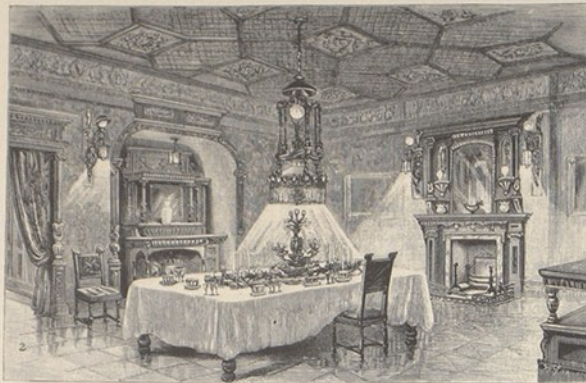


THE ELECTRICAL EXHIBITION AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—II.



RENAISSANCE DINING HALL, EXHIBITED BY MESSRS. GODFREY GILES & CO., OLD CAVENDISH STREET

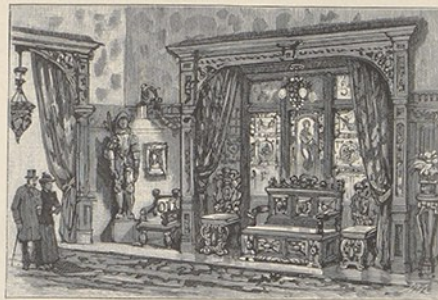
In the space at our disposal it is impossible to notice all the things, useful and ornamental, which are to be seen at the Electrical Exhibition, but we publish this week illustrations of the most striking exhibits not described in our previous article. Messrs. Godfrey Giles & Co., of Old Cavendish Street, from whose exhibit is taken our first illustration, show a hall and dining-room, differing in style, but alike in the charm of their furnishing. The decoration of the hall suggests the Elizabethan era. The ceiling of old oak is divided by old-fashioned beams, decorated, like the oak brackets which support them, by carving in imitation of the antique. The lower portion of the room is mounted with a Lincrusta-Walton dado, stained and wax-polished as an old oak "linen fold" dado, and surmounted by a shelf for holding china. The upper portion of

A FRENCH BEDROOM, EXHIBITED BY MESSRS. H. & J. COOPER
GREAT FULTENEY STREET

the wall, extending from the top of the china shelf to the ceiling, is papered with "Godfrey Art-Woven Paper," to imitate a woven material. The dining-room is in the Renaissance Style. The ceiling is divided into square and oblong panels by mahogany mouldings; the square panels are filled with an embossed decoration, which gives the effect of oxidized silver, the oblong ones being decorated to represent carved mahogany. The frieze is decorated to represent old oxidized silver mounted in a velvet frame. The walls are panelled with Woven Paper in imitation of a velvet material, framed in a carved mahogany moulding, with an oxidized silver mount all round. The side-board, dinner-wagon and chairs are designed in the same picturesque style, and the general effect of the room is certainly unique. To the lighting of these rooms we referred in our issue of March 5th. Messrs. H. & J. Cooper have fitted up a series of three rooms (also in the South

Gallery)—a dining-room with a fine ingle fire-place of oak, and old carved doorway and columns; a pretty Eastern boudoir, redolent of Persia, Arabia, and Algeria; and a French bedroom, which forms the subject of our illustration. This dainty room is furnished in Louis XV. fashion, with tented ceiling, painted panels, and graceful bed-draperies of old-rose silk and lace. All three rooms are lighted by electricity with charming effect, the arrangement of the dining-table, especially, being ingenious and artistic. These, however, are exhibitions rather of the Art decorator's skill than of electricity; but there is no lack of beautiful things to be seen among the electrical exhibits proper. In this section we may, without invidious comparison, begin with Messrs. Faraday & Son's exhibit in the south nave. The stall, which is roofed with drape ceiling, and furnished with pretty carpets and hangings, contains all manner of electric fittings, artistic in design and careful in workmanship. The electric light is laid on for over 100 lamps, which illuminate electroliers, chandeliers, brackets, Grecian floor-standards, and a charming variety of table lamps. There are also various quaint designs in bronze of winged dragons, dolphins, goats, swans, and other creatures, treated for the most part as wall fittings, and husks for hiding the unsightly lamp socket or holder prescribed by the fire insurance offices. Messrs. F. & C. Osler, of Oxford Street, also have a remarkable exhibit in

