

## THE NEW POST OFFICE, CORK.

IN a few days (says the local *Examiner*) the new Post Office, in Old George's-street, will be handed over to the Postal Telegraph authorities by the builder. For some time past a great want of proper accommodation for the public and the officials was felt in the old building, situated in Pembroke-street, and it became apparent to the authorities that some improvement was necessary in every respect. It was at first thought that the whole block of houses between the old Theatre Royal and the Imperial Hotel would be swept away, and a fine building occupying the entire space erected thereon. It was found, however, that the price placed upon these premises by the landlords, was far beyond what the authorities were inclined to give. Negotiations were entered into, but no satisfactory arrangement could be come to, and as those in authority did not wish to put their compulsory powers into effect, they contented themselves with purchasing the site of the old theatre. Where once were witnessed remarkable displays of histrionic ability, and where many times were heard the sweet notes of the stars in the musical world, is now heard the "clic clic" of the busy telegraph, and the bustle attendant upon the transaction of business in a large government office. *Tempora mutantur* the temple of Roscius has passed away, and in its place is the practical and unromantic pile, where letters are posted and from which telegrams are transmitted. This building has been erected at a cost of £8,000, and though not at all what it should be as regards exterior appearance, it is a very solid, substantial concern, possessing internally a variety of modern improvements; when we say it is not what we would wish to see externally, we mean that a little more money might have been granted by the government for the purpose of enabling the builder to put an imposing front on the new office, and one that would have some pretensions to architectural beauty. It is however, as it stands at present, a fine, well built office, that will, no doubt, stand the ravages of time and the elements remarkably well. The first storey is entirely of limestone, and the others of local sandstone, with dressings and cornices of the limestone. There are three tiers of boxes that will be disposed of in the usual way, for letters, newspapers, &c. On entering the doorway there is a large hall, on the left hand side of which is a fine room 60 ft. long by 38 ft. broad. It is splendidly ventilated, and commodious in every way. This is called the "sorting room," but, for the present, portion of it will be thrown open to the public for the purchase of stamps, transmission of telegrams, &c. This arrangement will only continue while a number of very necessary changes and improvements are being made in the old building. When these changes have been carried out, this room will be closed to the public, who will then be obliged to buy stamps, and stamp letters, in the old office, as at present, and then will have to walk round to the new building for the purpose of posting letters. This is a very awkward arrangement, as it involves the loss of a good deal of time, which will be felt very much by business men. 'Ye hope the postal authorities may see their way to change this, and allow the entire postal business to be transacted in one office. The entire front portion of the building is devoted to the postal department, and the rear portion to the telegraphic department. Behind the sorting office on the ground floor are the telegraphic stores and waiting rooms for the messengers. A noticeable feature in the new Post Office is the extensive use of concrete. The division walls, steps of stairs, arches and floors are made of concrete, and this is the first place in Cork in which every step in a flight of stairs, numbering nearly a hundred steps is composed entirely of concrete. Concrete is coming into vogue very much of late, and those who are competent to pronounce an opinion, speak highly of its strength and durability, no matter for what purpose it may be used. The staircase is a very fine one, with a well of 15 ft. square. The steps and landings are cast in concrete, with iron balustrades and massive oak handrails. The back room on the first

floor is devoted to the telegraphic department, and is called the instrument room. It is a very large room, being 60 ft. long- by 60 ft. broad, and is amply lighted and ventilated by an open roof.

It is the intention of the authorities to employ females in this department, in accordance with which view special arrangements are made for their comfort and accommodation. The first floor in front is taken up by the Postmaster's and other offices and the top storey also is occupied by offices, utilised by those employed in the Telegraph department. The building was designed by Mr. J. H. Owen, Architect of the Board of Works, and the contract was carried out by Mr. Richard Evans, Cork, in a manner that shows we have men in Cork who can turn out work as well as many of the best firms in England. We must certainly say that the way in which every little bit of detail has been attended to proves the care and attention bestowed on the work by Mr. Evans, aided by Mr. James Williams, clerk of works. It is proposed to join the old and the new buildings in a short time, and then every item will be complete, so as to afford every facility to the public, and make the clerks and others as comfortable as possible.

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