

on the one hand, and the permanent decline of demand from economizing of material and substitution of other fibers for clothing on the other hand, our supplies of cotton, independently of America, are now in excess of the requirements.

They also give the following table:—

Supplies of cotton to the United Kingdom from other countries than the United States, but including latterly small receipts of American cotton from Matamoras and through the blockade:—

	Bales.	
1858	577,000	
1859	744,000	
1860	784,000	
1861	1,194,000	
1862	1,445,000	
1863	1,932,000	
1864	2,600,000	
1865 (estimated)	3,500,000	
	Stocks of Cotton Dec. 2.	
	1863	1864
	Bales.	Bales.
At Liverpool	249,509	383,800
At London	43,500	117,700
At Havre	26,200	61,800
Total	319,200	563,300
		319,200

Increase of stock in 12 months ...244,100

The English Post Office.

The Postmaster-General's report for 1863 shows that the correspondence of the kingdom has risen from about 70,000,000 of letters in 1839 (the last year preceding the introduction of penny postage) to upwards of 640,000,000 of letters in 1863. The tables show that the increase in the number of receptacles for letters throughout the kingdom has increased at the rate of 52 per cent., whilst the inhabited houses throughout the kingdom have increased at the rate of only 8 per cent. The foreign and colonial letters coming into the United Kingdom for delivery are about one-fifth of the whole number of letters delivered, and the letters despatched to foreign countries and colonies are nearly equal in number to those which are received. The most remarkable increase is in the case of France. In 1854, before the reduction of postage thither, the correspondence amounted only to 3,000,000 letters; in 1857 it was 4,206,000; and in 1863 it had reached 6,373,000. It is believed that 15 per cent. of the total number of letters posted in London contain printed enclosures, mostly advertisements.

Coral Fisheries of Italy.

According to a report to the Italian Government the coral fisheries, which are a great resource for the poorer classes, employ 460 boats, manned by about 4,000 men. The fishing implements, pay of the men, board of the crew, etc., absorb annually about 6,000,000 francs, distributed among more than 6000 persons of different professions. About 160 tons of coral are annually introduced into the kingdom of Italy. The articles made of it and exported are to the value of from 12,000,000 to 16,000,000 francs yearly, principally sent to Asia, the interior of Africa and America.

South Australia.

The population of South Australia is now 140,416. It possesses 50,008 horses, 226,166 horned cattle, and 3,891,642 sheep. It produced last year 4,691,918 bushels of wheat, and 606,565 gallons of wine. Its exports amounted to £2,738,226, and its imports to £2,062,448. The revenue of the colony is expected to realize this year £672,000.

Miscellaneous.

Pneumatic Dispatch and Telegraphy.

Recently a pneumatic dispatch apparatus was tried in Manchester in connection with telegraphy. Owing to the increase of their business in Manchester, the Electric and International Telegraph Company has lately taken extensive premises in York street, and opened a central station there. In order to facilitate the rapid dispatch of messages from the branch offices at Ducie Buildings (Royal Exchange) and No. 1 Mosley street, it has been deemed advisable to connect these offices with the central station by means of the pneumatic system, the same as is adopted by the company in London and Liverpool. Between the branch offices above mentioned and the central station leaden pipes with an inside diameter of 1½ inches have been laid down under the streets. The leaden pipes are made perfectly air tight, and are inclosed in 2-inch iron pipes to protect them from being damaged. At the central station there is fixed in the basement a small high-pressure beam engine, and connected with it a double-action air pump, 17 inches in diameter and 15 inch stroke. The pump is continually at work exhausting the air from a cylinder 8 feet long and 4 feet in diameter, which is styled the vacuum cylinder. The pipes which pass under the streets from the branch offices are terminated in the instrument room on the top floor of the building, and the pipes from the vacuum cylinder are also carried to the same place, and they can be put in connection by simply opening a valve. The carriers which travel through the pipes are made of gutta percha covered with felt. They are about five inches long and of a diameter nearly equal to that of the pipe. They are hollow inside for the purpose of containing the messages. Electric bells are employed to give the necessary signals for the working of the pipes.—When the officials at the Ducie Buildings office wish to send a "carrier" they place one in the mouth of the pipe and signal the central station by ringing its bell. The clerk in attendance at the latter place by moving a small lever, puts the pipe in communication with the vacuum cylinder. The air in the pipe then rushes into the vacuum cylinder, and the "carrier," having the ordinary atmospheric pressure behind it, is propelled through at a speed of from 35 to 40 miles an hour. On the arrival of the "carrier" at the central station it strikes against a spring buffer, which, by a simple self-acting contrivance, cuts off the communication between the pipe and vacuum cylinder, and the carrier falls from the valve on to a counter prepared to receive it. To send a "carrier" from the Mosley-street office the action is precisely the same. By using a second chamber, and compressing air into it, a force is