

# The New Curiosity Times.

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BATH, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1865.

PRICE 1d.

**BIRTHS.**

On the 3rd June, H. R. H. the PRINCESS OF WALES, of a son.

On the 31st July, the QUEEN of PORTUGAL, of a son.

On the 12th August, VIS-COUNTS AMHERLEY, of a son and heir.

On the 28th September, the CONTESS DE PARIS, of a daughter.

**MARRIAGES.**

On the 7th June, at the house of the bride's father, on the Terrace, Piccadilly, Baron FERDINAND DE ROTHSCHILD, to Miss EVELINA DE ROTHSCHILD, daughter of Baron Lionel de Rothschild.

On the 2nd August, at Westminster Abbey, Lord H. M. DOUGLAS SCOTT, son of the Duke of Buccleuch, to the Hon. CHARLES M. WORTLEY, daughter of the late Lord Warmliffe.

On the 2nd August, at Saint Michael's, Chester-square, Lord E. CAVENDISH, youngest son of the Duke of Devonshire, to the Hon. EMMA LANCASTER, niece to the Duchess of Rutland.

**DEATHS.**

On the 12th Feb., the Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND, aged 72.

On the 15th Feb., Cardinal WELLMAN, aged 67.

On the 21st Feb., Field Marshal Viscount COMBERBEE, aged 92.

On the 2nd April, RICHARD CORDEN, Esq., aged 69.

On the 14th April, President ABRAHAM LINCOLN, aged 66.

On the 30th April, Vice Admiral ROBERT FITZROY, aged 60.

On the 27th May, CHARLES WATKINSON, Esq., aged 86.

On the 8th June, Sir JOSEPH PAXTON, M.P., aged 62.

On the 27th Aug., the Hon. T. C. HALBURTON, author of 'Sam Slick.'

On the 18th Oct., the Rt. Hon. Viscount PALMERSTON, K.G., M.P., First Lord of the Treasury, aged 80.

On the 10th Dec., His Majesty LEOPOLD I., King of the Belgians, aged 74.

**FUNERAL CARDS** and Stationery of all kinds may be had at Queen-square House, Bath.

**B. U. Y.** at the New Curiosity Shop.

**T. O. M. X. D.**—Get me a handsome bracelet, and all shall be forgiven.

**D. O. R. A.**—Your absence is alarming. Have you called at Queen-square House for the Album?

**A. D. D. R. E. S. S.** wanted, of Mr. Ezra H—rle, who purchased an eight-and-sixty penny Valentine at Queen-square House, on the 24th February last.

**I F THIS SHOULD MEET THE EYE** of any lady or gentleman intending to purchase Christmas presents, the advertisers beg to recommend a visit to the New Curiosity Shop, where they will find a large selection of articles suitable for gifts.

**M. O. N. O. G. R. A. M. S.** for Collectors, from 3d. per sheet.

**C. O. N. V. E. R. S. A. T. I. O. N. C. A. R. D. S.**—from one shilling per pack—at the New Curiosity Shop.

**F. A. N. C. Y.** Articles in great variety and in the newest designs, at Queen-square House.

**M. A. R. K.** the required page in your books with S. S. & S.'s book-marks.

**A. B. O. O. K.** per day for 1865, from the Library Company's Bath Depot, Queen-square House.

**L. O. R. D. P. A. L. M. E. R. S. T. O. N.**—Carte-de-Visite portraits of the late Premier, 1/.

**F. O. X. A. N. D. B. A. S. K. E. T.**—A handsome wood Match-stand. Real Swiss carving.—Price 4/6.

**M. A. T. H. E. M. A. T. I. C. A. L.** INSTRUMENTS from 1/6 per case.—Queen-square House, Bath.

**A. C. H. R. I. S. T. M. A. S. P. R. E. S. E. N. T.**—A Child's Work Companion, leather.—price 1/6.

**F. E. R. N. S.**—Fern-leaf brooches in great variety at the New Curiosity Shop.

**N. E. W. C. U. R. I. O. S. I. T. I. E. S.**—Match Stand Mortars in ebony and glass, and Drums in Scotch wood.

**N. O. W. O. N. V. I. E. W.** a number of handsome articles suitable for Christmas presents, at Queen-square House, from 9 till 7.

**P. A. N. O. R. A. M. A. O. F. B. A. T. H.**—containing to-wary 20 views.—cloth, price 1/.

**M. A. G. I. C.**—The Magic Designer, price 1/9, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**T. O. D. A. Y.**—A Selection of English and Foreign Fancy Goods now on view at the New Curiosity Shop, from 9 till 7.

**T. H. E. G. R. E. A. T. H. I. S. T. O. R. I. C. P. H. O. T. O. G. R. A. P. H.**—Copies of this remarkable Photograph, which contains the portraits of over 1,000 living and historical celebrities, may be obtained at Queen-square House, price 1/.

