

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

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FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT

LONDON, APRIL 17, 1851.
It is gratifying to find that the view which we took some weeks ago of the progress made by England during the first half of the present century is more than borne out by the leading article in the *Edinburgh Review* for the 1st of April. The writer goes further than we ventured to do, but he brings figures to support his assertions. Concerning the consumption of articles of general use, he makes the following statement:

From 1842 to 1850 the population increased about 12 per cent. The consumption of cotton increased... 41 per cent. Wool increased... 64 do. Hemp do... 80 do. Flax do... 61 do. Tobacco do... 25 do. Tea do... 38 do. Foreign spirits do... 53 do. Sugar do... 60 do.

That the poorer classes have fully shared in the progress of events and the improvement of condition which this statement evidences, is clear from the fact that, whilst a quarter of a century ago travelling by railroad was almost unknown, the returns for 1849 show the following results:

First class.	Second class.	Third class.
7,222,611	2,530,000	32,696,322
21,927,708	2,530,000	1,816,476

Thus it appears that the poorer classes travelled by railway in 1849 to the number of nearly 32,000,000, and afforded to spend by so doing more than \$1,750,000. They outnumbered the middle classes in the proportion of four to three, and the wealthier classes in the proportion of four and a half to one. Add to this the astounding fact that the poorer classes have now \$28,000,000 of their earnings in savings banks and friendly societies where in 1800 they had not a farthing; that the fundholders who receive dividends not exceeding \$25 have increased since 1831 from \$286,170 to \$298,415; that whilst all from \$250 to \$2,000 have materially diminished; that the numbers of assessments to the smaller incomes; and that the probate duty has increased the most upon the smaller estates. Excuse one statement more—it is in relation to the earnings of a spinner of cotton yarn:

Weekly earnings.	Pounds of cotton he could spin.	Hours of work.
In 1804..... 32s 6d.	117	62
In 1833..... 42s 9d.	267	85
In 1850..... 40s	320	85

The reviewer then goes on in a triumphant strain, singing praises to the genius of free-trade, and showing how the working classes have been relieved from the burden of taxation.

The Parliamentary proceedings during the week have not been important. The window tax has been abolished, and a small house duty substituted, when the annual value exceeds £20. The coffee duties have been equalized and reduced, and the duty on foreign timber reduced one-half. Mr. ARDEN moved, on the 15th, for the appointment of a commission to proceed to South Africa, to inquire into the best mode of adjusting the relations between England and the Kaffir tribes. Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved, as an amendment, that a select committee of the House of Commons be appointed to make such inquiry. This amendment was carried by a vote of 128 to 60. Parliament adjourned for the Easter holidays on the 15th, and will reassemble on the 28th. The second reading of the income tax bill is fixed for that evening; the Jews disabilities bill will be brought forward on the 2d May. The Ecclesiastical titles bill will not let this annoying question rest. He has addressed a letter to his clergy, in which he, in so many words, denies the royal supremacy in ecclesiastical matters, and announces that of clergy men holding opinions on the subject of baptism similar to those of Mr. GORHAM, though the law of the land has declared that they are entitled to such induction. Bishop PHILLIPS declares "popular Protestantism" to be "far more pernicious than Romanism itself," and states his determination to hold a synod for his clergy in the cathedral church of Exeter; he has issued summonses for such synod, and proclaims that no definite resolution which the synod agrees to is to be adopted without his episcopal concurrence. Mr. HUME, in alluding to this proceeding, in the House of Commons, said, "Was not the Queen held to be supreme in ecclesiastical matters? It seems we are going to have a clerical parliament at Exeter; orders had gone out for it; a very bad example to be followed. He hoped the noble lord (Lord J. Russell) would exercise the power of the Crown in reference to the matter to which he had referred." The Bishop of Exeter's announcement will bring matters to a crisis between the Crown of England and himself. The *Daily News* says:

"The principle that runs through and directs and governs Bishop Phillips's letter to his clergy, and this proposition to hold a synod, is simply rebellion—rebellion clothed in anti-quarian research, and draped in pretensions of ecclesiastical freedom; but not the less rebellion in principle because advanced in the name of religion and on behalf of what is called the liberty of the church. The royal prerogative over the church of England—the supremacy of the sovereigns of this realm in affairs ecclesiastical—is, rightly and properly and philosophically considered, one of the most precious inheritances of the people of England, and will continue so as long as they have a State church."

