

THE CORK INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

(From our own Correspondent.)

BEFORE our paper reaches the hands of our readers, this Exhibition will have been opened in due form by the Lord-Lieutenant, and the good citizens of the "beautiful city," as it is called *par excellence*, with many a stranger from the surrounding districts will be crowding its hills; upwards of 4000 season tickets having been sold within four days.

The Exhibition is held in the Corn Exchange, a new building. The entrance, or Northern Hall (the Corn Exchange proper), entered from the quays, is 76 feet square and 50 feet high, divided into nave and aisles, the nave rising into a species of clerestory, with elevated side lights. This fine apartment contains in various glass cases all the fine texture articles, damask, linens, tabinets, crochet, embroidery, &c.; and here also a tabinet and velvet loom are in full operation, showing the process of weaving those articles. From this hall is a noble arched entrance, twenty feet wide, descending by the steps into one of the finest rooms in Europe, the Fine Art Hall, 145 feet by 53 feet, in the centre 45 feet high: it has an arched roof in one span, with luminated timber girders, and a continuous top light in the centre, 8 feet 6 inches at each side. The extreme end is circular, where is placed a noble organ, and an orchestra to contain 200 performers—the latter temporary, to be removed after the first day's performance of the ode. The view from the Northern Hall of this beautiful room, when filled with sculpture and painting, will be beautiful. The united length of these rooms seen at one time is 221 feet, running north and south. Running east and west, adjoining the North Hall, and crossing the Fine Arts Hall, is a transept 320 feet long, by 30 feet wide; adjoining which to the south at each end are halls, each about 130 feet by 80 feet—in all six great halls for the various purposes of the Exhibition, with committee and refreshment rooms, and various offices attached, spacious courts, &c.

The Exhibition Building, filled with the various objects of art and industry, now presents a brilliant *coup d'oeil*. The splendid arch of the dome, with its moulded cornice, adorned with shields and banners, supported on retiring columns backed with crimson drapery, overshadows a lengthened perspective of beautiful statuary, gems of art, gushing fountains, and gorgeous fabrics, whose converging lines from floor, wall, and ceiling meet and concentrate on a magnificent organ.

At the rear of the Exhibition Buildings, and adjoining the southern street, are the Banquet-hall, the reception-room, &c. The Banquet-hall, which is capable of entertaining five hundred persons, is 90 feet by 70 feet, and 40 feet high, beautifully decorated, and having nine splendid glass lustres to be lighted with gas.

The vestibule, which is of a circular form, looks like a splendid eastern pavilion, adorned with rich pink and white hangings, mirrors, and furniture *en suite*. This, with the great

reception-room and ante-room, forms a suite of apartments. The vestibule leads into a well-proportioned and spacious drawingroom, of a conical form, which is decorated with lively brilliant colours, after the Parisian mode, and "contrives a double debt to pay," as it serves the double purpose of an anteroom for the guests at the banquet, and a supper and promenade-room during the ball. The cornices are ornamented with shields and vases of flowers, and placed in the niches. It leads by an easy approach and decorated archway into the banquet-hall and ball-room. The latter apartment is fitted up with decorations in the French style, of the richest description. The walls are hung, with drapery of white and yellow bands, with a showy cornice of the same material. The supporting pillars bear narrow longitudinal stripes of purple and white, and midway from the ground a graceful trophy of arms, shields, and banners forms a striking ornament. The kitchen department reminds one of the olden times; the roasting grate alone is twelve feet long, with hot hearth, charcoal stoves, platform for kettle., &c.

Cork is like a bee-hive-full of life, expectation, energy, bustle, and business; a great impetus has been given to trade; human industry is awake and active.

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