

Miscellaneous Selections.

THE "BESSEMER."

The daily journals have already acquainted the public with the fact that the saloon steamer, designed conjointly by Mr. Bessemer and Mr. Reed, crossed from Dover to Calais on Saturday on an official trip, with a large party of scientific and other distinguished men on board. All professions connected directly or indirectly with marine matters were represented on the occasion, so that the peculiar properties of hull outline, machinery, ventilation, and chiefest, of the swinging saloon, might be fully and fairly tested by competent critics. As to the first two items above named, it is not our province to say anything. Great care appears to have been taken to secure the comfort of passengers by special ventilating arrangements for the saloon, as well as for the other parts of the ship. They are somewhat similar to those on board H.M.S. "Assistance." An unusually large number of small syphoned upcasts are provided to carry off foul air from the nethermost parts of the ship. The swinging saloon is specially ventilated by ground glass louvred windows, that extend along each side close to the roof. Although at the time of the passage across, the thermometer in this gorgeous apartment stood only at 65 degrees Fahr., we believe that, for the exigencies of the summer months, further provision for up-casts will have to be made. It is necessary, too, to draw attention to the fact that the stoke-holes were excessively and most unnecessarily hot. The thermometer at the forward door of the aft stokehole (which should serve as down-cast) stood at 96 deg. Fahr., and it is evident that both forward and aft the "plenum" supplies are not sufficient. But all these defects are remediable, and can soon be remedied by the well-known ingenuity of the contractor and his staff. Of Mr. Bessemer's "*spécialité*," the swinging saloon, nothing can be