

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS.

Vol. XI. No. 437.—January 18, 1867.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Sending Photographs to the International Exhibition	25
Sharpness, Diffusion of Definition, etc.	25
Mr. England's Method of Preserving, Restoring, and Modifying Varnished Negatives.....	27
The Reason Why. By the Photographer's Assistant.....	27
On the Preservation, Restoration, and Perfecting of Negatives. By Wm. England	28
On Focussing. By A. H. Wall	31

	PAGE.
Observations on Mr. Dallmeyer's Paper on a New Lens. By A. Claudet	29
Proceedings of Societies—South London Photographic Association—The Photographic Society of Marseilles	33
Correspondence—Can Diffusion of Definition be Secured by Optical Means?—Analysis of Developing Powders	35
Talk in the Studio	35
To Correspondents	36

SENDING PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

"BETTER late than never," is a good old motto, although the lateness involved may sometimes be the cause of much trouble and more anxiety. At the eleventh hour the authorities at South Kensington have resolved to save English photographers all trouble in regard to the transmission of their contributions to Paris, by receiving them at South Kensington, and forwarding them in bulk to Paris. It really looks almost like a practical joke that photographers should be left with the vaguest information until the latest moment, and then, after they have made arrangements to forward their pictures through the agency which came forward as a *deus ex machinâ* to relieve photographers from a serious dilemma, the British Executive issue a circular which intimates that all the arrangements, made with much trouble, are unnecessary. Mr. Elliott, of course, deserves the thanks of photographers for the intention of serving them, and he is now relieved of a task which must have involved much unremunerated trouble, and might possibly have left him out of pocket. The act of the South Kensington authorities has a tendency to make all persons who have exerted themselves in this matter look somewhat foolish. Mr. Elliott, writing to us and commenting on the extraordinary management of the authorities, remarks: "To those who know little of the trouble you have been at, it will look as though your article of instructions had been written without correct information, the circular bearing date one day earlier than the NEWS." We have reason to believe, however, that the concessions have been made chiefly in deference to our own urgent representations in these pages, and to those of Mr. Peter Le Neve Foster, made personally.

A few weeks ago we intimated, in a leader, a conviction—for which we had authoritative reason—that special arrangements would be made on behalf of photographers, to receive their contributions at South Kensington, and to take all further steps necessary thereafter. Shortly afterwards Mr. Foster received a letter, simply intimating that the British Executive would receive, unpack, and hang the pictures in Paris; and he recommended combination amongst photographers for transmitting their productions to Paris, and two meetings were held at his office, at which we submitted the proposal which we had received from Mr. Elliott for insertion in the NEWS; and it was not until all arrangements had been completed, and the announcements in print in the journals, that the final concession of the South Kensington authorities was made and issued to photographers. However, as Mr. Foster observes in a letter to us announcing the change, "All is well that ends well," and we do not regret any trouble we may have had which has conduced to the desirable, though tardy, arrangements.

In the circular which we print below, it will be seen that

the contributions must be sent in not later than the 7th of February, an inconveniently early day, we fear, for photographers. No specific instructions are given as to packing, labelling, &c.; but, in order to facilitate the return of the pictures, it will be well for photographers to carry out similar arrangements we gave last week, as to appending the name, address, and number of pictures, to the inside of the lid, the bottom of the case, and the back of each picture. And now, notwithstanding the repressive tendency of all this delay and uncertainty, we hope that as the final arrangements are convenient and simple, all photographers who have received awards of space will make effort to fill that space, and fill it worthily for the credit of British photography.

The circular just issued to photographers is as follows:—

10th January, 1867.

SIR,—With reference to the circular No. 43, and the labels sent, I am to inform you that the Executive Commission have arranged to unpack and hang the photographs which you propose sending to Paris for exhibition. It will therefore be unnecessary for you to appoint an agent to represent you in Paris.

I have to request that you will forward your works to the South Kensington Museum, addressed to the Secretary, Paris Universal Exhibition 1867, before the 7th of February next. The Executive Commission will undertake the transport of them from South Kensington to Paris.

The aggregate dimensions of the works you send (including the frames) must not exceed the amount of space allotted to you.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. G. WYLDE, Assistant Secretary.

SHARPNESS, DIFFUSION OF DEFINITION, ETC.

THE discussion on this subject, although it has been continued in the opinion of some *usque ad nauseam*, does not seem to flag, but has occupied the attention of two societies since we last wrote upon it. Though a little late, some have been found to do battle for sharpness at last. This is important: for whilst the advocates of diffused definition have never dreamed of condemning or abandoning the use of sharpness in its place, there is always a danger, when one side of a question is maintained exclusively, of some persons of narrow view being misled and deluded into a notion that because one quality is praised, all opposite qualities are of necessity vilipended.

In referring to the discussion at the Photographic Society on Monday night, we have pleasure, first of all, in rendering to Mr. Claudet our tribute for the display of qualities we should like to see more common in debate, namely, steady courage in the maintenance of his position, untinged by anything of bitterness or discourtesy to his opponents. From the first publication of his proposition for employing the moving focus, his plan has been hotly discussed in speeches and letters, and the opposition it has