The good citizens of London (that is of the city proper) take the rejecting vote of the House of Commons, relative to their proposed improvement of Smithfield market, in great disgust. Lord JOHN RUSSELL need not look for any more municipal honor at their hands; a fact which he is no doubt aware of, and braves the consequences of their displeasure. An idea is daily gaining ground that a live cattle market will not be confined to or near London. Certainly such a market in the heart of the metropolis will be done away with. It is now a well-established fact that London is every week receiving an increased quantity of live cattle. Provinces, and a diminished proportion of live cattle. Carcasses of meat are now brought even from Aberdeen, Leith, &c. The facilities for the transmission of the article are every day increasing, and

it has become a seriously mooted question whether it would not be wise to fall in with the course of nature, and encourage the tendency to procure the whole of the supply in a slaughtered state.

The business of the Great Exhibition goes on well; no doubt is entertained respecting its being opened on the 1st of May. Her Majesty has determined to inaugurate the commencement by a Royal State pageant, the particulars of which have not yet been arranged. Some of the papers of this morning express dissatisfaction at the arrangement which has been made, by which only the Royal Commissioners, the Diplomatic Body, the members of the Government and of the Royal Household, are to be admitted with the Queen. We know not what reasons have led to this decision, but we think that every exertion should have been taken and care taken to popularize the inauguration, instead of thus making it a mere privileged and almost private affair. In fact, it is hardly keeping good faith with the 8,000 purchasers of season tickets, who understood that the possession of such tickets would entitle them to admission whenever the building was opened.

A shelter is now sought for this alteration, by citing the Queen's visit, *prædicta*, and such as she always takes of the Royal Exhibition, &c., and that the season tickets entitle the admission only when the building is open to the public. We are unwilling to believe that the sole object and occupying thought of the Commissioners was to give her Majesty an unobstructed and convenient view of the Exhibition; but we think they have made a mistake, and robbed the commencement of this great national affair of much of its interest and its appropriate characteristics. The building will hold forty thousand persons, and the admission of the eight thousand holders of season tickets would have kept good faith with them and with the public, without inconveniencing the Royal party; and we are quite sure without any annoyance to them. The holders of season tickets are to be admitted on the 1st of May, at 10 o'clock. On subsequent days the Exhibition will open at ten o'clock and close at six. The Foreign Commissioners were introduced to Prince ALBERT on Monday; Mr. RIDLEY was introduced to the Commissioner from the United States; he was accompanied by Mr. St. John, of Buffalo. The act for the protection of inventions came into force on the 11th instant. It provides that the proprietors of new inventions are to be allowed to exhibit them without prejudice to letters patent to be thereafter granted. All inventions before exhibition are to be provisionally registered, and not to be used before the granting of letters patent. Great preparations are being made to receive 3,600 of the National Guard, who are expected to arrive in a body from Paris on the morning of the Queen's birthday, the 31st of May. Application has been made to the Horse Guards to permit the state band of the Royal Horse Guards to escort them into the metropolis, from the New Cross railway station. The number of packages which had been received at the building up to Saturday last, was independent of British, which had not arrived materially from the preceding week:

Colonial.	Channel Islands.	Foreign.
1,114	31	8,450
Total.		9,595

Of the foreign 923 are from Belgium, 226 from China, 2,678 from France, 564 from Austria, 1,043 from Prussia, 105 from Portugal, 250 from Russia, 225 from Holland, 863 from the United States, 149 from Switzerland, 226 from Spain, 302 from Tunis, 142 from Saxony, 488 from Württemberg, 352 from other parts of Germany, 88 from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, 18 from Greece, 204 from Italy, 10 from Mexico and South America; only one package has yet been received from Turkey. The Ottoman steam frigate is expected every day at Southampton, with upwards of 500 packages of most costly articles on board, and a number of Turks of high rank. Of the Colonial goods Australia sends 121 packages, Ceylon 9, the North American provinces 380, the West India 47, the Cape of Good Hope 36, Hong Kong 18, India 445, and Malacca 49.

