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THE EIFFEL AND JUBILEE TOWERS.

THE notion that "they manage things better in France" than we do here is by no means always verified. A vehement protest from leading artists and literary men in Paris has been issued against the construction of the Eiffel Tower. But the tower is to be built nevertheless, and M. Lockroy, the Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, ridicules the opposition which has been offered to it. The work of preparing the foundations is already in hand, and the giant structure, 1000ft. in height, is apparently destined to become an accomplished fact. London has been threatened with a gigantic tower, less lofty than "the hideous thing" about to be reared on the Champ de Mars, but apparently more hideous still in regard to its design. Cecil-court, St. Martin's-lane, was marked out as the spot where the "Victoria Jubilee Tower" was to be erected. The material was to consist mainly of brickwork, and the height was to be 420ft. Architecturally the design was of awful ugliness, but commercially the enterprise was expected to prove satisfactory, as it was reckoned that thousands of persons, in the course of a year, would pay for admission to enjoy the commanding view to be obtained from the lofty summit of the structure, the ascent being facilitated by an hydraulic lift. But in London we have a matter-of-fact body called the Metropolitan Board of Works, and a prosaic statute designated the Building Act. The projectors of the tower made application to the Board for authority to proceed with the structure; but the Board had an opinion of its own upon the subject, and considered the tower a very undesirable edifice to be erected in such a locality. Perhaps some people will be surprised to find that the Board had so much taste. Certain it is that the authorities at Spring Gardens looked upon the tower as a monstrosity, and as calculated to interfere with the architectural effect of Trafalgar-square. In short, the Board refused to sanction the structure, and if the legality of this decision can be maintained, London will owe to this quiet interposition on the part of the Metropolitan Board its deliverance from the impending danger of having a most unsightly structure erected where it would especially offend the eye, and where it could not possibly be hidden. A tall, gaunt edifice, loftier than St. Paul's, would dominate all London, and would obtrude itself on the field of view for miles round the metropolis. Such a pile of brickwork would be an impertinence, and a source of perpetual vexation. The Society of Architects, when they heard of the hapless project, sent a memorial to the Metropolitan Board, protesting, in the interest of art generally, against the erection of the proposed structure. More fortunate than the artists and *literati* who protested against the Paris tower, these memorialists found their prayer granted, and the official sanction withheld. Unless the authority of the Metropolitan Board in this matter can be successfully disputed, London is rescued from the infliction of the Jubilee Tower; but Paris must groan beneath the shadow of the iron version of the Tower of Babel, to be finished by the end of 1888, and to cost £194,000. Frenchmen have profound respect for the Lord Mayor and Corporation; some portion of their regard may be now bestowed upon the Metropolitan Board.