**F. I. E. R. Y. S. E. R. P. E. N. T. S.** (Perfumed)—A Wonder of Wonders—A cone, one inch high, is placed on a table and lighted, when a Serpent, in form, colour, and motion, nearly a yard long, issues therefrom.

**F. I. E. R. Y. S. E. R. P. E. N. T. S.**—These Serpents are particularly adapted for Evening Parties, being a source of great amusement and of wonder to the uninitiated. 6d. each.—Stafford Smith & Smith, Bath.

**C. H. R. I. S. T. M. A. S. N. O. T. E. P. A. P. E. R.**

**C. H. R. I. S. T. M. A. S. E. N. V. E. L. O. P. E. S.**

**C. H. R. I. S. T. M. A. S. C. A. R. D. S.**

**C. H. R. I. S. T. M. A. S. P. R. E. S. E. N. T. S.**

**C. H. R. I. S. T. M. A. S. T. R. E. E. O. R. N. A. M. E. N. T. S.**

**C. H. R. I. S. T. M. A. S.**—All kinds of Christmas Stationery, and articles suitable for Presents, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**S. E. A. M. L. E. S. S. P. U. R. S. E. S.**—without a Join—will last for years. From One Shilling each.

**F. R. O. N. T. I. S. P. I. E. C. E. S.** O. F. C. A. R. T. E. -D. E. V. I. S. I. T. E. A. L. B. U. M. S., variously designed. Sixpence plain, One Shilling coloured.

**O. V. E. R. L. A. N. D. N. O. T. E.**—One Shilling per five-ounce packet.

**O. V. E. R. W. E. I. G. H. T.**—To prevent your Letters from being over weight, purchase a Letter-weighter. Prices 1/6 to 12/6.

**R. U. S. S. I. A. L. E. A. T. H. E. R. W. R. I. T. I. N. G. C. A. S. E. S.** with Fittings, 12/6.

**P. A. R. I. S.**—Well-executed Stereographs of Paris buildings and views, including—Notre Dame, Versailles, The Louvre, The Column of July, The Place de la Concorde, and The Pantheon.—Sixpence each.—Stafford Smith & Smith, Bath.

**R. O. Y. A. L. P. O. R. T. R. A. I. T. S.** The newest Cartes-de-visite of the Prince and Princess of Wales, 1 each.

**D. A. T. E. S. D. A. T. E. S. D. A. T. E. S.**

A sufficient supply of Dates (day, month, and year) in box, for two shillings.

**D. R. E. S. S. C. O. M. I. S.** for Evening Parties, in all varieties of patterns, from 2/6.

**T. R. A. V. E. L. L. E. R. S.** should provide themselves with S. S. & S.'s Travelling Bags, Inkstands for travelling, &c.

**S. E. C. R. E. T. B. O. X. E. S.**—These Boxes are handsomely ornamented and gilded, and are so made that it is difficult for anyone to open them who has not been shown how to do so. They may be filled with bon-bons as a reward to the person discovering the method of opening, and will thus afford considerable amusement. Price One Shilling each.

**S. U. R. P. R. I. S. E. C. O. M. P. A. N. I. O. N. S.**—In various designs.—Queen-square House.

**P. O. C. K. E. T. B. O. O. K. S.** for 1866, from 6d. each.

**C. H. E. S. S.**—Sets of Chessmen in Ebony, Bone, and Ivory, from 5/6.—Chessboards from 1/6.

**M. Y. P. R. O. F. E. S. S. I. O. N. A. L. F. R. I. E. N. D. S.**—Twenty life-like Portraits, for 6d.

**A. C. R. O. W. N. F. O. R. T. H. R. E. E.** and A SIXPENNY.—A first-class Ebony Matchstand, carved to resemble a crown, may be had at the New Curiosity Shop. Price 3/6.

**SIXPENCE EACH.**—Brooches, Lockets, Purse, Ladies' Measurers, and Fancy Boxes; Photograph Views of Bath and Stereographs; Pocket Books for 1866, and five-quire packets of Note-Paper.

**SIXPENCE EACH.**—Match Boxes and Note Books, Children's Colour Boxes and Dominos, Crest Albums, Stamp Albums, and Packets of Foreign Stamps.—Stafford Smith & Smith, The New Curiosity Shop, Bath.

**ONE SHILLING EACH.**—Penknives, Scarf Pins, Inkstands, Solitaires, Blotting Cases, Glove Boxes, Magnifiers, and Conversation Cards.

**ONE SHILLING EACH.**—Thermometers, Watchstands, Purse-bags, Pen-wipers, Pen-trays, Crosses, and French gilt Brooches.

**ONE SHILLING EACH.**—Cartes-de-Visite Albums, silver Thimbles, Matchstands, Jewels, Brooches, Toy-hooks, Ladies' Buckles, and Needle-books.

**ONE SHILLING EACH.**—Ivory Paper Knives, Children's Writing Cases, and Steel Brooches.—Stafford Smith & Smith, The New Curiosity Shop, Bath.