the nave. The stand is Indian in its style and is constructed of carved white wood, with columns and domes, the whole being surmounted by a large, copper-coloured dome, with a minaret at each corner. The main feature of the exhibit is a large 25-light electrolier, which is

ELIZABETHAN HALL, EXHIBITED BY MESSRS. GODFREY GILES & CO.,
OLD CAVENDISH STREET

suspended from the dome in the centre of the stall. This electrolier is finely proportioned, and of most excellent workmanship; the brass work is chaste in design, and the glass cutting is particularly rich, giving all the brilliancy and refractive power of the ordinary cut-glass without its harmful effect on the eyes. Each light is so arranged as

to give it the appearance of being the centre of a single flower, while other of their electroliers are designed to have the effect of a rocket shower. The same firm has an effective display of smaller electroliers, pendants, brackets, and standards, in polished brass, iron, or frosted silver, and they show some extremely handsome examples of lamps for the dinner-table, in the form of Royal-Worcester China figures. Our final illustration is a view of the scene beneath the floor



ELECTROLIERS, EXHIBITED BY MESSRS. FARADAY & SON

of the Crystal Palace, where the men are laying the electric wires to supply the lamps throughout the exhibition, a work of some magnitude. The

exhibition is proving a considerable success as a popular attraction and as a demonstration of progress in electrical engineering. We could have wished for a better display of means for the mechanical utilisation of electric power, for although several firms show electromotors, there is not so much prominence given to this section as we should expect. There were only two exhibits of electric heating apparatus, probably because electric heating cannot at present be a commercial success owing to the cost of generating the current. An electric stove will be a delightful thing when we get it, as no doubt we shall—neither smoke, gases nor smell, nor consumption of air. We shall turn a switch and the heater is started; another switch will cause the kettle to boil. The tailor will presently heat his goose and sad irons by electricity; by the same beneficent means ladies will, indeed, can now, curl their hair, men light their cigars, and numerous other useful and useless things be accomplished. There are small but interesting exhibits connected with electro-metallurgy and electricity in surgery and therapeutics.

“THE MONSTER” OF YANKEEDOM.

In the course of a few months, all Europe is likely to be shocked and startled by some curious revelations concerning the status of the black man in the United States. It is difficult for an Englishman to believe (so equal and secure seems the position of the negro race in the British Dominions) that on the other side of the water, seven millions of negroes exist practically as isolated from the privileges, circles and emoluments of the white man, as if the whole were a tribe of lepers. This it is that constitutes the American Race Question. Since the War, or for more than twenty years, Englishmen, generally, have blissfully supposed the question settled or such racial difficulties as still existed, slowly but surely righting themselves. Let us look at the matter in a new light.

In the United States, there exists a number of educational funds, notably the Peabody, Slater, and Vanderbilt Funds, for the ostensible promotion of the moral and intellectual welfare of the negro. The colleges and universities representing these several endowments are really model institutions of their kind, and each year hundreds of coloured students graduate at them. It might naturally be expected that the student, upon leaving his *Alma Mater*, would have something better to look forward to than a mere menial vocation such as porter, table waiter, or barber. Unfortunately for him, he has not, as the sequel will show. For nearly 22 per cent of the whole number of graduates turn their attention to the law, a large proportion study medicine and not a few seek the ministry. But in the end it is all the same; the stability of their tenure in these several callings rarely exceeds two years.

