

ENGLISH BANKERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FEW things are better calculated to give an idea of the ubiquity of the British race than to look over a list of bankers and exchange dealers in the principal cities of the world. Formerly, as we all know, Jews had a virtual monopoly of this business, and Jewish firms still maintain a leading position as the great financiers of Europe. Now, however, travel almost where we will, we find some firm, or individual, to whom the English language is the native tongue, ready to exchange our moneys, receive our remittances, and transmit to its destination, no matter where that may be, whatever funds we desire to send. The commerce of Great Britain is taking more and more the lead of the world, and as commerce leads to travel, and the two together tend to bind nations into a common amity, we find everywhere established in foreign lands, the English merchant and the English money changer living at peace with his neighbours, and conforming as far as he can, to the habits and modes of living prevalent around him. Let us take a few instances, to illustrate our general statement.

In France, it is of course to be expected, that we should find English bankers, and in Paris, there are nearly as many of these as of native houses. The same remark applies to Marseilles. At Bayonne, on the Spanish border, a Mr. Graham carries on business, at Boulogne, where English *gens* congregate and defy their creditors, Messrs. Adam & Co. can attend to any little matters for them.

In Spain, we find English bankers at Cadiz, Seville, Valencia, not to speak of Gibraltar; and in Portugal, at Lisbon and Oporto.

Italy seems a very favourite field of enterprise, there being no fewer than four English banking firms in Rome, three in Florence, two in Leghorn, and one each in Geneva, Turin, Milan, and Palermo.

These are no doubt largely maintained by the streams of tourists, both English and American, who swarm over Italy in the travelling season, as well as by the many permanent residents of our race who are charmed with the climate, and find a narrow income yield a better maintenance there than in the money-getting lands of the North.

Germany seems to keep her banking business more in her own hands. Only in Berlin, Trieste, Stettin, Lemberg, and Hanover, do there seem to be representatives of British houses, though in the second named there are no less than three.

At Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Bergen, in Holland; Brussels, Belgium; Elsinore, Denmark; Gottenburg, and Stockholm, Sweden; English houses or branches of English banks are to be found. Along with private individuals, the joint stock banks, having their centre in London, have spread their branches over Europe; and in search of fields of enterprise, Turkey, Greece, Moldavia, and the Islands of the Mediterranean have all been explored and occupied. Thus at Adrianople, a Mr. Kerr has an office. At Bucharest, Constantinople, Saloniki, and Galatz, there are branches of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. At Athens, a Mr. Strong is partner in a banking firm. And in the Ionian Islands the Ionian Bank has branches at Cephalonia, Corfu, and Zante. This bank has also a branch at the town of Patras, Greece, where there is also a private English banking firm.

It is in Asia, however, that the largest developments of British banking enterprise are to be found. India is of course well occupied, and some of the largest banks in the world are those having their centre in London or Calcutta, and their branches spread over all parts of Hindostan, to the remotest provinces of the North-West.

English banks are to be found at Beyrout, and Aleppo, in Syria, and at Smyrna and Larika, in Asia Minor. To these cities might be joined Alexandria, Cairo and Suez in Egypt, which though belonging to Africa geographically, are Asiatic in their trade relations. In the rich islands of the Indian Ocean, the lands of spices and diamonds, English trading interests are now paramount. We find accordingly branches of English banks at Batavia, Manila, Hongkong, and Singapore—the latter having no less than six all of which have their centre in London. The island of Ceylon supplies a profitable field of enterprise, there being five banks in Colombo, four in Kandey, and two at Pointe de Galle.

The development of English banking establishments in China and Japan is a matter altogether of the late few years, but it has already attained remarkable proportions. There are ten banks in Hong Kong, of which none are British; there are the same number in Shang-

hai, nine being British. Foochow has two, Miagho one, Nagasaki one, and Yokohama five.

On the continent of AFRICA, we of course find British banks, wherever there are British colonies. Crossing the vast space of Ocean separating the old world from the new, we find the republics of South America and in Mexico occupied by British banking establishments. At Bahia, Maranhão, Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Sul, Santos, and Rio Janeiro, in Brazil, all have branches of London banks. The last is a very fine field of enterprise, being the capital and commercial centre of one of the richest countries in the world, and one with which we hope to have direct trading relations ourselves before long. By-and-by we may see our own Bank of Montreal taking its place amongst the banks of Brazil, and opening an agency in Rio Janeiro. Buenos Ayres, the capital of the Argentine Republic, Callao and Lima, Peru, Monte Video, Uruguay, and various places in New Granada and Venezuela, have all been sought out and occupied.

The London Bank of Mexico and South America seems to have entered on its business in a very enterprising style. It has opened branches at Acapulco, Aguas, Colientes, Durango, Guadalupe, Guanajuato, Matamoros, Mazatlan, Zacatecas, Vera Cruz, Medellin, Monterey, St. Luis Potosi, and at the city of Mexico.

This bank has almost a virgin soil to operate on, so far as organized banking is concerned, and a rich harvest may reward their enterprise, if the country obtains a settled government. It is a little singular that Americans, so jealous of European influence in the politics of this Continent, are so quietly letting the trade and commerce of these Southern republics slip away from them. They are rather fond of imagining themselves to be in the van of commercial enterprise, as well as everything else, but the course of events of late years has not been such as to justify that opinion. Before the war began, the steam navigation of the Atlantic had passed away from the hands of Americans, and it would seem as if 'manifest destiny' intended that they should be chiefly occupied in the internal trade of the vast regions over which their flag floats, while British commerce and banking, like the roll-call of the British drum, continue to spread round the world.

