

SILVER STATUETTE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

THE statuette of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, exhibited by Mr. Harry Emanuel, is a very spirited and artistic work, and has been produced in oxidised silver so as to give greater effect to the work of the artist. The Prince is represented as Colonel of the 100th (Royal Canadian) Regiment, acknowledging a salute bareheaded, and with his hat in his hand. His charger is at the same time pawing the ground in a very spirited and free manner; indeed, there is much force and fire in the horse, whilst the pose of the Prince is

graceful and his seat sound and horsemanlike. When one considers how many unsuccessful equestrian statues are before the public, how King William "sits on his horseback" at Dublin, Peter the Great at Moscow, and George IV. at Trafalgar-square—spectacles of hideousness and awkwardness much to be regretted—we may well congratulate the artist, Mr. Marshall Wood, on the success and beauty of his performance. The manufacturer has very wisely determined to reproduce this work in bronze, and, doubtless, many who are not prepared to purchase the figure in one of the precious metals will yet be rejoiced to possess a copy in a metal almost as beautiful, more fitted for artistic purposes, and even more enduring.



SILVER STATUETTE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, EXHIBITED BY MR. EMANUEL, OF BROOK-STREET. FROM "THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—British Columbia, previously known as New Caledonia, contains about 200,000 square miles; the average breadth of the territory is about 250 miles; the length of its coast line about 450 miles. The population of the country is chiefly migratory, consisting of mining adventurers from California and other parts of the world and including considerable numbers of Chinese; the settled white population may be estimated at under 10,000. In addition to its gold mines, which are as yet the principal source of wealth to the colony, the natural resources of the country have thus been summed up in evidence given before the House of Commons:—Its minerals are most valuable; its timber the finest in the world for marine purposes; it abounds with bituminous coal well fitted for the generation of steam, from Thomson's River and Colville districts to the Rocky Mountains; and from the 49th parallel some 350 miles north a more beautiful country does not exist. It is in every way suitable for colonisation. There are three routes by which Vancouver Island and British Columbia may be reached. First, round Cape Horn direct to Victoria, the capital of Vancouver Island, a flourishing town of 3000 inhabitants; secondly, by the West India mail steamer to Aspinwall, thence across the isthmus (48 miles) by railway to Panama, and thence by the Pacific line of steamers to Victoria; thirdly, via New York to Aspinwall by steamers, and thence to Vancouver Island across the isthmus, as in the second route. This is the most certain route for letters. From Vancouver Island to the mainland of British Columbia the distance is about sixty miles, across the Gulf of Georgia. The time occupied on the first route is about five months in a sailing-vessel and about three in a steamer; the cost, in the first cabin, from £50 to £60; in the second or intermediate cabin, from £30 to £40, and in the steerage from £25 to £30. By the second route Vancouver Island may be reached in about fifty days, if the passengers are not detained at Panama and San Francisco. There is sometimes a week's detention at the latter place. The cost of a first-class passage is about £100, that of the second class about £65, and that in the steerage about £45. The cost of passages by the third route is about the same as by the second.

THE BEFFANA, AN ITALIAN TWELFTH-NIGHT CUSTOM.—The Beffana is said to have been an old woman, who was busily employed in cleaning the house when the three kings were journeying to carry the treasures to be offered to the infant Saviour. On being called to see them pass by, she said she could not just then, as she was so busy sweeping the house, but she would be sure to see them as they came back. The kings, however, as is well known, returned to their own country by another way; so the old woman is supposed to be ever since in a perpetual state of looking out for their coming, something after the manner of the legend of the Wandering Jew. She is said to take great interest in the welfare of young children, and particularly of their good behaviour. Through most parts of Italy, on Twelfth Night, the children are put to bed earlier than usual, and a stocking is taken from each and put before the fire. In a short time there is a cry, "Ecco la Beffana!" and the children hurry out of bed and rush to the chimney; when lo! in the stocking of each is a present, supposed to have been left by the Beffana, and proportioned in its value to the behaviour of the child during the past year. If any one has been unusually rebellious and incorrigible, behold! the stocking is full of ashes. This degrading and disappointing circumstance is generally greeted by a torrent of tears, and the little rebel is then told, if he or she will promise most faithfully to be better behaved for the future the stocking shall be replaced, and perhaps the Beffana may rely on the promises of amendment and leave some little present as she comes back. Accordingly, the child is put to bed again, and in a short time the cry is again raised, "Here's the Beffana!" and the child jumps up, runs to the stocking, and finds some little toy there, which of course the parents have placed there in the interim. Any misbehaviour during the following year is met with "Oh! you naughty child, what did you promise on Epiphany? No more presents will you get from the Beffana!" On the preceding night a sort of fair is held, consisting of the toys so to be presented, which is crowded to excess. On one occasion, when I witnessed it at Rome, the soldiers were sent for to clear the way, as the people got so closely packed that there was no means of getting about.