

THE NEW YORK ATHENÆUM.

This is an establishment recently opened under the galleries of the Academy of Design in Broadway, and combining the advantages of a club and reading room. For twelve dollars a year, a subscriber has access to all the best newspapers, reviews, and magazines in the world, with the opportunity of enjoying, if he pleases, a game of chess and a segar.

There are three very spacious apartments, the first being appropriated to the smokers and talkers, the second to the chess-players, and the third and largest to the readers. The arrangement and decoration of these rooms render them proper subjects of notice in a journal devoted to the fine arts. Their great size and height first arrest the attention. In these respects they compare favorable with the apartments of the most celebrated London clubs. It is rarely in this country that we have an opportunity of observing how much these qualities heighten the imposing effect of interiors devoted to social intercourse.

We are familiar with immense concert halls and public ball-rooms; but our residences generally are too small to admit of very spacious saloons or drawing rooms. In addition to this peculiarity, the colors used in the furniture and decoration are harmonious; the prevailing tint of one of the apartments being green, of another crimson, and of the third neutral. The reading room is the most ornate of the three. The walls are hung with rich green flocked paper, divided into compartments by bands of gilding; the windows are draped with heavy green curtains; the ceiling painted in distemper. We observed here in four medallions representations of the electric telegraph, and of the various modes of travelling, by the old stage coach, the rail car and steamboat. We are pleased to see that the artist in his treatment of this ceiling had not every where attempted to make paint do the office of the carpenter or stucco man, and to cheat the eye by imi-

tations of mouldings and paneling. The carpets had a costly look, but they would have pleased us more had they contained fewer flowers and more conventional forms. We understand that Mr. Patterson from London, had the general superintendence of the decoration of these rooms. He certainly deserves praise for the result he has accomplished.—*Bulletin.*

A BALLOON RAILWAY.—Major Brown, of London, has addressed a letter to the Merchants and Bankers of London proposing the establishment of a balloon railway across the great desert of Africa. He suggests the establishment of a terminus near Morocco, whence he would lay 1000 or 1500 miles of single rails into the desert. These rails are for the guidance of balloons, which are to carry fifteen persons each. An immense and lucrative trade with the interior, the Major conceives, could be carried on by this means. He offers to exhibit his models free of expense. That would literally be an *air-line.*

Mr. LAYARD, in excavating beneath the great pyramid at Nimroud, has penetrated a mass of masonry, within which he had discovered the tomb and statue of Sardanapalus, with full annals of that monarch's reign engraved on the walls.

ANOTHER SATELITE OF NEPTUNE.—Mr. LASSELL, of Stanfield, near Liverpool, has discovered a second satelite of the planet Neptune. The discovery was made with a telescope of twenty feet focal length, which was made by himself, and is said to be the most powerful instrument in Great Britain.

ELECTRIC HARPOON.—H. N. Hale, of Cato Four Corners, N. Y., has invented a galvanic or electric harpoon, for paralyzing whales. He has communicated with the officers of the Inventor's Institute, of Baltimore, who have spoken very favorably of it.