**CONFEDERATE STATES.**—Postage Stamp was given away with No. 33 of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

**SHEFFIELD CUTLERY.**—An assortment of Penknives, Scissors, &c., at Queen-square House.

**SCOTCH WOOD.**—Robers, S. Match Boxes, Needle Cases, Stamp Boxes, and Paper Knives, at Queen-square House.

**PERRY'S PENCIL CASES.**—from 1d.

**THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP.**—Queen-square House, Bath, for stationery and Fancy Goods.—Newest designs for Christmas Presents.

**CHARMS.**

**CHARMS.**—For Children, one shilling per set.

**ALBUM BRACELETS.**—Brooches, Bookmarks, Illusters, Bookslides, and Bottle Cases, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**THE DAY, the Month, the Year,** shown by S. 8. & S.'s Date cards, from 1/6.

**MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS** from 1/6 per case.

**COURIER BAGS** for tourists, in Morocco from 1/6. Queen-square House.

**SECURE YOUR LETTERS** by using Stafford Smith & Smith's Safety Envelopes, from 1d. per 100.

**OPEN DAILY.**—The New Curiosity Shop, from 9 till 7.

**CARTE-DE-VISITE ALBUMS,** to hold from 12 to 200 portraits, in all varieties of binding from 1/.

**INK.**

**BLACKWOOD'S STEEL-PENS** 1/6 in 3d., 6d., and 1/ glass bottles (with lip).—Queen-square House, Bath.

**PENS.**

**STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S** Superfine Steel Pens, 1/ per gross.

**CARD TRAYS,** Card Boxes, Caskets, and Colour Boxes, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**MICROSCOPES.**—Strong power, 2/6 each, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**PENNY POSTAGE STAMPS.**

**CARTE DE VISITE** of eminent personages, 1/ each.

**QUESTS.** Crests, Crests.

**QUESTS FOR COLLECTIONS,** in sheets, price 3d., 6d., and 1/ each.

**THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP** for Ear-drops, of the newest patterns.

**DRAUGHTS.**—Sets of Draughtmen from 1/9. Draught Boards from 1/6.

**ET BRACELETS.**—Crosses, Chains, Brooches, Ear-drops, &c., at the New Curiosity Shop.

**FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS** from One Penny to Two Guineas each.

**TEN-AND-SIXPENNY** Subscription to the Library Company, entitles the Subscriber to a book per day. Bath Branch, Queen-square House.

**PRIMROSE NOTE PAPER.**

**LILAC NOTE PAPER.**

**PINK NOTE PAPER.**

**VIOLET NOTE PAPER.**

**GREEN NOTE PAPER.**

**TINTED NOTE PAPER** in primrose, lilac, pink, violet, and green, from 1/ per five-quire packet.

**JEWELLERY.**—Brooches, Chains, Crosses, Chains, Ear-drops, Lockets, Necklets, Rings, Scarf Pins, Studs, Shawl Pins, and Wrist Links, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**SAMPLE PACKET** of STATIONERY may be had gratis, on application at the New Curiosity Shop.

**PEN-KNIVES.** Scissors, &c., &c.—Sheffield make—on sale at the New Curiosity Shop.

**WINTER GAMES.**—Chessmen, Draughtmen, with Boards, on sale at the New Curiosity Shop.

**PEN CUSHIONS,** Pencil Cases, Penholders Paper Knives, and Pen Knives, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**NOTE PAPER.**—Five-quire Packet of useful Note or 6d. Five-quire Packet of thick Note for 9d. Five-quire Packet of Superfine Cream Laid Note for 1/.

**CIGARS—CIGAR STANDS** of elegant designs at Queen-square House.

**MATCH STANDS.**—Match Stands of elegant design at Queen-square House.

**PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS,** in the newest designs and styles of binding, at Stafford Smith & Smith's.

**COLUMBIAN PRESENTS** for Stamp Collectors.—Sixpenny Packets of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps. I. 25 Used Foreign Stamps. II. 12 Unused Foreign ditto. III. 12 Unissued Foreign ditto. IV. 12 British Colonial ditto. V. 12 Hamburg Local ditto. VI. 10 Local American ditto.—STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, Queen-square House Bath.

**BATH.**—Cartes de Visite of public buildings and admired landscapes.—Sixpence each.

**NOTE BOOKS.**

**NOTE BOOKS** from 3d. each, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**TO SCHOOLMASTERS.**—Stafford Smith & Smith beg to recommend their Superfine Steel Pen (1/ per gross) as well fitted for use in schools.

**TO SCHOOLMASTERS.**—Copy Books and Exercise Books on Sale at Queen-square House, from 2/ per dozen.

**TO ARTISTS.**—Drawing Paper and Pencils, Crayons, and Water Colours on Sale at Queen-square House.

**BLOTTING CASES** IN LEATHER.

**BLOTTING CASES** IN PAPER-MACHE.

**BLOTTING CASES** IN WOOD.

**BLOTTING PADS.**

**BLOTTING PAPER.**

**BLOTTING CASES** in Leather, from 1/; in Paper Mache, from 1/3; and in wood, from 2/6. Pads, from 6d. each. Paper, from 1/3 per quire, at the New Curiosity Shop.

