

The Exhibition.

A letter has been received from Mr. J. E. O'Connor, assistant secretary to the Government of India, dated 10th June, acknowledging the receipt of the circular letter sent by the Colonial Secretary in February last to the Governor-General of India, and stating that ten packages had been shipped on board the P. and O. Company's steamer *Mongolia*, containing exhibits to be shown on behalf of the Government of India. The exhibits consist of Moradabad wares of inlaid work, Benares engraved wares of brass, samples of loaf sugar, crystal sugar, tobacco, tea, and silk and cotton fabrics.

An official letter has also been received from Surgeon-Major Biddie, of the Government Central Museum, Madras, stating that a small collection of Indian commercial products would be sent at the cost of the Indian Government, and that, owing to the late date at which the official programme was received, considerable difficulty had been experienced in getting the collection together.

Letters have been received from Captain Mathieu, written at Port Said, at the entrance to the Suez Canal, stating that the official programme had only been received a short time before his departure, and that he was making all haste to be here by the 1st of September, so that the French goods would arrive in time for the opening of the Exhibition. The secretary to the Vienna Committee writes to say that the announcements from persons desiring to exhibit exceeded 300, but that, owing to the ship leaving so soon, only 160 exhibitors were ready: so that the Austrian collection was not so complete as had been hoped for. The Austrian representative, Victor Schonberger, is accompanied by two secretaries, Edward Wilhelm and Carl Pinschos.

The members of the Japanese Commission to the Sydney Exhibition, arrived on 17th instant by the R. M. S. *Siam*, from Yokohama. The following are their names:—Messrs. Sakato Harno, Watanabe Zaniskonn, Murakami Tonshin, Asami Chinga, Condon Teigi, Tamaski Kametaron, Woon-yone Tezaburum, Niro Takeigi, Kobayashi Kinsaburum, Isoya Kentichi, Thibata Mumekich, Araki Sadgiron, Akaba Sadinovi.

Amongst the passengers by the mail steamer for Sydney (says the *Melbourne Age*) was Mr. De Groot, the commissioner appointed by the Government of Holland to represent that country at the forthcoming International Exhibition. Taking advantage of the few hours' detention of the *Siam* at Melbourne, Mr. De Groot visited the Exhibition buildings, and had an interview with Mr. Levey, the secretary, on the subject of the representation of Holland. It is his intention to remain some time in Sydney, and then return home in order to make all necessary arrangements in connection with the Melbourne Exhibition next year.

Among the passengers by the mail steamer *Siam*, which brought the Japanese Commissioner, were M. Gustave Lix and M. Bourdil, the former of whom is the commercial agent for the French exhibitors, and the latter a gentleman to whom has been entrusted the duty of fitting up the French Court and arranging the French exhibits. M. Lix was secretary to the French Commissions at the exhibitions of London, Vienna, and Philadelphia. The French man-

London, Vienna, and Philadelphia. The French man-of-war, with the Commissioners and exhibits, is daily expected to arrive. The Commandant and Commissioner-General is Captain Adolphe Francois Mathieu, formerly Governor of New Caledonia, and his staff consists of M. Marie Paul Cave, second in command; M. Emmanuel Victor Thomas Marie de Kernafflen de Kergos, midshipman; M. Auguste Alexis Fran Cois Lefèvre, midshipman; M. Alfred Guth, midshipman; M. Aimé Isidore Vergé, midshipman; M. Charles Jean Fran Cois Cauvin, surgeon; M. Paul Henri Chasseriand, assistant surgeon; M. André Stephen Ande, assistant Commissioner at the head of the Secretarial Department of the Commission; M. Bourdil, already mentioned; M. Arthur Menard, private secretary to the Commissioner-General; M. Ollive, M. de Savignon, M. Soudry, M. Ladislav Zamoiski, deputed respectively to report upon agricultural, commercial, financial, and other matters in the colony. The Japanese Commissioner, Mr. Haruo Sakata, and his two secretaries, Mr. J. Watanabe and Mr. Y. Murukami, were shown over the Exhibition building and grounds on Saturday by Mr. B. H. d'Avigdor, private secretary to the Executive Commissioner, and expressed themselves as highly delighted with the site pointed out to them as the probable location of Japan—namely, in the north-eastern portion of the building. Mr. Sakata is a gentleman of considerable distinction in his own country, and has had a large experience in European countries. He speaks English fluently, as do also his two secretaries. The other Japanese who accompany him are exhibitors. Mr. J. de Groot, who came to Sydney as the commercial representative of several Netherland houses, has been introduced by the Dutch Consul as the official representative of Holland. M. Albert Van Schelle, the Belgian Commissioner, has paid a visit to the Exhibition building, with which he expresses himself as highly pleased. His secretary is Mr. John Lodwidge.