In the literary world we have a very pleasing poem, *Belgravia*, from the pen of Mr. Norton, and this lady also advertises a new novel, *Dunstable*; several other novels, by authors of eminence, are announced. "The Season in Ireland, or the Rambles of an Englishman in search of a Settlement in the West of Ireland," is a very interesting and well timed publication, intended to direct the attention of persons looking out for investments or for new settlements to the vast capabilities of the sister island. It proves that the unfortunate prejudices against Ireland are founded, for the most part, in ignorance. The *Edinburgh Review* contains, as usual, a number of very interesting articles: the subjects are, "England as it is, The Salmon Fisheries, Southey's Life and Correspondence, Lamanian in Tartary and Tibet, Works of M. Cousin, Spain and Spanish Politics, Shall we retain our Colonies? The Defeat of Italy, and Ultramontane Doubts."

The production of *Massimiliano* at her Majesty's theatre has proved that Mr. Lumley's company is very strongly reinforced by new operatic performers, whilst the ballet incidental to the piece is said to have been most consummately beautiful. The Italian opera at Covent Garden is also winning loud opinions every night of performance; and the Haymarket, the Princesses, Sadler's Wells, the Adelphi, and Olympic theatres are exhibiting and preparing many novelties, and sharing a full proportion of public favor. Among scientific and mechanical improvements may be mentioned an "absolute safety valve," invented by Mr. James Nasmyth, which effectually remedies all the objections to the "valves now in use, and which is so contrived that it cannot be tampered with." Among the *on dits* of fashionable life is the rumor that Miss TALBOT, the young lady whose case has lately excited so much attention, is about to be married to Lord EDWARD HOWARD, second son to the Duke of Norfolk. This young heiress mixes again with the gay world, and was at the Countess of Jersey's soirée the other night with the Countess Newburgh, under whose care she has been placed by Lord Chancellor Russell.

The Bank of England returns exhibit a diminution of £339,529 in bullion, and an increase of circulation, amount £147,466, during the week. The bullion is now £13,906,656, and the circulation £26,161,017. The coin metal was yesterday operated upon by many causes—such as the drain of bullion from the bank, the probable increase of the rate of interest, the war in Portugal, the decline in the French funds, the unsettled state of French politics, and the uneasy condition of almost all the Governmental administrations from London and Lisbon to Berlin and Vienna; in spite of all these bugbears, however, the market closed firmly. The *Times* newspaper is a great foment of these disturbing, but often very ridiculous, rumors; and when it can find nothing better to build on upon, it quotes a column from the *New York Herald*! It really scarcely seems to know that there is any other newspaper published in the United States. One week the *Times* gives its readers what other English papers call an "American Fable for the Exhibition," and speaks of an English revolution as about to come off, in which Red Republicans and Socialists of France are to unite with brother disciples from Germany, and Irish Republiques, and English Chartists, and bring about a great explosion in London—"A nucleus of the long pending English claims." The Count de Thiers has also quarrelled with the Pope's Nuncio. In fact, the entire Corps Diplomatique presents a hostile attitude towards the unfortunate Minister; and with his own forces unfaithful, and all assistance from England, France, and Spain withheld, we do not see what he can do but yield to circumstances, and abandon the conflict.

