

## FOREIGN.

## The New Crystal Palace at Sydenham.

On Thursday last the first column of the new Crystal Palace was erected, amidst the acclamations of a large and very respectable company. The scenery around the spot chosen is very beautiful, and the site presents facilities and opportunities which, it is expected, will be made good use of by those who have charge of the undertaking.

The company present included many illustrious in rank, science, literature, and commercial rank, and letters of apology, regretting their absence, were read from some of the most distinguished persons in the country.

At half-past two o'clock, the visitors, guided by a programme which had been delivered to them, assembled round the spot where the pillar of the palace was to be planted; and shortly afterwards a procession advanced, preceded and marshalled by Mr. Harker, the toastmaster. Six workmen, bearing a large and handsome banner, inscribed "Success to the Palace of the People," were followed by Mr. Laing, M.P. (the Chairman of the Crystal Palace Company), Mr. F. Fuller, and the other directors. The column was immediately raised and inserted in its socket, three young lads assisting in the operation. A bottle was deposited under the pillar, containing the coins of the realm, and a paper bearing the following inscription:—

This Column, the first support of the Crystal Palace, a building of purely English Architecture, designed for the reception and instruction of The Million, was erected on the 5th day of August, 1852, in the 10th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, by Samuel Laing, Esq., M.P., Chairman of the Crystal Palace Company. The original structure, of which this column forms a part, was built, after the design of Sir Joseph Paxton, by Messrs. Fox, Henderson, & Co., and stood in Hyde Park, where it received the contributions of all Nations, at the World's Exhibition, in the Year of our Lord 1851.

"I, your glass,  
Will more fully discover to yourself  
That of yourself which yet you know not of."

The new building, which is expected to be finished by the 1st of May, 1853, will differ in many important respects from the old. In consequence of the great fall in the park in which it will be situated, an additional story will be necessary in front, which will have the effect of remedying a defect in the old structure,—the want of elevation, as compared with its vast length. A slight curtailment of length will also be made, although the area of ground covered will be equal to that occupied by the Hyde-park building. The centre transept will be extended into a semi-circular roof of 120 feet diameter; and two smaller transepts will be placed towards the ends of the building. The centre transept will be nearly 200 feet in height, and 120 in width; those at the sides 150 feet high, and 72 wide. The columns and girders, instead of falling so rapidly towards the extreme end, and thereby preventing the spectator from arriving at a conception of the extent of the building, will not now keep the same line as before, but every 72 feet pairs of columns, 21 feet apart, will advance 8 feet into the nave, and from these columns will spring arched girders 8 feet deep, in lattice work of wrought iron, which support the girders of the roof. These advancing columns, tied together, will form groups of pillars like those in a gothic cathedral, and occurring at every 72 feet down the nave, will furnish to the eye a means of measuring which it had not before. The ends of the building will extend into large wings, attached to one of which will be the railway station, and these wings will terminate in lofty glass towers. The area in front will be laid out in terraces and gardens, interspersed with statues, fountains (one of which will rise to the height of upwards of 200 feet), and temples, and adorned by a choice collection of plants, shrubs, and flowers.

One of the most conspicuous and attractive sections will be that of Ethnology. No museum has yet ever attempted to show models of the different varieties of the human race, together with their national costumes, their domestic and agricultural implements, their armour, their dwellings, their modes of conveyance, and other characteristic objects appertaining to them. But, under the guiding direction and personal superintendence of such an eminent ethnologist as Dr. Latham, no fears are entertained but that all these will one day ornament the compartments of this noble building, and that a very large proportion of a complete collection will be ready by the opening.

It is intended to arrange the growing plants in such a manner as to show what are the peculiarities which mark the Flora of different parts of the world. To this end the surface of our globe will be divided into regions, or natural provinces, which are each characterized by particular races of animals and vegetables, and all the arrangements of natural objects will tend towards the due illustration of the "countries" (as it were) which nature has mapped out upon our earth, and which she has peopled with the subjects of her three kingdoms.