We have noticed these matters, because they offer us a noble example to emulate. We are subjects of the same empire, and heirs to the same qualities which have carried British commerce to all the regions of the globe, and now that relations with our neighbours to the south of us are interrupted by their own act, nothing can be better than to seek out markets for our products wherever such products are in demand. Direct trade should be the motto of Canada from this time forth, both outward and inward.

L'EXTINCTEUR.

THE above is the title of a patent portable fire-engine, which is being introduced into Canada, and signifies, as most of our readers will readily guess, 'the Extinguisher.' This fire-engine consists of a cylindrical metal vessel, of from six to ten inches in diameter, and from two to three feet in height, containing from 2½ to 3½ gallons of liquid. At the bottom of the vessel is a stopcock, with a small India rubber tube and nozzle attached, capable of throwing a stream scarcely as thick as an ordinary geyser quill. In the vessel is a liquid which contains within itself the power of instantaneously checking any combustion with which it may come in contact, and of projecting itself to a distance of from forty to sixty feet according to the size of the machine. It is portable, intended to be carried on the back by means of straps, and is so simple that any one can make use of it. The expense of L'Extincteur is trifling, being only from \$18 to \$25 according to size, and the refilling of it after the first charge is exhausted being only about seventy-five cents. The chief points of value in the use of the Extinguisher may be summed up as the certainty with which fires in their earlier stages, and even after they have attained considerable headway, may be put out, its portability, its simplicity, the distance to which it throws its tiny jet without steam or any other power outside of itself, and the very small amount of liquid used—it being a well known fact that in most conflagrations water causes as much destruction as fire, and in many cases much more.

A trial of L'Extincteur took place in this city last week, which proved very conclusively their serviceableness in any ordinary fire. In the first place, shavings were piled on some boards, and in order to make them really inflammable, they were satur-

ated with coal-oil. They were set on fire, and by the use of three medium sized Extinguishers, the flames were completely extinguished in the space of about three minutes. For a second and more important test, a small wooden shanty had been prepared, filled with sticks and broken boards, mixed with shavings and covered with hay, and upon this were poured two barrels of coal-oil and one of tar. When a match was applied the flames burst forth with great violence almost instantaneously, and so great was the heat that the firemen (of whom in this instance there were six) being unprovided with helmets could not remain sufficiently near the door to throw in their streams. They, however, were able to accomplish this from the rear of the building and in about eight minutes the flames were almost entirely extinguished. There were present at the trial, the Chairman of the Fire and Water Committees and other City Councillors, Mr. Leese of the Water Department, the Chief of Police, and the representatives of several of the leading Insurance Companies, and their universal conclusion was that the test was an unduly severe one, but that the Extinguisher has proved itself to be all that was claimed for it and almost invaluable as a means of preventing the spread of fires in their earlier stages.

We are of opinion that were L'Extincteur brought into general use, we should soon see a decline in the rates of Insurance; and we think Insurance Companies should use all their influence in favour of its introduction, even to making exceptionally low rates for buildings in which it was kept ready for use.

REPORTS ON THE GOLD REGION OF CANADA.

WE have received from a special correspondent in Ottawa the reports of Mr. A. Michel and Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, on the gold region of Canada, as transmitted by Sir W. E. Logan to the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, under date of February 11th, 1893.

We have room at present for little more than the conclusions to which Mr. Michel has arrived. The weight to be attached to his opinions may be judged from the following extract from Sir W. E. Logan's prefatory letter:—

"Mr. Michel, who formerly managed the practical working of gold mines in South America, has now for about three years devoted his attention to the auriferous region on the South East side of the St. Lawrence, in Eastern Canada, and was last season engaged by the Survey to examine such gold-bearing quartz veins on the Chaudière, as had been opened by mining excavations, as well as to collect specimens for analysis."

The following are Mr. Michel's conclusions:—

1. The auriferous deposits which cover a vast region in Lower Canada, in all probability contain, particularly in the valley of the Chaudière, not only considerable areas, whose regular and methodic working on a large scale by hydraulic processes would be remunerative, but also deposits of greater or less richness, and consequently of an exceptional yield.
2. Although the examination of the alluvial gold from the deposits hitherto worked does not permit us to attribute its source to veins of quartz in the immediate vicinity, it is nevertheless established that this alluvial gold is derived from the rocks of the region.
3. The existence of native gold having been established, alike in the veins of the altered Upper and Lower Silurian rocks of the district, the search for gold-bearing veins should not be confined to a few localities, but may be extended with probabilities of success to the whole area occupied by the altered rocks of these two divisions.

Additional Evidence.

The following extract from a letter received by a 'Peterboro' merchant from a leading firm in Oswego, is further testimony in favour of the views already expressed by us regarding the certainty of a market for our barley crop:

"We hear that your farmers will not sow much Barley the coming season, same being doubtful, and having to depend upon the States for a market. The writer saw a good many Masters and Brewers whilst travelling East, a week or two ago, and all said they must have Canada Barley, even if they have to pay the duties themselves. The fact is the trade is growing, the consumption increasing, and we cannot grow enough Barley to supply our own demand. Besides, your Barley makes better malt by 10c to 20c per bushel than our barley; consequently we want your farmers to continue sowing barley on a large scale."