There is very little news from ITALY. Great anxiety prevails at Rome as to the final result of the English "Ecclesiastical Title Bill." It is ascertained that ecclesiastics of rank now begin to regret that the question was ever mooted, and fear that

they will lose more by it in a political point of view than they will gain in a religious one. The GERMAN question will probably settle down to the restoration of the old Diet, and this mode of doing it has certainly one great and palpable advantage. It is consonant to the treaties existing with other States, and seems agreeable to the views of their Governments. The Anglo-French protest against the admission of the entire Austrian Empire into the Bund appears to have excited some movement in the Russian Cabinet. Russia is said to express no objection to the incorporation, but that the present circumstances should not be lost out of consideration. The Russian Cabinet seems to remain firm to its own purposes, nor suffers itself to be diverted from them by foreign considerations. Under present circumstances Russia advises Austria to abstain from urging the admission of all her provinces into the Bund, and to comply with Prussia's demand for a return to the old Diet. But for this it is thought that Austria would not have yielded on these two points, or even temporarily on the first. Vienna letters of the 8th instant state that the army in Italy is to be increased to 200,000 men. The 9th division, now at Verona, is about to march into Italy. Rumors of a revolutionary spirit at Berlin; the Prussian Government, it is said, give way to a commission under Count Armin Bismarck, with the Barons Bodelschwingh and Usedom for the Home and Foreign affairs. The English and French ambassadors had both signified their intention of withdrawing from the Frankfurt Diet if the Austrian annexation scheme was proceeded in. The reply to the last Prussian note to the Austrian Cabinet had been received by the former, and was considered as quite satisfactory, and a return to the old confederation appears to be agreed upon by all parties.

A good understanding again subsists between the Porte and Egypt. A stir is again making about establishing a more certain and convenient communication between Alexandria and Cairo, and from Cairo to Suez. A railroad is proposed between the former places, respecting which a letter from Alexandria says:

"The Alexandria station is to be placed at the Mahmoudieh gate, the centre of the commercial movement. From that spot the line is to proceed between the two lakes of Elku and Maryout, and parallel to that of Mahmoudieh. It is afterwards to branch off, and join the canal which facilitates the province of Bahari. This railway, following the line of the two principal canals, will have any great obstacles to encounter. There are no tunnels to excavate or cuttings to make, but it will find an inconvenience quite unknown in Europe, and that is the Kanpin, the wind of the desert, which arrives charged with sand, and which leaves each and every building in a state of complete desolation, interrupted by visitations of the kind. But there is a means of guarding against it, for experience proves that this wind, which generally lasts fifty days, is stopped, as if miraculously, by the interposition of alys of trees. It is in consequence intended to plant long rows of wild fig trees, which grow perfectly well in the soil. From Cairo to Suez, the railway would appear to present greater difficulties; for there is no intention at present to execute a line between those two places. The present mode of travelling across the Isthmus has been much improved. Fair-Edin-Pacha has the superintendence of the whole way; he has had inscribed certain suitable distances, where relays of horses, camels, provisions, and, above all, water, are found in abundance. At Suez, a very comfortable hotel is to be found, kept by M. Coulomb, a native of Provence, and formerly head cook to Mehmet Ali. There is also a very good hotel at Alexandria, and another at Cairo."

Regarding the communication between Cairo and Suez the same letter says:

"Is this distance to be crossed by a canal? Such a communication has been from the earliest times the dream of all the most powerful kings, and the trace of a canal, which extended between Suez and Farama in the Mediterranean, is still to be seen in the narrow valley called Sabah-Biar. In the reign of Louis Philippe, three commissions of engineers—one of Austrians, one of French, and a third of English—were named to examine the possibility of constructing such a canal as could carry vessels from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean. Noting some of their surveys, probably on account of the jealousy existing between these different corps. Mr. Stephenson arrived here a short time since on a similar mission. He is in favor of remarking the canal of the Ptolemies, which was directed, not towards the Mediterranean, but towards the Nile, at Memphis. But, according to the French commission, the Red Sea is from the Mediterranean, and the Mediterranean, and fourteen feet higher than the highest water of the Nile. In consequence it will be necessary to make a railway. Grand ideas have been conceived on this matter—as, for instance, to tow the vessels on the railway, and then to launch them into the waters on the other side."

