

ERARD.—The concert grand instrument of eight octaves is remarkable for its tone, which is mellow, soft, and powerful at the same time, besides being even or regular; its quickness and elasticity of touch, due to the well-known repetition action, give the performer a most complete command over the instrument, and the keyboard is exceedingly well regulated. French makers have shown great hesitation in adopting metal frames and the overstrung system introduced by the American makers, and although Messrs. Erard have used metal bars in the construction, they have employed the ordinary system of stringing. A duplex scale has been introduced in the treble. The utility of this system of prolonging or doubling the string so as to obtain a greater resonance may be open to discussion, but as American and German makers employ it, Messrs. Erard have, no doubt, introduced it in this piano by way of experiment only. A good player can, however, produce new effects by aid of the third pedal, which commands the *sostenente*. The semi-grand piano, richly ornamented with gilt brass ornaments, as well as the cottage, magnificently decorated with gilt bronze fittings and marble columns, are splendid specimens of the high artistic finish which this firm is able to give to the exterior of their instruments. First award.