

Egypt .....	46,505
Hanseatic Towns ....	20,593
France .....	3,374
Denmark .....	2,958
Hanover .....	2,452
Tuscany .....	713
Australia .....	81
Sardinia .....	58
Malta and Gozo .....	55
United States of America...	30
West Indies .....	8
Channel Islands (for. flax)...	2

Total..... 1,822,918

The relative importance of flax-cultivation and its subsequent conversions, in each country of Europe, may be seen by the following imports:—

Great Britain and Ireland } imported, in 1851.....	59,709	£2,985,450
France.....	18,563	932,106
The Zollverein States.....	11,882	494,000
Belgium .....	4,562	260,600
Total imported by the four countries .....	94,716	£4,772,156

In round numbers, therefore, the United Kingdom annually works up of foreign flax, the value of £3,000,000, while the other three States' aggregate consumption amounts to £1,750,000: of this quantity, Russia, it will be seen, furnishes by far the largest portion.

#### The Exportation of Flax.

Belgium takes precedence as a flax-exporting country, and her largest customers are the United Kingdom and France. The latter country generally consumes from fifty to one hundred per cent. more of Belgian flax than we do, as she requires the finest quality of material for her exceptional kind of goods. The quantity, however, of the French and our own importations, were nearly equal, in 1851; the one amounting to 5,656 tons against 5,290 tons. Other countries took about 123 tons of the Belgian flax; while the value of the exports from the United Kingdom amounted to £172,866:—

The Zollverein States ex- } ported, in 1851.....	10,530	£502,650
Belgium.....	9,127	571,960
Great Britain and Ireland.....	4,979	172,866
France .....	777	41,724
Making the total export of } flax from the four countries }	24,813	£1,289,200

£5,847,680. This is exclusive of the Asiatic Provinces, in which, however, little is produced. With reference to the manufacture of linen, M. T. remarks:—"The material for a web of 2,000 threads, costs, in the government Jaraslow, thirty to forty per cent. dearer than in Belgium. For a web of 3,400 threads, the difference is sixty per cent.; and for a web of 4,200 threads, it is sixty-eight to one hundred and two per cent. The difference increases with the fineness of the fabric, and this difference arises from the cost of labour. Besides the greater cost of hand-spinning over the spinning by machinery, the Russian weavers are paid precisely double the Belgian weavers, while the latter work better and speedier."

#### EXTRACTS

FROM THE ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SOCIETY OF ARTS, NOV. 30, 1861.

#### Mosaic Art.

The simplest form of Mosaic, or what may be regarded as closely allied to that art, is the encaustic tile, which is said to have been in universal use in England from 1300 to 1500, but was not again revived until 1830, when a patent was obtained for the preparation of encaustic tiles, with which the name of Minton has been generally associated, and which have been extensively made by many manufacturers of pottery. The second stage in the revival of the art of mosaic was the invention of Mr. Singer, who sought to produce a perfect imitation of the ancient tessellated pavement of the Romans, by the employment of a very ingenious machine for producing clay properly manipulated in the form of tesserae, or small cubes, uniform in size, colour, surface, and hardness, and which were burnt and partially vitrified. The third stage in the revival was the discovery, by Mr. Prosser, of Birmingham, in 1840, of an improvement which carried one branch of the art to a high point of perfection, and which consisted in subjecting china clay, when reduced to a dry powder, to strong pressure between steel dies, whereby it was converted into a compact substance of much hardness and density, less porous and much harder than porcelain uncompressed and baked in the furnace. This discovery was applied by Mr. Prosser to the production of shirt buttons, and has also been extensively employed for this purpose in France, but was employed by Mr. Blashfield in the formation of tesserae, made for him by Minton, and used with much success in many large works, one of his earliest specimens being the pavement of the hall of this Society, which was jointly presented by Messrs. Blashfield and Minton.

May we not adopt the concluding passages of Mr. Wyatt's paper, and say that the noblest works of antiquity derive much of their beauty from form, much from carving, much from colour, but more from the perfection of industrial arts employed in their construction; and happy it is for this Society to be regarded as the nursing mother of such arts. The applicability of mosaic, as an essential element of decoration, can scarcely need argument. "Its glowing colours would revive our drooping taste for the rich and ornamental, and its imperishability would serve to perpetuate the fact that England once possessed, and cherished a decorative art somewhat more enduring than compe."

#### Programme of Examinations.

The Society's programme of Examinations for 1862, has been published and widely circulated, and supplies ample details for the guidance of Local Educational Boards, as well as of students who may desire that their efforts for self-culture shall be tested by the Society's Examiners. The Council have been authorized to notify the intention of H. R. H. the Prince Consort to offer annually a prize of twenty-five guineas to the candidate who, obtaining a certificate of the first class in the current year, shall have obtained in that year, and the three years immediately preceding it, the greatest number of such certificates. This prize cannot be taken more than once by the same can-