**THE LIBRARY COMPANY** (Limited). Single subscription, Half-a-Guinea per Annum. Bath Depot: Queen-square House; Stafford Smith & Smith, Managers.

**GLASS INKSTANDS.**

**APIER-MACHE INKSTANDS.**

**WOOD INKSTANDS.**

**INKSTANDS** in great variety of pattern at Stafford Smith & Smith's, New Curiosity Shop, from 1/ each.

**A BANK-NOTE FOR A SHILLING.**—Stafford Smith & Smith have on sale Bank-Notes of the late Confederate States, ranging in value from 2 to 100 dollars. One Shilling each.

**CIGARS.**—Elegant Cigar Stands, of the newest design, from 5/6.

## WORKS OF ART.

The sun has done a great deal of work in its time, and in its old age is required to do fresh service. The source of light and heat has also for some years been the source of photographs and cartes-de-visite.

By the aid of a few chemicals and rays (or rather waves) of light, the fine features of Mr. Brown, the lovely figure of Miss Jones, and the infant graces of that cherub Robinson, are now indelibly represented on a 2½-by 4-inch sheet of paper.

But the assistance of Phœbus is required not only to produce copies of our friends, not also "photographs" of public men, of masterpieces of statuary, of noted paintings, and of admired views.

By the aid of the carte de visite the public becomes acquainted with its rulers and its eminent men. As none of them are ashamed of the light, the sun acts as master of the ceremonies, and introduces them all to the notice of thousands who never come into personal contact with them. Numbers of Her Majesty's loyal subjects preserve her likeness and the likenesses of her family with affectionate care. The late Lord Palmerston's features are as familiar to the great mass of the people as those of their own relatives—perhaps more so than the features of their poorer ones,—and the grave countenances of the Great Financier is well known to many who have never listened to his oratory. Poets and thinkers, bishops and generals, singers and actors, lawyers and doctors, all achieve a reputation by the agency of photography.

It is no longer necessary to shiver at Chamonix in order to get a sight of Mont Blanc. Well-executed photographs, giving you all the snow a shiver the chill, may be obtained for a shilling. For another, you may inspect the Matterhorn; and for a third, may travel down the rough side of Mont Cenis, always, be it remembered, without the slightest danger.

To the biblical scholar, the land of the promise is open; to the classical scholar, the ruins of the Parthenon and the scattered remnants of ancient Rome are unfolded without any preliminary travel,

and without any demand for "buckshesh." A piece of paper is sun-stroked instead of the traveller, and the result is a faithful picture. The sun which shone in the painter's days on the now-desolate land and fallen temples, reproduces the silent plains and broken pillars for the edification of the student—and the photographer pockets a shilling.

The same obliging luminary copies in miniature the finest works of ancient and modern art. The sublime Madonnas of the Italian masters, the charming landscapes and humorous scenes of English artists, now grace the pages of countless albums, and thus exercise a fresh influence on the public taste.

Photography has lost its novelty, but still remains one of the most wonderful discoveries of the age. Its healthy effect has hardly yet received due recognition, but there can be little doubt that as time goes on it will be acknowledged to have served the interests and attained the ends of art in purifying and ennobling the minds of the public in no slight degree.

**PHAROAH'S SERPENTS.**—The latest scientific toy is the serpent egg, first laid in France. In outward shape it is a little cone made of tin-foil, and contains a whitish powder within. The chemical ingredients of this powder when ignited produce a serpent. The "reptile" begins to glide out from the top of the cone, and continues its course, growing thicker as well as longer for two or three minutes, when it shows the whole of its sinuous length, "with many a twist and many a turn." Its color is a speckled yellow, and its appearance can scarcely fail to surprise the uninitiated observer. As it is a very harmless toy, we have no doubt it will become very popular during the Christmas time.

**INDUCION.**—The most remarkable case of induction we ever heard of, was that of a man who sat up all night because he could not determine which to take off first, his coat or his boots.

**AN INTERNATIONAL SHOW** of chesses will take place at Paris on the 20th of December. It will be a commemo-ration of peace and tranquility, though many a country will show its spite (might).—*J. Wm.*

## A MERCANTILE GRIEVANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW CURIOSITY TIMES.

Sir,—I take the liberty of addressing you upon a subject which, as a mercantile man, is daily brought under my notice. My business cannot be carried on without a great deal of correspondence, which, of course, necessitates the use of a large number of envelopes. These envelopes are of the best quality procurable, yet I frequently suffer loss from their shape. In the first place, there is no protection against the adhesive matter on the flap sticking to the enclosures. Several letters of mine on matters of importance were torn by the receivers, owing to this fault, and paper money enclosed in letters is liable to the same injury.