There is a rumor from the Cape of Good Hope that Sir HARRY SMITH had defeated the insurgent Caffres with great slaughter. From NEPAUL the news is, that JUNG BAHADUR, the Nepalese ambassador to England last year, had narrowly escaped from a plot laid by some of his relations and rivals in the Durbar for his assassination. Pici Ibrahim Sahib Bahadour, the British agent at Behaveetpoor, is now on his way to Europe and the Great Exhibition, and the Peninsular and Oriental company have advertised an additional steamboat for the conveyance of persons from India to England on that occasion. A valuable and extensive seam of coal has been discovered at Motanau, about forty miles north of Port Cooper, on the east coast of the Southern Island of New Zealand. The seam is about a mile and a half long, by eighteen to thirty-six inches in thickness. This discovery will be of great value to the colony.

APRIL 18.
This is Good Friday, and there is a general pause in business of all kinds. The stock market closed last night for the Easter holidays. Consols closed at 97½ for money, and 97½ for the account. The prices of stocks on the Paris Bourse at the close last night, were 5 per cent, 92½ 25 cts, 3 per cent, 57½. Bank shares, 2,100.
The news from the Continent is contradictory as respects Germany. A council of Ministers is said to have been held at Paris on Wednesday, to deliberate on the serious question of the entrance of Austria, with all her States, into the German Confederation, a proceeding which Austria has not yet, it is said, abandoned. The French Government decided to renew its protests on the subject, but without departing from the moderate policy which it had adopted in concert with England. On the other hand, letters from Berlin, dated 15th, state that "the question of the incorporation of the non-German States is to be decided by Austria, in relation to the Kaffir war, is altogether unimportant; but, so far as it goes, it shows that the insurgents have the worst of it."

FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.
PARIS, APRIL 17, 1851.
The National Assembly adjourned on Tuesday last for the Easter holidays. It will meet again on the 24th—next Thursday. Previous to the adjournment it gave no index other than that gathered from the debate on the 11th of its intentions with regard to the new Ministry. You may probably have received by Telegraphic despatch (forwarded from Paris on the 10th, after the closing of the mail by which my letter was sent) an announcement of the names of the new Parliamentary Ministers. It met in the Assembly on the 11th, and since then in the press, a cold but not positively hostile reception. Early on the 11th the new Minister of the Interior, M. LEON FAUCHER,

who is the leading member of the new Cabinet, took the tribune and read the little stereotyped speech by which all new Ministers profess their attachment to the country, their love of order, and respect for the law, in which they intended to persist themselves, and to make others persist. He trusted that to this end he would be supported by the concurrence of the Assembly, and by the sympathy of the country. The moment that he descended from the tribune M. SAINT-BAVE, the mover of the famous resolution known by his name, passed on the 18th January, took his place, and calling the attention of the Assembly to the fact that the new Ministry was composed of the most important and influential of the members of the Cabinet struck at by the resolution of 18th January, he declared "that in the parliamentary history of France and of Europe it was impossible to find an instance of such an audacious defiance thrown at a great Assembly." He continued: "The men who compose the Cabinet now before you are the men you had before you on the 18th January last. Their policy is the same. Their opinions are the same. Their tendencies are the same." And he concluded by moving the same resolution that was then passed, viz:

"The National Assembly persists in its resolution of the 18th January, which is thus conceived: 'The Assembly orders that the Ministers, and passes to the order of the day.'"

