

copies through the London agent alone. No difficulties seem to have been experienced in inducing Messrs. Chapman & Hall to undertake the agency for casts and examples in London; and we see no reason why respectable publishing or bookselling firms in provincial towns should not be appointed as local agents. Whether appointed by the Department, or by Messrs. Chapman & Hall, is a matter of no moment; for in either case the increased facilities of obtaining the examples would materially extend the demand for them. This is a point we earnestly recommend to the serious attention of the Department's officers, and feel assured it will repay any amount of trouble taken in bringing the suggestion into operation.

The completion of our review, and touching one or two points in the management with which we may be less contented, must form another article. —*Mechanics' Magazine.*

PROGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Notwithstanding the number of days in the last week on which no work was done, partly on account of the national mourning, and partly in consequence of the Christmas holidays, the progress made is very apparent, and may be pronounced to be highly satisfactory. So far has the building now advanced, that it is beginning to assume an air of completeness, which promises well for the easy fulfilment of the contract within the appointed time.

The eastern dome is no longer a cause of anxiety; all the ribs are in their places; three of them are entirely finished, and the others only want the top jointings; in a short period it may be expected to be ready for the glaziers. All the wood-work of the lower portion is fixed, and only waits to be boarded to be protected from the weather. The brickwork of the great arch over the entrance, which has a span of about 80 feet, is completed.

It may be seen that the dome scaffold at the western end of the nave has a somewhat different appearance to its fellow before the raising of the ribs. This is owing to the arrangements which have been made to fix the ribs, which are different from those on the opposite scaffold, and promise an easier and more speedy accomplishment of that object. The brick arch over the western end is also finished, and the arrangements for fixing the ribs being completed, the task itself will soon commence.

The flooring has been carried over the whole of the south-eastern and south central courts; this portion of the work proceeds with a rapidity which is truly marvellous. Visitors can now walk on dry plank flooring over the whole of the southern courts, as well as the long corridors underneath the picture galleries. The offices underneath the smaller or water-colour galleries are also fast approaching completion, so that the staff of her Majesty's Commissioners will soon be enabled to transact business in the building itself when it may be determined to be more convenient to do so.

The brickwork of the refreshment courts has been executed in cement, and will not be affected by the frost. It is nearly finished. The joiners and carpenters works are also in a forward state, and there seems no reason why the structural portions should

not be completed with the rest of the building, although such a condition does not form part of the contract of Messrs. Kelk and Lucas. The plastering and decorations will take some longer time. A suggestion has been made that Messrs. Minton should floor the part which forms the entrance to the horticultural gardens with tiles, for the making of which they have obtained so deservedly high and wide-spread a reputation.

Some experiments have been commenced in the nave for colouring the interior, and are still in progress. They are under the direction of Mr. Octavius Hudson, who has obtained so much credit for his works in Salisbury, Ely and Chester Cathedrals, and who is known for his great learning on coloured decoration. It is obvious that as there are large surfaces in the present building which did not exist in the building of 1851, a very different system of colouring will be required, as great quantities of the primitive colours, suitable enough for thin lines, would be inappropriate here.

The acceptances of space are being fast returned from British exhibitors; no less than 2,500 have been received since Saturday last. It is expected that the total number will reach 8,000.

The method adopted for the production of the Illustrated Catalogue appears to be received with favour; many pages have already been taken by exhibitors for the more detailed descriptions and illustrations of their goods.

The Imperial Commission at Paris has issued its 24th bulletin by which it appears that the detailed plans for the arrangement of space are completed. Exhibitors are requested to act, as far as possible, in concert, in order to render the whole exhibition as harmonious and effective as possible. Many of the French exhibitors, after complaining of the smallness of the space allotted to them, and after obtaining twice that allotment, now state that they will be unable to fill even the space originally placed at their disposal. Such a course of conduct threatens to disarrange entirely the plans of the Imperial Commission, who may be put to great inconvenience to induce fresh exhibitors to come forward and fill the vacant spaces. French goods are to be delivered at the railway stations by the 10th of March under the penalty of having the space destined for them transferred to others. —*Journal of the Society of Arts.*

THE LIME LIGHT AT THE SOUTH FORELAND.

Five-and-thirty years ago Lieutenant Drummond brought into notice the oxyhydrogen light, and applied it to a practical purpose. Having been appointed to conduct the Ordnance survey in Scotland and Ireland, he used this light in focus of a parabolic reflector on lofty eminences, where the stations were usually placed, as it was of the greatest importance in those operations to have certain and determinate signals, which could be seen, under any circumstances as to weather, at great distances. Thus he succeeded in connecting the shores in England and Ireland, near Holyhead, a distance of 65 miles, and afterwards, in Scotland, the summit of Ben Lomond with that of Knock Layd, no less than 95 miles apart. It did not escape the comprehensive mind of Drummond to perceive that such a light, if capable of