But a still more serious defect in the envelopes now in use, is the ease with which, owing to the shape of the flap, enclosures can be abstracted.

Many persons, besides myself, have suffered from this cause, for it requires no great exercise of thievish skill to open such flimsy protections. Now, sir, can nothing be produced which shall render our communications safe from the injuries of the gum, the hands of the light-fingered, or the prying eyes of our servants?

Yours respectfully,  
SECURITY,  
Dec. 13th, 1865.

[We understand that a "Safety Envelope," giving perfect security to the enclosures, and preserving them from contact with the gum, can now be had at Messrs. Stafford Smith & Smith's.—*Ed.*]

**EDITORIAL DISAPPOINTMENT.**—A Western editor apologizes to his readers somewhat after this fashion:—"We expected to have had a death and a marriage to publish this week, but a violent storm prevented the wedding, and the doctor being taken sick himself, the patient recovered, and we are accordingly cheated out of both."

**A NEW INVENTION.**—A man has recently invented yellow spectacles for making hard look like butter. They are a great saving of expense if worn whilst eating.

## BATH IN 1865.

Bath has long since passed out of its teens. It has passed also the period of continuous enlargement, and is now a respectable, full-grown city. Events flow on within its boundaries in an even tenor, and an old inhabitant sees but slight alteration in its streets; yet, here and there, new buildings are springing up to further adorn a place already noted throughout the world for its beauty.

Perhaps the most noticeable, certainly the most noticed, is the new bank at the top of Milsom-street. The style of this fine structure has been severely criticised by learned architects; but to an uninitiated, and, therefore, unprejudiced eye, its proportions appear remarkable for their nobleness.

The Albert wing of the United Hospital is like many of the patients in the present wards, "progressing favourably." And, from information received, we are able to state that the new polio-station—a comfortable office for energetic P.C.'s, and a commodious lodging for "in-capables" and "hardened cases"—is also approaching completion.

But the most gratifying work now in progress is the restoration of the Abbey, which is performed in so congenial a spirit, and with such thoroughly good taste, that, while the decayed portions are strengthened, the ancient beauties are preserved.

The Mangotsfield Railway still lies in an embryo of law papers and contracts, though it was expected the Swinour-street alterations would have been commenced this year.

Turning from city improvements to amusements, we find that the charming summer, which has so lately ended, has, to them, been very favourable. How many picnics were held in the various picturesque nooks which abound in the neighbourhood it would be impossible to say; but the success which attended the two Floral Fêtes will be remembered by all. That the Hospital Fete was not equally successful at first, we do not regret, for we believe the delay resulted in the receipt of a much larger sum than had been expected.

There has been throughout the year the usual number of

Indoor entertainments, beginning with the Industrial Exhibition—a laudable attempt, and well worthy of repetition. From the metropolitan heavens, several stars of the first magnitude have descended into our public rooms to dazzle Bath audiences with their flashes of eloquence or song. Our juvenile friends have had their martial instincts unusually gratified this year by the sight of the Yeomanry Cavalry, as well as the volunteers and militia. And the Election, though it lacked the amusement a contest produces, gave rise, on the other hand, to a well-feeling between the children of a larger growth.

Those who delight in religious controversy expected to hear a highly-splendid lecture by Brother Ignatius; but were disappointed—a number of fanatics attending prevented any one from more than seeing him.

Plans for the improvement of the city have not been wanting, and some would have it, are not wanted. The Bathform Scheme, amongst others, was unsupported; the fresh suggestions for utilising the White Hart have hardly yet been tested, and the York House Hotel Company seems still in an uncertain state. We trust, however, that whatever resolution may be finally taken on the several plans now under review, it will ultimately conduce to the adornment of the city and the welfare of its inhabitants.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH for Fancy Goods.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH for Stationery

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH for Carte-de-Visits Albums.

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STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH for Christmas Presents.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH for French Jewellery.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH for Christmas Stationery.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH for Steel Pens.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH for Firey Serpents.

THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP, Queen-square House, Bath.

THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP for Note Paper.

THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP for Envelopes.

THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP for Writing-desks.

THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP for Work-boxes.

THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP for Novel and Useful Presents.

THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP, Queen-square House, Bath.



QUEEN-SQUARE HOUSE.

Under the Management of Stafford Smith & Smith.

THIS DAY will be shown CHRISTMAS PRESENTS in great variety. Also STATIONERY at moderate prices. Commence at 9 a.m.

QUEEN-SQUARE HOUSE.

THIS DAY, a Large Assortment of FANCY GOODS just received, and comprising all the newest designs of the season, is on sale from 9 a.m. till 7 p.m.

#### NOTICE.

Copies of this paper can only be obtained direct from the *New Curiosity Times* Office. Application to be made to the Publishers.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Publishers will be happy to execute any orders for Goods with which their Correspondents may favour them, and beg to state that all advertisements refer to articles actually on sale.

BATH, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1865.

