

STATUE OF THE EARL OF DERBY.

This statue of the Earl of Derby was ordered by the Town Council of Liverpool, not as intended to have any political significance, but simply to recognise the long-existing association of the house of Stanley with the town, and especially the interest which the present Lord Derby has always taken in the development of the trade and commerce of the port. The figure, which is of Carrara marble, and about seven feet high, represents the noble Earl in his robes as a Knight of the Garter, and as addressing the House of Lords. The right hand is slightly raised, as if to give effect to some sentiment he is supposed to be uttering, whilst the left hand grasps a scroll. It was intended that the countenance should represent the noble Earl as in his more active days of political life, particularly when animated by the excitement of debate. According to the *Liverpool Mercury*, Mr. Theed, the sculptor, has executed his task to the satisfaction of the Stanley family; doubtless, therefore, the artist has succeeded as regards the portraiture. "In the pose dignity and grace combine to produce an air of nobility, without any trace of formality or pride." The robes and insignia of the order are wrought with that elaborate care which distinguishes other works by this well-known sculptor.

ECLIPSES IN 1870.

In the year 1870 there will be four Eclipses of the Sun, and two of the Moon.

The first is a Total Eclipse of the Moon, on Jan. 17, but will scarcely be visible from England. The first contact with the shadow takes place at 0h. 57m. p.m., G.M.T.; the middle of the Eclipse is at 2h. 46m. p.m., when the magnitude of the Eclipse will be 1.65, the Moon's diameter being represented by 1; and the end of the Eclipse is at 24 min. to 5h. p.m., G.M.T. The Moon will rise at Greenwich partly eclipsed.

The second is a Partial Eclipse of the Sun, on Jan. 31, but is invisible from England. The Eclipse begins at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2h. p.m., G.M.T.; its greatest phase is at 26m. after 3h. p.m., and ends at 8m. past 5h. p.m., G.M.T.

The third is also a Partial Eclipse of the Sun, and is invisible from England. At its greatest phase, which occurs at 1h. 46m., on the night of June 28, rather more than three fifths of the Sun's diameter will be obscured. It is visible from the south-eastern portion of Australia, from New Zealand, and part of the South Pacific Ocean.

The fourth is a Total Eclipse of the Moon, on July 12-13, and is visible at Greenwich. It begins at 8h. 45m. p.m., when the Moon will be in the zenith of a place whose longitude is 49 deg. 8 min. E. and lat. 22 deg. 13 min. S.; passes to the middle of the Eclipse at 34 min. past 10h. p.m., when magni-

tude of the Eclipse (Moon's diameter = 1) = 1.68; and the Eclipse ends at 24 m. past 0h. a.m., of the 13th, the Moon being in the zenith of a place whose longitude is 3 deg. 33 min. W. and lat. 22 deg. 5 min. S.

The fifth is a Partial Eclipse of the Sun, on July 28, and is invisible from England. The greatest Eclipse occurs at 2m. after 11h. a.m., when not one tenth of the Sun's diameter will be obscured.

The sixth is a Total Eclipse of the Sun, on Dec. 22. It begins on the Earth generally at 14 min. after 10h. a.m.; passes to the central Eclipse at noon, at 19m. after 0h. p.m., and ends on the Earth at 41m. after 2h. p.m. At Greenwich a Partial Eclipse is visible, and begins at 8m. after 11h. a.m.; the greatest phase is at 25m. after 0h. p.m., when rather more than four-fifths of the Sun's diameter will be obscured; and ends at 1h. 42m. p.m.

DECIMAL COINAGE AND THE METRIC SYSTEM.

THE second report of the Standards Commission states that in the unanimous opinion of the Commissioners the time has arrived when the law should provide, and facilities be afforded by the Government, for the introduction and use of metric weights and measures in the United Kingdom. For this object metric standards, accurately verified in relation to the primary metric standards at Paris, and deposited in the Standards Department of the Board of Trade, should be legalised; and verified copies of the official metric standards should be provided by the local authorities for inspectors of such districts as may require them. The Commissioners think that the French nomenclature, as well as decimal scale of the metric system, should be introduced in this country, but they are of opinion that the general introduction of the metric system should be permissive only, and not made compulsory by law after any period to be now specified, so far as relates to the use of metric weights and measures for weighing and measuring goods for sale or conveyance. It is thought expedient that customs duties should be allowed to be levied by metric weight and measure as well as by imperial weight and measure; that the use of the metric system, concurrently with the imperial system, should be adopted by other public departments, especially the Post Office, and in



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the publication of the principal results of the statistics of the Board of Trade, as well as for the admeasurement and registration of the tonnage of shipping. As to decimal coinage, the Commissioners say that, even if the difficulties of establishing an international unit of coinage cannot be at present overcome, yet the decimalisation of our system of coinage, which is in the power of the Government, would be very useful to the public.