For example, I shall never forget meeting in Indianapolis with a black porter stationed at the hotel where I was stopping. He said to me:

“I remember you, sir. You were present at a Fiske University class meeting 1887, weren't you? I graduated that year, studied law for eight months, and then I took this position. I knew too much; I'm trying to unlearn some I know. It don't pay to be an educated nigger. White folks distrust you, and you are never so well off.”

Nothing so tragic or so intensely miserable can be conceived in the mind of man, as an American negro fed on the mental food of the white man, living on his traditions, treading his soil, enjoying his civilisation, but to discover in a fatal moment that he is still a slave, defrauded of birthright and suffrage; dreaming an idle dream of equality, only to awaken to shackles rendered doubly odious from the fleeting hopes and illusions that were his. I quote from a letter recently penned by a leading Senator, in order to put my case still stronger.

“I can conceive of nothing,” he writes, “so frightful as a Caucasian soul incarcerated in an African body under existing social conditions. Being buried alive would be luxury by comparison.”

Let me say here, that from my observations, the negro and the white man will never assimilate. There is, throughout the vast South, a repulsion as “strong and instinctive as that of the horse for the camel.” Even in the far North, as I will in a moment show, this sentiment exists and is moreover growing alarmingly every day.

The two races certainly can never cohere politically. The suffrage granted the blacks by the Fifteenth Constitutional Amendment, is a farce in the very States where it might be thought a benefit and a privilege. In some counties of South Carolina and Mississippi the blacks outnumber the whites in the

A TRANSFORMER FROM 1,000 VOLTS TO 100 VOLTS



DRAWN BY J. FRENCH LAYING THE WIRES UNDER THE FLOOR OF THE MAIN AISLE, CRYSTAL PALACE

proportion of two to one. What becomes of their ballots when cast, it is considered idle to ask, since they never, by any possibility, elect any of their candidates. Race riots from political causes are of frequent occurrence, but the blacks invariably get the worst of it. The other day in a London Court-room, no small storm was caused because a member of a coroner's jury objected to serve with another jurymen who were not merely excluded from theatres, hotels and places of public resort, but even from houses of public worship. If a black man has the temerity to enter a white man's church, which is not often he it said, he is shown to the gallery, and a pretty wide space is made for him by the other occupants. Mr. Daniel Frohmann, of the Lyceum Theatre, one of the best known of the American managers, told me a short time ago, that a coloured man and his wife were upon one occasion debarred from entering his theatre. The man naturally made a protest, calling the manager's attention to a law which imposes a fine of 500 dollars for race discrimination.

“I am a gentleman,” he said, “at least I behave as such. Why cannot I obtain a seat in your house?”

The answer is one that is heard all over the Union whenever parallel instances occur, and they are occurring daily.

“Because it would ruin the name of the establishment. I cannot, therefore, afford to have a coloured man seen in the Lyceum Theatre. I prefer to pay.”

This negro was considerate enough or wise enough not to seek legal redress. Not all are impelled by the same spirit, however. A few weeks ago T. Thomas Fortune, a mulatto and the editor of the *Age*, was ejected from a second-rate liquor saloon in New York on account of his colour. He sued the proprietor for 5,000 dollars, and a representative jury awarded him 200 dollars damages.

Race treaties and tracts appear in the States at an alarming rate; but they are never read. Twenty negroes are massacred in Mississippi and the Republican newspapers break out in the wildest fever of excitement. But the event is not thought worthy of being cabled to English newspapers. During the present Session, Bills will be introduced with a view to a colonisation of the negroes in a separate territory, a proceeding clearly Quixotic, and unconstitutional. The negroes themselves, in the majority of cases, would prefer to perish rather than be transplanted. Professor Bryce's plan of revoking their suffrage, if it were possible to put it into effect, would not dispose of the evil, namely, the presence of the negro. The sore is there, and with education its virulence becomes every day more and more fatally apparent. Because, with education, the negro's curse, he is rapidly growing into an agitator, morbidly dissatisfied with his lot and yearning for what must ever be unattainable, even with a mountain of worldly riches at his command: a place at the altar, the table, and the council-board of the white man.

BECKLES WILSON.