that the patent for this invention is in successful operation in Paris, and that gas is thus produced at 1-16th the average cost of coal gas. Any ordinary gas work, it is said, may be easily made to produce it, the platinum cages of course being applied to every burner. The purity and the heat thus attainable would render such an invention, if otherwise of practical importance, useful for other purposes besides mere illumination. It is said to be in use by silverplate workers at Paris.

LIGHTHOUSES.—In order to give a telegraphic character to our various lighthouses, Mr. George Wells, of the Admiralty, proposes to cut four or more circular apertures in all the present structures, just below the lantern, and fit the openings with glazed sashes of ground plate glass, painted so as to leave the initial of the particular lighthouse bold and distinct. The length of the letter being three times the size of the light of the lantern, it is considered that it would be more clearly visible, and leave no doubt as to what the lighthouse is, and where situate. New lighthouses, it is thought, should not be carried to the present altitude, as the nearer the light is level to the eye the less probability would exist as to any mistake in the distance of it.

PLATE GLASS MARBLES.—The medal awarded at the International Exhibition to Messrs. R. W. Swinburne and Co., of South Shields, according to a local paper, is incorrectly stated as for flint glass, whereas the article exhibited was opaque plate glass in imitation of marbles. A prize medal only was granted, although it was considered by the maker to be an original invention and manufacture. The reason adduced for not giving a council medal is that a similar invention has been realised in the Royal Plate Glass Works carried on by the Russian Government at St. Petersburg. The article there manufactured, however, is said to have merely resembled a plain plate.

THE READING SURVEY.—We have received several letters from correspondents complaining, as did one which we printed last week, of injustice done them by the Local Board of Health; and it would appear from these, as well as from a printed communication to the ratepayers of a like description signed "Geo. Easton, jun.," that the board has at least acted unwisely, if not unfairly, towards the competitors, and unjustly towards the ratepayers.

GLASGOW ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.—We mentioned last week the foundation of this society. We are informed that it has the countenance of the leading architects in Glasgow, of whom the following have spontaneously offered to present premiums to the successful exhibitors in the competitions of the session. For a design for a Presbyterian Church, *not* in the Gothic style: premium by Mr. Charles Wilson. For the best perspective outline and drawing of Saint George's Church, Buchanan-street: premium by Mr. J. T. Roebuck. And for a design for a villa, cost not to exceed 1,000*l.*: premium, a gold medal, by Mr. James Smith.

LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The second meeting of the present session of this society was held on Wednesday last week, at the Royal Institution, the president, Mr. J. A. Picton, F.S.A., in the chair. Mr. Samuel Huggins read a paper on "Fine Art Criticism." A discussion took place on the various points embraced by the paper.

ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—It is said that the Austrian Government has determined to have a general Industrial Exhibition of the works of all nations at Vienna in 1853.

A CAIRO KEY.—M. de Nerval, a recent French traveller in Egypt, thus describes the key of a house which he took, during his residence in Cairo. It was a piece of wood "like a baker's tally, at one end of which five or six nails were driven in as if at random; but there was no random in the matter. This strange key is introduced into a hole in the door: the nails correspond with little holes, invisible from without, pass through them, and raise a wooden bolt."

COTTINGHAM'S MUSEUM.—The sale will begin on Monday. We repeat the expression of our hope that some of the specimens will be obtained for the contemplated schools for workmen. They might be bought by individuals, and lent to the committee when organized.

TENDERS

For new house at Southsea, Havant, for Mr. E. Stokes. Mr. T. E. Owen, architect. Quantities furnished.

Heady	21,906	0	0
Davis	1,980	0	0
Absalom	1,952	0	0
Camwell	1,765	0	0
J. King	1,700	0	0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A. P.," "T. H. L.," "G. M. H.," "A Band of Brothers" (stick to one another and defy the world), "Y." (we do not know any circulating architectural library), "H. T. B.," "H. and E." (under our mark), "P." (ditto), "F. G." (ditto), "C. K.," "C. C.," "J. H.," "J. M. C.," "M. W.," "J. D. P.," "J. J. L.," "E. W." (we cannot comply), "G. and Co.," "M. P.," "L. L.," "W. D.," "J. P. St. A.," "J. N. W.," "G. A.," "E. R.," "A Surveyor," "A Green for Mending," "Mr. C." (we shall be glad to hear), "Foliation Problem" (next week), "J. K.," "Hungerford-bridge" (the entire span is 670 feet, the total length 1,342 feet. An account will be found in our Vol. III. pp. 129, 200), "J. H. P.," "E. W. T.," "One who Walks," "H. G.," "J. P. B.," "Felix," "C. K.," "G. M." (we have no information beyond what has appeared in our columns).

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"Books and Addresses."—We have not time to post our books or find addresses.