One of the best results of the close alliance between England and France is the production by each of the other's specialties. England has long prided herself on

her breed of race horses; this year a French mare won the Derby. England has challenged the world to produce machinery equal to that daily supplied by Birmingham and Wolverhampton; this year a French company successfully competed with an English firm for the manufacture of the Baden locomotives.

On the other hand, England is engaged in cultivating those branches of mechanical art hitherto peculiar to the French, and may hope soon to destroy the monopoly they now possess. At present, those delicately-fashioned articles which decorate the drawing-room and boudoir, or adorn the persons of their fair occupants—the inkstands and writing-cases, the card-trays and “compartions,” the brooches and bracelets—are produced almost exclusively by French artists.

We not long since visited an establishment bearing the appropriate title of THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP, in which these fancy goods were exposed for sale, and were surprised at the number, variety, and beauty of the articles on view. The exquisite workmanship of our Gallic friends was, moreover, visible in the symmetrical outlines, the tasteful colouring, the neat decoration of all; and, owing to the lower rate of wages on the other side of the water, the proprietors are enabled to sell these chaste productions at a moderate price. Ever long, however, we trust that the increasing influence of our schools of art and design, and the demand which

daily arises for these elegant necessities of life, will result in their manufacture, as excellently and as cheaply, by English hands.

From time to time, some daring explorer in the appalling region of official blue-books discerns from a mass of statistical rubbish some fact which interests the whole world, and serves as a text for paterfamilias's breakfast lecture. The number of letters annually passing through the post is just such a fact. Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY, through the medium of his tenth report, furnishes us with the information that six hundred and forty-two millions of letters were delivered by the privates of the Post-office army in one year. This is an increase of two hundred millions on the number posted in 1854, and the question arises—to what is it due? To the extension and excellence of the postal system the credit must in the first place be ascribed, but cheap paper has also had a considerable share in producing this result. When M. NEX GIBSON, after years of patient labour, procured the abolition of the paper duty, he added a large sum to the revenues of the country in the shape of future prepaid postage, and gave good paper to the multitude. “Cream-laid note,” as superior to the unpressed letter-paper of twenty years since as was that paper to the ancient palimpsest, is now obtainable at a moderate price, and a large increase in correspondence is the natural consequence. In the

"good old times," a shining five-quire packet of "note" was unknown; now-a-days, we have only to call at Messrs. STAFFORD SMITHS' establishment, in order to obtain a first-class specimen—in itself a worthy tribute to our financial reformers.

"Of making of many books there is no end," said the wise Solomon, thousands of years before Caxton set up his first printing press in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey. What would he say now? Books are multiplied at such a rate in the present day, that to obtain a title of them is impossible to any but a millionaire; and those who do not rejoice in the possession of an unlimited income have been obliged to take refuge in library companies.

The great principle of association applied to the procuring of books enables any person with half-a-guinea to spare, to obtain a fresh volume to read every working-day in the year. He has only to place his money in the keeping of the cashier of the London Library Company, either at the head offices, or at one of the branch depots,—Bath, for instance—and at once he has a collection of books, which it would take him a fortune to gather, from which to choose. One particular excellence in the arrangements of the Library Company is, that subscribers at one place removing to another, can obtain a transfer of their privileges; thus, a London subscriber, travelling to the Queen of the West for rest and change of air, has only to attend

at the depot—Queen-square House—and, after going through a necessary form, the library there is open for his selection.

This advantage, together with others equally valuable, renders the Library Company one of the most pleasing signs of the times.

THE RIGHT OF SPEECH IN AMERICA.—The *Boston Investigator* states that a Western Judge ordered a witness to "come up to be sworn." He was informed that the person was deaf and dumb. "I don't care," said the judge, passionately, "whether he is or not—here is the constitution of the United States before me. It guarantees to every man the right of speech; and so long as I have the honour of a seat on this bench it shall not be violated or invaded. What the constitution guarantees to a man, he should have, I reckon."

BANK NOTES AT A DISCOUNT.—Some time since we observed in a shop window, together with a number of other "new curiosities," a collection of bank-notes, at a *shilling* each. We at first thought that they might be a new issue from "The Bank of Elegance," but a closer inspection showed that they were the emissions of the Treasury of the late Confederate States. The amounts varied from two to a hundred dollars, and the design was different in each.

HOW IS IT OPENED?—The latest novelty in puzzles is the "Secret Box," which, upon inspection, provokes the inquiry with which this paragraph is headed. Each side in succession, at first sight, appears to be the one which will yield to the pressure of the hand, and disclose the treasure which may be hidden within. But a more lengthened investigation proves disappointing. The box is impregnable, and the searcher is not much encouraged by the motions on nearly every side recommending perseverance. Still one more effort may prove successful, and if, as is usual, the interior is filled with bonbons, or sweetmeats of some kind or other, the discoverer will reap his reward.

## DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BRISTOL, DEC. 14.

Winter has now fairly set in, and the streets of Bristol present their usual aspect. In the day, filled with crowds intent on various objects; in the evening occupied by scores of liberated clerks and errand boys, with their gaudily-dressed "sweethearts;" by night, patrolled by policemen and disturbed by midnight revellers. The announcements of excursions and pic-nics, of boat trips and rural fetes, are superadded by flaring bills of concerts and panoramas, theatrical announcements and prices current of coals.

In the early morning, whilst the fog lingers over the city, the shouts of the new-boys are heard in all directions. From time to time these sounds are interrupted by the ponderous roll of the scavengers' carts; and the host of dusty men and industrious boys have hardly ceased from their work at ten at night. The intelligence of a battle fought, a treaty concluded, a celebrity dead, puts in motion the presses of the daily paper; and at five, six, or seven o'clock in the evening weary mechanics going home from their work, city merchants detained in their counting-houses, and railway arrivals, escaping from Temple-street, are stopped by the offer of a "Third Edition, *Daily Post*," thrust vigorously before them.

Now is the time for the Canterbury Dining Hall to do a "roaring" trade. Hot soups and coffees; meat, roast and boiled, and savoury puddings are in great demand. Something is not necessary to keep up the animal heat in weary diners, content, whilst the summer sun poured down, with milk, or a "Plate of Ham, Miss, if you please."

Every one is come home. The last of the holiday-seekers has resumed his place at desk and counter. Bristol is full, and its winter work has begun.

With all its fog, and smoke, and mud the city is now pleasanter than the country.

There is a warm, comfortable look about it, contrasting strongly with the chilly bareness of the suburbs. How dreary now are the cheap stucco-fronted villas run up in such numbers by enterprising builders, their stunted, leafless shrubs stuck here and there about their miniature lawns. Even Leigh Woods, shorn of its summer beauty, has rather a repellent aspect. The town, however, with its thousands of bustling inhabitants, is a cheerful sight. All is life and activity within its busy streets, and the old churches and buildings, forsaken and forgotten during the autumnal holidays, are pleasant again in our eyes.

Few cities possess more relics of antiquity than Bristol. They meet one at every corner, and are of assistance in helping a stranger to form an idea of the place in its best days. Old churches, vias, and those in the obscure localities of London in beauty and quaintness, are situated in out-of-the-way nooks and corners of "St. Vincent-on-Avon." Many of the public buildings are also of great age, and there are numerous houses still standing whose rooms are decorated in the Elizabethan style. The antique appearance of many of the streets carries back the mind to the time when Bristol was the second city of the empire, and at the same time suggests the decay which has since taken place in its importance.

Whether Bristol will ever regain its former position is doubtful. Some steps in the right direction have been taken. The Port and Pier Railway has been constructed, and it is to be hoped that a connecting line between this and the Great Western and Midland termini will follow. The Docks Bill has passed through Parliament, and under its provisions the formation of commodious docks will be commenced. There will then remain for consideration the various plans which, of later years, have been submitted for widening and deepening the river, and when one of them has been accepted, and the work begun, the most important alterations will be in course of production. When completed, but not till then, Bristol may successfully compete with Liverpool.



## LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

## BATH.

## (SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.)

QUEEN-SQUARE HOUSE.  
Dec. 14.

A large consignment of English and foreign fancy goods, suitable for Christmas presents and New Year's gifts, has just been received.

Extra fine steel pens are now selling at a shilling per gross at the New Curiosity Shop.

It is rumoured that there will be a considerable number of purchasers of S. S. & S.'s new safety envelopes.

The great Valentine Show will be held as usual, at the New Curiosity Shop, in February next.

**CURRENT PRICES:—**  
Note paper, per ream, 1s. 8d. to 10s.; envelopes, per 100, 6d. to 1s. 3d.; work-boxes, 2s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.; carte-de-visite albums, 1s. to 25s.

**CHRISTMAS TREES.**—The late Prince Consort left children as well as adults indebted to him. He was an excellent father, as well as a statesman and a philosopher, and knew well the necessity of giving the time and opportunity to children to amuse themselves. When his own family grew up around him, he introduced amongst them that old German institution—the Christmas-trees. Decorated with its tiny toys and miniature candles, it charmed the infant members of the royal house, and soon became a favourite with the juveniles of all classes.

**IF YOU PLEASE.**—At a wedding recently, when the officiating priest put the question, "Will thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?" the bride dropped the prettiest curtsy, and, with additional grace, replied,—"If you please."

## STAMP COLLECTING.\*

Stamp collecting, though no longer a novelty, continues to be the favourite amusement of a large number of persons possessed of the requisite time and money. It has been the subject of much ridicule, but is hardly deserving of it. To judge it by the standard of usefulness, in all its severity, is as unjust as to judge of the actions of men of the fifteenth century by the light of the nineteenth. Before deciding upon its merits it ought to be considered that hobbies—pursuits which may be followed in moments of leisure—are necessary things. We cannot all recreate ourselves, as Newman Hall did, by the study of law; nor, as some philosophers have done, by turning their investigation into the astruce to the acquirement of foreign languages. Something which will not too severely tax our brains or weary our bodies, and which will yet yield us pleasure—a hobby, in fact, which we can ride when we like and as long as we like—is required.

