

Irish Times, 16 October 1862.

Ireland and its Products at the International Exhibition. Classes 25-29.In Class 26 - Leather and Saddlery -There are, from the United Kingdom, 35 exhibitors of saddlery and harness; among these 36 were distributed nine prizes, and three of them were carried off by three Dublin houses - Mr. Lennan of Dawson-street, and Mr. Hinckson, of Dame-street having obtained medals, and Mr. Hudson, of Dawson-street, an "honorable mention"....The jury...It would be useless to suggest a leaning to Dublin work on the part of a jury made up of the above components. Mr. Lennan from the first adopted the plan of having an open stall, in which the articles could be freely examined by every passer by. He shows a set of highly mounted double-buckle pair horse harness, which, though intended for State purposes, are plated on a new principle, to prevent the ornaments from incumbering the horses. The ornament on the pull, consisting of a vine branch with a bunch of grapes out of it, was much admired by the jury. The hip-straps are inlaid with patent leather, and the bits are on a shifting and revolving mouthpiece, so as to keep the horse's mouth in constant play, thereby doing away with the necessity for severity in driving. There is also a set of brougham harness got up on the same style as the State harness. The admirers of fast trotting ponies cannot but be taken with a set of trotting harness on the American pattern, Improved by Mr. Lennan, in which the entire harness - collar, gig saddle, and skeleton bridle, weigh only eight pounds. The patent leather is raised and stitched with silk in a new style of workmanship; and the gig saddle is relieved with white patent leather facings, so as to do away with the heavy pad of cloth used in the United States. He shows a side saddle quilted all over, set in with doeskin, seal, and fall down head, which early secured a purchaser as unrivalled in the Exhibition. Perhaps the greatest dainty in horse attire is a saddle, which would grace a "Blink Bonny" or a "Buckstone". It is fifteen inches long and only two pounds in weight, at once the largest and lightest saddle in the Exhibition. It is made up like an ordinary hunter's saddle, covered with a hog skin, and lined with rich blue silk. This saddle is only another illustration of the old story of "Bruce and the spider." Mr. Lennan thought it was possible to produce such a tempting piece of workmanship, and was not daunted by successive failures or waste of hog skin until the saddle, weighing as light as fancy prompted him, was produced. But, after all, the great source of success to Mr. Lennan is his safety sandal stirrup for ladies. In the ordinary stirrup there is a pad in front of the iron which protects the foot when the lady presses against it. This pad, however, is immovable, and consequently if a lady's horse fall she finds it difficult to release her foot, caught as it must be, by this pad. The occurrence of several accidents - a well known case in London last year horrified the world - in which ladies were killed from the foot sticking fast as the horse rose, caused Mr. Lennan to devise the stirrup which now promises to come into general use. In it the pad moves on a swinging latch, which remains firm as long as the lady uses it to steady herself on horseback. Instead of the ordinary base of the stirrup which ladies at times find hard to the foot, there is a neat sandal or sole on which the foot rests with ease. If the horse fall - absit omen - this sandal moves on a spindle and throws the foot up, dislodging at the same time the pad. The foot then, without any effort, drops out, and the lady is safe. The reception which this simple invention has secured is marvellous. The Marquis of Aylesbury, Master of the Horse to the Queen, examined it, and ordered one for her Majesty. Prince Napoleon took one away from Mr. Lennan's stall for the Empress of the French, and afterwards ordered one for the Princess Clothilde. The

Earl of Bessborough, the Earl of St. Germans, and Baron Rothschild were among the nobility who at an early date ordered them, and the Patent Sandal Stirrup has since become recognised in Rotten Row. The French, Austrian, and Australian Commissioners, with an eye to business, ordered them by the gross, and among the strangest of orders was that given by two Chinese mandarins, whom the fame of the stirrup had reached. They came, one fine day, groping their way into the dismal corner in which Mr. Lennan's stall is hidden, and through an interpreter, were taught the principle of the invention. Never, however, having heard in the Celestial Empire of a place called Dublin, which, so far as they knew, might be in Kamtachatka, they went to Birmingham and describing the wonder they had seen, ordered six dozen for Peking. Mr. Lennan gave the Birmingham house the privilege of making them on a royalty, and the permission thus granted was soon followed by applications from the principal English saddlery firms. You may fancy the delight of the Children of the Sun when they get to their Eastern homes, coaxing the tiny Chinese foot to make a trial of the comfort which the barbarians of the West had provided; and, perhaps, if a " ?latn ?" of the Imperial residence takes place soon, John Bull may send the stirrup back as a proof that China has outstipped Great Britain. At any rate, Mr. Lennan having invented a new comfort for ladies in riding, is, on the ancient rule, entitled to the honour of a public benefactor, which, no doubt, he will receive in the form of a handsome royalty. The invention has been patented in France as well as Great Britain, and Mr. Lennan proposes to follow up his success this year by opening in the Paris Exhibition of 1863 a stall, in which this, with other improvements, will be shown. He has sold nearly every article exhibited, and has besides received large orders.