

**SCOTCH DYE WORKS.**

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The principal Exhibition this Spring is worth visiting; I saw it under favourable conditions it is true, for the temperature registered 70 in the shade, and the sun was in an obliging frame of mind. Under such circumstances it is very pleasant to sit out in the really pretty grounds at Chelsea and listen to the band, although, it must be confessed, that those of the party to which I belonged, who had been visitors to the great Shows at South Kensington during past years, thought regretfully of Lieut. Dan Godfrey and his merry men, for the Exhibition Band is not quite all that might be desired. But the Sailories is a delightful place to spend a few hours in, even if one is not enthusiastically interested in guns, ancient and modern (from a queer "peterara" of the time of Edward IV down to the huge model of that exceedingly doubtful weapon, the 110 ton gun), torpedoes, and other engines of destruction. The models of ships are all delightful, from those of the old three-deckers, the veritable "wooden walls" of England, to the beautifully finished models of the latest additions to our fleet, to be found in Lord Armstrong's Gallery. There is something that makes the heart of even the most unsentimental and phlegmatic of Englishmen throb with a certain patriotic pride, as he wanders through the galleries named after our greatest Admirals, and sees the relics of scores, ay, hundreds of glorious British victories, from the wooden Cap of Liberty taken from the mast head of the French frigate *Cléopâtre*, captured off Ushant in the year 1793, to the bullet which deprived England of her greatest hero. A couple of hours can be profitably spent examining the pictures, amongst which may be found several fine Vanderveldtes, and a set of portraits by Sir Peter Lely, which gain an additional interest from the fact that they were mentioned by gossiping Mr. Pepys.

Public interest seems to centre chiefly in the full-sized model of the *Victory*, but to one who is acquainted with the old ship herself as she lies peacefully at her moorings in Portsmouth Harbour, the imitation article is somewhat disappointing, and the ghastly wax-work representation of Nelson's death in the cock-pit is decidedly in bad taste, although it may be appreciated by a certain section of visitors. The mock battle on the diminutive lake between two model ironclads partakes of the ludicrous, although the crowd watches it with the greatest interest. The two little vessels wobble round the pond in a positively comic way, popping at each other in a futile sort of manner, but the destruction of the torpedo boats, and the blowing-up and surrender of one of the ships is quite realistic on a small scale, and much delights the on-lookers. The best part of the Exhibition in my opinion is the cutlass drill gone through by seventy-two Blue Jackets from H. M. S. *Excellent*. Sturdy

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brown-faced fellows they are, and they march past to the tune of *Nancy Lee* with a swing and regularity pleasant to watch. After their cutlass drill is over they bring out three brightly polished guns and unlimber and fire them with the greatest speed and precision, replace imaginary broken wheels, and then, supposing themselves to be forced to retire by the enemy, they disable and unmount their guns and retreat to the furthest corner of the arena where they pose themselves picturesquely on the wheels, &c. They finally "limber up" at the word of command with the same alacrity and march off the ground. A very good lunch is obtainable for two and sixpence in the "gun room," and still better in the "ward room," and the "captains room" for rather more money, while tea and light refreshments are to be had at the famous sign of "The Old Blue Posts."

All London is still raving about the "play without words" at the Prince of Wales's, and this very pretty theatre is crowded nine times a week with an appreciative audience. It is undoubtedly a wonderful piece of acting, and, although Mdle. Jane May is the greatest favourite with the London play-goers, I think personally that the performance of M. Courtes as "Pierrot" *pire*, and Mdle. Zanfretta as the fascinating *blanchisseuse* are equally meritorious. Judging from what I hear we are likely to be surfeited with dumb-show plays before long. Amongst others Miss Norreys has one entitled *Moonflowers* in preparation, but I very much doubt whether any English Company can hope to rival the representatives of *L'Infant Prodigue*, for the Gallic nation is naturally given to much gesture, whereas gesticulation of any kind is entirely foreign to the average Briton, and his attempts at pantomime are stiff and inexpressive.

POLIX.—Fruit stains of long standing on white goods, or fresh stains that refuse to yield to ordinary treatment, may be removed by dipping into a very weak solution of chloride lime, and spread in the sun or on the grass, if possible, to bleach. As soon as the stains disappear, rinse thoroughly, as the lime is apt to injure the fabric. Use soft water both in making the solution and in rinsing afterward.

COOKIE.—Boiled eggs, to slice nicely, should be put over the fire in cold water, and should remain fifteen minutes after the water begins to boil, and allowed to cool in the same water. If cooled by dropping them into cold water they peel smoothly.

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