The ethnological specimens will, therefore, appear near the plants of the region to which they both belong. Close by them will be placed specimens of the most characteristic quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, fishes, mollusca, and insects, which are to be found in the same parts of the

world. All these will be shown in the attitudes most natural to them, and best exemplifying their peculiar habits and dispositions; for which purpose the assistance of the exhibitor of the most life-like stuffed specimens in the Great Exhibition will be obtained. The fish will be preserved on a plan not hitherto tried, that of making them appear to be swimming, in very large glass vessels containing a sufficient quantity of some preservative fluid having the appearance of water. The mollusca will be represented, not by their shell only, but by shells containing models of the animals crawling or swimming in the localities peculiar to them; and in all cases the soil or situation which all these creatures inhabit will be imitated and represented as closely as possible. So that a visitor will find himself surrounded, wherever he goes, by groups of objects, taken from all the three kingdoms of nature; not placed, like museum specimens, "all in a row," but artistically arranged so as to exhibit individual habits and peculiarities to the best advantage; and so associated as to give an accurate idea of the Fauna and Flora of the region they are designed to illustrate. The selection of characteristic examples of the zoological portion has been kindly undertaken by Professor Edward Forbes, Mr. Waterhouse, and Mr. Gould, whose attainments, as naturalists, are too well known to need comment; and the whole will form an extensive series of small collections, illustrating, in a manner never hitherto attempted, the physical geography of the whole world. Such an exhibition, while it cannot fail to be amusing, will be, at the same time, replete with instruction of the soundest character, and afford a clearer insight into the subject of the distribution of plants and animals on the surface of the earth than many months of reading.

It is ultimately intended to exhibit a series of geological illustrations, corresponding to those of physical geography, on a scale which no geological museum can attain, for want of space. Not only will the external appearances of the earth's crust at different places be shown, but also the geological strata of particular portions. Models will be prepared to illustrate mining and quarrying, to show the action and results of volcanoes and earthquakes, and to exhibit geology in its practical bearings with reference to well-sinking, the supply of water tunnelling, &c. The name of Professor Austed will be a sufficient guarantee for the accuracy of execution of these details.

For the present, however, the principal endeavours of the Company are concentrated in bringing out as complete a collection as possible of life-sized restorations of those colossal extinct animals and birds, which we now only know of by their fossil remains. Under the direction of Dr. Mantell, it is confidently believed that a museum of such creatures will be formed which will excite the wonder of every one, and afford little opportunity for disapprobation, even amongst the most scrupulously particular anatomists.

Reference must also be made to another section of the natural history department, which is likely to prove the most useful and commercially valuable portion of the exhibition; though, perhaps, not one of the most attractive. We allude to the collection of raw produce, which is designed to show all the various articles taken from the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms, and applied to ornamental and useful purposes by the skill of man. With this view, the directors invite the assistance of all, in the way of contributions of raw products, either now in use or likely to be brought into use, in the arts and manufactures; and they may reasonably look forward to no distant period to being able to show such a collection of raw materials, conveniently arranged and truly labelled, as shall not only convey an immense amount of useful instruction to the mass, but give a far greater impulse to improvement amongst the manufacturers of Europe than was imparted even by the Great Exhibition of 1851.—*Illustrated London News*.

THE ELECTRIC TIME-BALL IN THE STRAND.—After the satisfactory completion of the requisite arrangements which had been for some time pending between the Electric Telegraph Company and the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich, Mr. Edwin Clark, the Company's engineer, had entrusted to him the construction of the ingenious apparatus for the development of the electric telegraph system, as applied to the regulation of time on a plan for distributing and correcting mean Greenwich time in London and at all the principal ports throughout the United Kingdom every day at one o'clock. The ball that has recently been raised on a pole upon the dome of the Electric Telegraph Company's West-end station, No. 418, Strand, opposite Hungerford-market (similar to the ball which surmounts the Royal Observatory at Greenwich) which is a remarkable object of attraction to all persons passing to and from the west-end to the city, is now completed. It is about 6 feet high and 16 feet in circumference, made of zinc, and painted of a bright red colour, so that it may the more clearly be discerned at a distance, and can with ease accommodate three persons in the interior. It has a broad gilt belt round it, thus having the appearance of a "great globe," and at the extremity of the shaft is a cross, or bright gilded weather vane, with the four points, N. S. E. W.; and below the arms of the Electric Telegraph Company, with their initials, "E. T. C." Many difficulties have been experienced in the completion of this new