M. SAINT-BAVE certainly had logic, consistency, reason, on his side. The Ministry of the 10th of April was less acceptable, and more obnoxious to all the reproaches which prevailed against it than the Ministry overthrown by the vote of January. MM. BAROCH, ROCHER, and FOULY were back again in person, fortified by LEON FAUCHER, whose political tendencies, who is a man of more ability perhaps than any of his colleagues, and who had himself, Minister of M. BONAPARTE the 15th May, 1849, been struck by the Constituent Assembly with an almost unanimous vote of censure (519 to 5) for a ministerial act of the same character with those reproached by the vote of January. It is impossible to conceive how the majority of 18th January could have refused to revoke the Saint-Bave resolution. But they did so refuse. Some eighty members, mostly of the Legitimist party, refused to vote. The result was a rejection of Saint-Bave's resolution, and the passage of the order of the pure and simple by a vote of 327 to 275. Berryer, Jules Lasteyrie, Thiers, Lanjumeau, Changarnier, Dufaure, Duméril, de Hauranne, Lamarine, de Maleville, Ruvier, Larochefoucauld were in the list of those who refused to vote. The whole Left, with a few consistent individuals of the Right, persisted in the censure of 18th January. The position of parties at the present moment in the House is extremely difficult to define. Questions, however, will very shortly come up that will make it more distinct. There are signs that the fear of the triumph of the Democrats has operated a temporary alliance between the Bonapartists and a notable portion of the Legitimists and Orleanists. A company, composed of Guizot, Duchatel, de Levis, and other *fusionists*, have just purchased the journal *l'Assemblée Nationale*. Its end is the restoration of the elder Bourbon family. In the mean time, it is understood to be in favor of the revision of the constitution and re-election of M. BONAPARTE. But all this will avail nothing unless the constitution be summarily set aside. The firm body of the Left, 250 in number—that is to say, 62 more than is sufficient to prevent legal revision—will not consent to move one step toward revision unless universal suffrage be restored. If by restored, the constitution will be revised legally, but by a constituent assembly ultra democratic. We will not have to wait long now ere we know what course things will definitely take.

The three individuals, Denham, Vismaitre, and Besnard, accused of theft, robbery, and breach of confidence, who had fled to the United States, and lately been delivered up to this Government by virtue of the treaty of extradition, were brought to trial in Paris a few days ago. The counsel of the accused, Vismaitre, maintained that the terms "robbery," "burglary," specified in the treaty, did not include the offence charged; that he had been therefore arrested without law; that he had never lost the benefit of the law of nations, and should be discharged. The court overruled the objection, and the trial was proceeded with. The female, Besnard, was acquitted; Vismaitre and Denham were convicted. The former has been sentenced to the hulks for fifteen years; and the latter to six years *reclusion*, (confinement with hard labor.) Madame de Caumont, the lady whose house in Paris was rifled, stated to the court, upon the trial, that her former estimate (\$10,000) of the value of the property made away with by the accused was much too small. It amounted at the very least, she said, to 70,000 francs, (\$140,000).

I notice in a bill of particulars attached to a bill lately introduced into the Assembly, asking appropriations for expenses of criminal justice, &c., the following item connected with the above affair:

"Expenses touching the extradition of three accused individuals, advanced by the Consul-General of France in the United States, to be reimbursed, £10,568.04."

If extradition by virtue of international treaties is in all cases so expensive, application of treaties will be seldom on record.

On Monday the Assembly voted one million two hundred thousand dollars for the completion of the defences of the city harbor, and road of Cherbourg. This military and naval station, within a few leagues of the English coast, and commanding the entrance of the channel, is rightly deemed one of capital importance. It is now very strong, but additional expense must be incurred in order to prevent rapid deterioration. All the Governments of France, from Louis XIV. to the present day, have been alive to its importance, in case of war with England. Napoleon called it "an eye to see, and an arm to strike." The round sum of thirty millions of dollars has already been spent in the building up of Cherbourg.

A report just published shows that the number of despatches transmitted by the electric telegraph during the first month of its establishment (March) was 301, producing an aggregate receipt of \$606. It is not stated how many of these despatches were forwarded by Government. There would be, say, I fancy, to constitute a large proportion of the 301. During the first two weeks the receipts did not exceed \$60. It would appear, then, that there has been a manifest improvement.

