

1876, in the minds of the Swiss people and others, through an infamous and false translation of a speech made by the Swiss commissioner, Mr. Ed. Favre Perrott, upon his return home. It will be remembered that he came out and denounced the correctness of these American interpretations most indignantly. And notwithstanding the fact, so notoriously published abroad as well as at home, so far as we have been able to see not one word has been said in support of the American translation by any one.

From long experience in handling watches we are prepared to form an opinion of them upon actual merit, and are free to say that the honest and unmistakable merits Waltham watches place them beyond any necessity for overrated and false representations. We do not wish to see attached to them the odor of a patent medicine, whose chief merit consists in the free use of printer's ink. We are willing always to recommend them upon their just merits, but not upon the idea of false representations.

In reference to this matter of charges, and in support of our remarks, as also for the benefit of our readers, we quote from a horological journal published in London, England, some time last year. In alluding to the report issued by the jurors in horology at the Sydney Exhibition, it says:

Although it is an unpleasant task to criticize and question the judgment of what was presumably a jury of experts, the extraordinary character of the report referred to demands further examination. The greater part of it consists of a laudatory description of the factory and mode of manufacture of the American Watch Company; which, as the duties of the jurors did not include an excursion to the United States, clearly can not properly be the result of anything pleaded before them for adjudication. We are not prepared to assert that there are no good features in the American watches, or to grudge the Americans praise for their comprehensiveness of their operations, both in manufacturing and selling; but the beseeching of the Sydney jurors is overdone, and is calculated to awaken distrust and suspicion. We are told that the Americans are the introducers of watchmaking by machinery on the interchangeable system; whereas, watches were in fact made on the interchangeable system by machinery in Switzerland forty years ago, and a few years later in London. The application of the going barrel, the discarding of stop work, a process of enameling which is described, and other about which the jurors can not restrain their admiration, are not new. But to claim as a specialty of the Ameri-

can Watch Company the isochronal adjustment of the balance spring, and the making of the teeth of wheels of an epicycloidal form, is simply mendacious impudence. Their Mr. Fogg certainly deserves the credit given for his invention of the safety pinion, but a compensation balance on the principle of Mr. Wood's, respecting which we shall have more to say further on, was invented by Henri Robert, and described in 1829 in a French scientific paper, published by "La Societe d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale." As the suitability of the lever escapement for the pocket-watch is descanted on in the notice of the American exhibits, it appeared at first sight that the Americans invented this also, but a second reading shows that it is only its adoption which so delights the jurors.

And, strange to say, this was published by the said New York organ, and still drank its tea with its usual complacency. If these remarks, by so high and honorable authority, mean anything at all, they evidently mean just what we are talking about. The intelligent readers of THE WATCHMAKER AND METALWORKER, we believe, will understand this as we do—that there is something "rotten in Denmark." In the June number of THE WATCHMAKER AND METALWORKER we published a report of the watch competition at Melbourne, made by order of the Swiss Government, and which is intended as a reply to the stereotyped claim of the Waltham Watch Company, that it had carried off the first prizes at Melbourne.

In that report it will be seen that the best American watch occupies the fifteenth rank, or the third rank after or below the last Swiss watch. And it is also further observed that all the Swiss watches submitted to the astronomical observatory of Melbourne for test were all cheaper than the American watches, and that the awards granted were bestowed upon all the Swiss manufactures of watches exhibited collectively at Melbourne. Now in view of these facts, says the above authority, "What ought we to think of the American publications announcing that the Waltham Company had obtained a new or a fresh victory over its rivals." As additional proof in justification of our remarks in this article, we refer the reader to the article in our June number of THE WATCHMAKER AND METALWORKER, under the head "Treatment of Swiss Operatives in America." It is also charged in Swiss papers that the agents of the American Watch Company attempted to sell, and perhaps did sell, watches which they represented as

having stood the test, and taken the highest awards, notwithstanding the facts in the case as shown by the authorities referred to in this article. As we have said before, we are only seeking after the truth, and would be pleased to be corrected if in any particular we have erred.

We look with admiration upon the speedy and onward march of the watch-manufacturing interests of our country, and no American can feel greater pride than ourselves in her achievements, but, at the same time, we can not endorse, through the columns of THE WATCHMAKER AND METALWORKER, or in any other manner, falsehoods, knowing them to be so, and boast of any supposed honors obtained through fraud, trickery, or any device apart from honest merit.

### FRAUDS IN JEWELRY.

To apportion accurately the immorality of the public who deceives in the wearing of base jewelry, and of the jewelers who deceive the public with fraudulent jewelry, and the acting and re-acting of the classes on one another, would be a nice question in casuistry. No civilized people wear as much jewelry as the Americans; nor is its use confined to any particular class. It is estimated that \$50,000,000 of capital is invested in the jewelry business. But large numbers convey vague impressions. A more correct idea of its extent lies in such a trifling fact as that one house alone, from the 15th of August to the middle of November, put forth five thousand pairs of bangles. This is simply the fashion of the hour, which at present is tinkling from the Fifth avenue to the Five Points, and which, in turn, will give way to another fleeting fashion, calling suddenly upon the jewelers' immediate resources. It is easy to see how injurious this is to the jewelers' trade. In the first place it interferes with the production of the higher class of work, of those artistic pieces which were formerly handed down as heirlooms. Almost all houses have their private designs. But these it being almost impossible to protect are immediately copied in all grades down to the basest materials. Men employed by unscrupulous houses will copy designs from show windows, and an especially enterprising agent has been known to sketch a particularly choice piece worn by a lady on his laundried cuff. Jewelers can not afford to produce cut work. A striking design must be