Persons of different tastes choose different hobbies. The collection of butterflies engages the attention of one; the gathering of a choice assortment of pipes is the ambition of another. Ferns, shells, snuff-boxes, china, and tulips have all their characters—and have all their admirers. And why stamps should be thought unworthy to rank with them we cannot see. Bits of paper though they are, they are still, in many cases, master pieces of art. The admirers of engraving may note the fine lines, the delicate curves, the beautiful patterns of the stamps of the more advanced countries; and the simplicity of the labels of less civilised states is in itself an evidence of the condition of art within their territories.

The believers in postage stamps also allege that historical facts may be learnt from them; and we do not doubt that such is the case. They are not very wonderful facts. A stamp does not con-

\* *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III. *The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps*, by Dr. J. E. Gray, London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Stafford Smith & Smith.

tain so much hidden history as an Assyrian brick. But no one expects to discover much in his labels. If they remind him that there is a Dutch king regnant, and therefore no longer a Dutch Republic; that Louche, Bremen, and Hamburg are still free cities; that Prince Coiza rules in Moldo-Wallachia; and that Mexico is now an empire; he is satisfied.

A collector does not want to be drawn into a study of state papers through his study of stamps. Neither does he plunge deep into geography to discover the whereabouts of a new stamp country; he is content to wait a twelvemonth before discovering the precise position of Livonia, and may not yet have ascertained the locality of Honduras; yet without entering upon history or poring over maps, the stamp collector still finds pleasure in his stamps. Much time must necessarily be spent in arranging them; and in order to place them correctly, a knowledge of the many minute differences which constitute varieties is required. When that is obtained, the work of arrangement is a pleasure; and as albums are specially prepared for the reception of stamps, a collector can soon see what he has and what he wants.

The satisfaction felt in obtaining a valuable specimen, for which a space remains vacant, is another element in the pleasure yielded by the pursuit. The interest which these devotees—to use their own titles, "timbrophilists," or "philatelists"—feel in their hobby is moreover kept up by the new stamps which constantly appear, and which it is requisite of course that they should obtain. And amongst themselves they have as many meet points as any other class of collectors.

Discussion is continuous on the question whether they shall admit "essays," as rejected designs for postage stamps are termed, into their albums, and no determination has yet been arrived at as to whether or not proof impressions of stamps in abnormal colours are worthy a tumbrophilist's notice.

The most important medium for communication in this country is the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, a well-conducted periodical in which the merits of the pursuit are

not exaggerated, and which every month contains matter of much interest to the fraternity. Into its pages the collector may dip with the certainty of finding useful information for his guidance, and should he wish to find the latest novelties in stamps he must turn to its monthly leader, where he will see a description of all which have appeared, generally illustrated with well-executed engravings. It is now thirty years since the first number appeared, and we understand that it is still as widely circulated as ever throughout the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and the States. The third volume now lies before us in a handsome cloth cover, on which is a representation of the one-franc stamp of the French Republic; and from its cheapness, beauty, and readability it would form an excellent Christmas present even to those not as yet inoculated with the mania for collecting.

The other work noted at the foot is from the pen of an able naturalist whose name is known throughout the kingdom. Dr. J. E. Gray has brought his classifying powers to the work of cataloguing stamps, and the result is a unique and scientific list, wherein the different labels are arranged according to their types. The numerous illustrations with which the volume is studded also greatly enhance its value to a young collector. This book has, already passed through three volumes, and we believe that a fourth will be produced at an early date.

That a man of Doctor Gray's calibre should spend his leisure in the study of stamps is in itself a proof that they are not unworthy the attention of men of thought. And according to the magazine we have named, he is not the only eminent person who has a partiality for postage labels. M. de Saulcy, "a senator of France, a member of the French Institute, and vice-president of the French Academy of Beaux Arts," we are there told, "ranks pre-eminent amongst eminent collectors," and Pearson Hill, Esq., the son of Sir Rowland Hill, is himself a contributor to the magazine, and a tumbrophilist. And with this testimonial to character we must take leave of stamp collecting.

**THE MOST ACCURATE** Information about Postage Stamps is given in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*,—Vol. III.

**CHAT with JUVENILE COLLECTORS**, see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**THE BATH POST-BOY**,—see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**THE PATAGONIAN POST OFFICE**, see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**NELLY'S COLLECTION**,—see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BRITISH GUIANA**, see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**ODDS AND ENDS**, see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**POSTAL CHIT-CHAT**, see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**NO NAME**, see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**THE QUEEN'S HEAD**, see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**POSTAGE-STAMP DEVICES**,—see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**WHAT SHALL WE CALL IT?** See *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**A STATE OF SIEGE**,—see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

**NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS**,—see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

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**VIEWS OF SYDNEY**,—see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III.

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