At the sitting of the 7th instant, M. DE TRESSEN communicated to the Academy of Sciences a note describing a mode devised by him of varying the experiment of M. FOUCAULT, by means of which the apparent movement, the measurable velocity, may be double of that in the experiment as exhibited by M. Foucault:

"Suppose," says he, "a rigid bar, suspended at its centre of gravity by an unweighted thread; suppose the bar, relatively to the horizon, in a state of repose, it will have then, like the horizon, a direct rotary movement about the vertical—that is the bar, without departing from the vertical plane which contains it, should operate a movement by which the position of its extremities or ends should be exactly reversed—the absolute amount and direction of the real velocity of each one of the points of the bar about the vertical will not be changed; but, as each point will have changed sides in relation to the vertical, the result will be that the real movement about the vertical will be effected in a direction inverse of what it

was at first; that is to say, it will be retrograde, and will have the same absolute velocity as before. The velocity of the relative movement with regard to the horizon—that is to say, its measurable velocity—will then be double of that of the real movement of that horizon, and equal to the velocity of the bar-hand of a watch, multiplied by the sine of the latitude."

M. FRANCHOT addressed to the Academy a note upon the same subject. His idea is to prolong indefinitely, by means of clock-work, the vibrations of the pendulum used in the experiment of M. Foucault. The published minutes of the proceedings of the Academy do not describe the mechanism, which would be difficult to understand without the aid of diagrams. Suffice it to say, that a clock-work is contained in the interior of the sphere of the pendulum; and that the apparatus, having in certain respects the appearance of a pendulum Breguet, differs from it in the essential part that it receives an impulse absolutely independent of the direction of the first oscillation. When this note was read, M. FAYE remarked that M. Franchot's notion of effecting, by means of internal clock-work, a periodical displacement of the centre of gravity, and thus prolonging the oscillations of the pendulum, was communicated to him by M. Foucault himself some time ago, at the very commencement of the experiments made at the Observatory. The Academy ordered a reference of the notes of MM. de Tressen and Franchot to a special committee, composed of Messrs. Babinet, Pouillet, and Despretz.

I ought, perhaps, to have said in my last, in order to complete the description of M. Franchot's mechanism, that the clock-work which he proposed to use, was to be composed of 18 million of teeth (0.05005 inch) in diameter, and that, though the top of the tower of the Pantheon is, as mentioned, 208 feet above the level of the sea, the place, this wire, stretching from the interior highest point of the dome to within two or three feet of the marble floor, is only 320 feet in length.

Capt. BOWMAN, of the French Navy, Commissary of the Republic at the Island of Tahiti, had the delicious idea of sending one of his subordinates to Honolulu, (Sandwich Islands,) for the purpose of observing there the total eclipse of the sun of the 4th August, 1850. M. ARAGO, to whom the report of the observations made upon that occasion was forwarded, submitted it on the 7th instant to the Academy. The illustrious astronomer announced his intention to compare these observations, point by point, with those of the total eclipse of 1842, and afterwards to make public the clear and precise consequence which he might deduce from the comparison.

M. BLOT, in the name of the section of Astronomy, presented the following list of candidates for the vacant place in that section: M. Charles, singly, in the first rank; MM. Bertrand and Blanchet, *ex æquo*, in the second rank; MM. Herminet, Osmont Bonnet, Puisseux, Serret, *ex æquo*, in the third rank. The vacant seat was that formerly occupied by M. LIARIS, the unworthy member convicted of robbing several of the public libraries of France, and who was compelled, by the discovery of his thefts, to fly from France in March, 1848. Of the above named candidates for the honor of succeeding him the French Academy of Sciences, M. CHARLES has been elected by a vote of 48 votes out of 55.