The Imperial Japanese Commissioner, with his two secretaries; Mr. Alfred Van Schelle, Royal Commissioner from Belgium, with his secretary (Mr. Lodwidge); Mr. J. de Groot, Commissioner for the Netherlands; Mr. Gustave Lix and M. Bourdil, of the French Commission, were on Tuesday presented to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, as president of the Exhibition Commission, by the Executive Commissioner (Mr. P. A. Jennings). Mr. Sakata presented to his Excellency a letter from Sir Harry Parkes, British Minister at Tokio, accrediting him on the part of the Japanese Government. The original document from the Government of Japan, accompanied by a translation, had been deposited by Mr. Sakata in the hands of the Executive Commissioner, to whom it was addressed by the Vice-Minister of the Financial Department, who is also president of the Commission appointed in Japan. The Lieutenant-Governor expressed the pleasure he felt in welcoming the foreign Commissioners to this country, and trusted that they would be pleased with their visit. The Commissioners then took their leave of his Excellency and proceeded to pay their respects to the Colonial Secretary, to whom they were introduced by the Executive Commissioner. Sir Henry Parkes questioned the Commissioners with regard to the nature, character, and extent of their exhibits, and their impressions of the colony. He hoped they would find their stay agreeable, and suggested the idea of having an excursion into the country to see the railway over the Blue Mountains, and the works on the railway. Mr. Van Schelle, who takes a special interest in wool and sheep, cattle and horses, proposes, before leaving, to make a tour into the country, with the view of recording his impressions as to its desirableness as a field for investment, particularly in regard to sheep-farming.

recording his impressions as to its desirableness as a field for investment, particularly in regard to sheep-farming. He states that in Verviers, one of the chief manufacturing towns of Belgium, not less than 100,000 bales of wool from the River Plate are annually manufactured into woollen goods, and adds, what an immense field that place would be for the sale of Australian wool.

The organ is being unpacked in the Exhibition building, and an estimate of the cost of its erection is being prepared by Mr. Jackson, organ-builder. A plan of the organ-loft and orchestra has been prepared from designs of the Colonial Architect, and the work will be proceeded with immediately. Signor Giorza has made arrangements with the Choral Association and with Mr. Fisher's choirs to take part in the musical performances of the opening day. One of the specialities of the cantata will be a chorus for children's voices, to be rendered by Mr. Fisher's choir. It is also proposed to ask for the assistance of the bands of the Permanent and Volunteer forces, as, owing to the spacious nature of the edifice, it will require a large body of sound to produce an effect commensurate with the importance of the occasion.

Exhibits continue to accumulate in the Exhibition building. The British quarter is wellnigh covered with packages.

In all, there are about 1300 cases. Besides the French, German, and Austrian men-of-war, which are bringing exhibits, there are the Garonne, City of London, Calcutta, and John Elder coming, as well as vessels from America, so that in the course of next month matters in respect to exhibits may be expected to become very brisk. The brickwork of the eastern tower of the building was completed yesterday morning, and all the bricklayers, excepting two or three, were discharged, nearly the whole of the brickwork of the building being now completed.

The dome of the Exhibition-building is about half covered in, and the lofty framework scaffolding that was used in its construction is being taken down rapidly. It is expected that it will be all down in the course of another week. This will enable the interior decorations of the dome to be proceeded with. The cupola of the dome is finished. The cornice above the lantern has been fixed and painted. At the base of the lantern there is to be a large rolled moulding, about 18 feet in girth, which will effect a great improvement in the lantern by diminishing its length and destroying what otherwise might appear as lankness. The main towers of the building are proceeding satisfactorily, though with apparent slowness, owing to the heavy character of the work. About 80 men are employed on each tower. It is intended to place at each corner of the towers a pinnacle about 15 feet high, with a scrolled foot, which will give a peculiar and unusual ornamental appearance to the towers. The decorations in the nave are expected to be completed in about a week; also, the decorations in the Victorian, South Australian, Tasmanian, and New South Wales sections. The Queensland section will be ready by about the 1st of August. There will then be nothing to prevent these colonies from fitting up their respective courts and getting their exhibits ready. The basement portion of the building is nearly completed, and the floor joists of the main refreshment-room are being fixed under the dome. As soon as the scaffolding of the dome is down the flooring will be laid, and then will be completed the whole of the floors of the building. The ceilings of the picture galleries on each side of the nave are being lined with canvas, which will be decorated in light colours, to suit the pictures. The pavilion towers are nearly all completed. The final making good of the nave and transept roofs up to the towers is being done. The staircases in the main towers are all fixed, excepting those for the upper

rooms up to the towers is being done. The staircases in the main towers are all fixed, excepting those for the upper flats. In the upper portion of these towers there will be a considerable space available for exhibits. It is intended to have a hatchway in the roof of the towers, with a staircase leading to it, so as to allow visitors to go upon the roof. The machinery sheds are advancing rapidly. Mr. Farquhar, of the Meat and Ice Company, intends building a cold room at the north-western corner of one of the sheds. A large pavilion to be used as the ladies' refreshment-room is being erected by Mr. Young, for Compagnoni and Co., in the Outer Domain, against the enclosure on the western side. This building is to be of a highly ornamental character, and an attractive feature in the grounds. Rapid progress is also being made with the live stock sheds. The total number of men employed on the various Exhibition-buildings at the present time is about 1800.