

The Bank of England
I have been favored with an opportunity of examining the interior of this mighty engine, which genders in some measure, the commercial and political life of the world. The visits of the last few days have shown that the recent increase of the rate of interest has been severely felt by those who have dealt largely in grain, and many have been compelled to sue for payment.

The Bank of England is an immense structure, covering five acres of ground, having no window in either of its fronts but receiving light from above, or from its courts. It is open for business at nine in the morning, and continues open during the day, hours, and is closed at half past four, and one thousand persons. At seven o'clock in the evening a detachment of soldiers are marched from the "Town" into the Bank, where they mount guard until seven o'clock in the next morning.

The Bank has a capital of eighteen millions sterling, and is managed by Governors, &c. Its notes are never issued by the Bank, after being presented for payment. They may be used in circulation, but are not to be paid in cash, except to the Bank itself, or to another bank.

The principal binding documents required in the Bank and its branches are done with in the building by the most approved methods. The steel presses and all the machinery are the best that can be obtained.

So carefully arranged is the machinery in the "Bank parlor" that every room resembles a beautiful toy shop. No "stoker" or engine driver is required to attend the fire or steam engine, and the whole system of machinery is self-acting.

The fire is fed by the same apparatus that

wheels are ground. In the moving a sufficient quantity is put into the "hopper,"

and that sends a regular supply into the grates or stoves, nothing further is required than to turn a wheel.

The engine is so well constructed that

it will not be jarred by a single

alarm is sounded by a whistle.

Each note is printed on what is called one sheet of paper, the lowest denotation is five pounds, the highest one thousand. The paper is printed on both sides, which duty it is to "wear it down." This is done by a steam process. After the paper is in a proper state to be worked, it is locked up in a box and sent to an officer who receives it, and it is then forwarded to the post office.

The boxes are usually of six hundred shillings, and put into boxes, which are

locked and placed in a sliding case ready

for the pressmen, who are at work above.

These cases are drawn up and printed,

and then taken up to the printing

room, where they are again

printed and dried; they are then put

into convenient packets and sent to the

post office, and so on.

Thence from the post office to the

Bank offices, from thence to the

"treasury." Here they are kept in fire-

proof iron cases, which cover all the

sides of the room.

The room itself is

fire-proof, there being only one

entrance. One of the main conveniences

of mechanism that I have seen is

that used to mark the number of each

bill. There is no change of number by

hand, but all is done by the machine,

and it can be done in a moment.

With the bills here passed through

the hands of the printers, they are sent

to the drying room, where they are again

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