The French papers are publishing an extract from the "Travels in France" of Arthur Young, in 1787, to prove that the original invention of the Electric Telegraph belongs to France. It would seem that one M. Loxson, an ingenious French mechanic, had an electric telegraph in operation between distant apartments of his house upon the occasion of Mr. Young's visit to Paris in the year above mentioned.

At the sitting of the Academy of Sciences on last Monday, M. MORIN, Director of the Conservatory of Arts and Trades in Paris, read a paper intended to prove that the invention of the steam locomotive also belongs to this country, being due to an engineer named Cugnot. His locomotive, destined for ordinary roads, was constructed in 1770, and deposited at the Conservatory in 1801. The machine was intended to convey four persons, and moved at the rate of six miles per hour. Trials were had in presence of the Duke of Choiseul and the then Minister of War, which gave so much satisfaction that a new engine upon a larger scale was ordered by Government to be built at Strasbourg. The machine was in fact constructed, and now exists at the Conservatory. The troubles of the revolution came on, and it was forgotten. Yours, &c.

OFFICIAL.

INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, MAY 9, 1851.

Postmasters, in making their quarterly returns, are strictly required to fill the blanks at the head of each page of their accounts of mails received and sent, and carefully to add each and every column of said accounts. They will then recapitulate the amount of each column on a blank page of the account; as to enable the Auditor to report quarterly the aggregate amount of such columns.

In view of the great increase in the number of letters to be mailed, and of the consequent increase of labor in post offices likely to be produced by the law passed at the last session of Congress "reducing the rates of postage," &c., in view also of the fact that, by reducing the number of packages required to be made under the existing rule of distribution, the labor of making up the mails can be materially diminished, it is thought proper to adopt the following regulations.

It is THEREFORE ORDERED, that on and after the first day of June, 1851, the following be substituted in place of the 81st regulation, as published in the "Post Office Laws and Regulations," edition of 1847:

POSTMASTERS will carefully assort the letters deposited in their offices for mailing, and will mail them as follows, to wit:

1st. Every Postmaster in the New England States will mail, and postbill direct to the place to which they are addressed, all letters for post offices in his own or any other New England State. Every other postmaster will mail and postbill direct to the place addressed in letters for post offices in Territory; and all postmasters will mail and postbill direct all letters for post offices in other States and Territories, which should not pass through a distributing office on their proper route to the office of delivery. Every postmaster will also postbill and mail direct all letters on which the instruction "mail direct" shall be written.

2d. Letters not required by the foregoing provisions to be mailed direct, shall be postbilled and mailed to the distributing office through which they should first pass on the proper route to the place of their destination—unless the mailing office be a distributing office.

3d. All letters received at a distributing office for distribution, or deposited therein for mailing, and which are addressed to places within the State or Territory where such distributing office is situated, or to places not more than one hundred miles distant from such distributing office, or the proper route to the office of delivery, shall be mailed direct; but if the office of delivery is more than one hundred miles from such distributing office, and the letters should properly pass through one or more distributing offices, they shall be mailed and postbilled to the last distributing office through which they are to pass on their route to the office of delivery.

(Further instructions as to the mailing of letters of which special accounts are required, will be addressed to, and affect only, the distributing offices.)

4th. Each package containing letters mailed and postbilled direct should be plainly directed on the outside with the name of the office to which it is to be sent, and of the State in which such office is situated.

Packages containing letters for distribution should be plainly directed in the same manner, with the addition of the letters "D. P. O." (for Distributing Post Office) after the name of the office.

5th. Every Postmaster, Special Agent, or other officer of the Department, will report to the Postmaster General each master shall, after the first day of June next, have so mailed letters as to subject them to more distributions than are authorized by the foregoing instructions.

Postmasters are notified that the post offices at Cleveland, Ohio, and Richmond, Virginia, have been made distributing offices from the first day of June next; and that the offices of Cumberland Gap, Kentucky, Hunter, Tennessee, Virginia, will not be discontinued.

N. K. HALL

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