

improved means of production to others. Since 1851 almost every producing country in Europe, many of our colonies, and America, have recognized the importance and necessity for holding such industrial gatherings. The nature of the articles produced for home consumption and foreign markets can best be made known by such Exhibitions, and they serve as finger-posts in the history of industrial progress. The producing powers of our colonies demand of England that their capabilities to supply the markets of the world with every description of produce should be made known periodically in the metropolis of the empire. The products of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms are better understood and more closely studied now than formerly, and are daily adding new substances and increased comforts for our use, and such Exhibitions tend to direct the mind of working communities to peaceable occupations and competitions, and thereby induce more friendly interchanges with foreign nations.

WHAT IT SHOULD BE.

The Exhibition of 1851 has been described as a piece of barbaric pomp—of gorgeous colours and heaped-up wealth, and not a museum of Western progress. How far such a description is correct the public can judge; it must, however, be the object of the Society of Arts, in carrying out the Exhibition of 1861, to place it before the world in such a form as shall leave no doubt as to its being an Exhibition illustrative of progress. In order to the attainment of that end, it must in every respect be a People's Exhibition, paid for by the people's shillings. The results of the Exhibition of 1851 are conclusive evidence that no necessity exists for special subscriptions or government subsidy. It should be an educational exhibition, enabling us by comparison, in classes, to see wherein we are deficient as a manufacturing nation, and in what direction to look for improved appliances or raw materials, thereby enabling us the better to compete with foreign producers. It must teach us what the people of other lands appreciate, and would purchase from us, if produced by our manufacturers, thereby extending the trade of the country and opening up commerce in directions at present little supplied; as in the case of the Indian market, where, to quote the words of Colonel Sykes, Chairman of the East India Company, "Very little of the personal clothing of 150,000,000 of people in India is exported to India, and none of it in the form of fabrics in which the articles of clothing are worn, an omission which the manufacturers of England might surely supply." It should be a Universal or Free Trade Exhibition, so far as is consistent with the laws of the country. It should be a Comparative Exhibition—the cottons of Manchester and Glasgow side by side with those of France and America—the linens of Ireland by those of Belgium—the wools of England, Australia, and Thibet in close proximity.

It should be a Classified Exhibition: how entirely distinct must it be then from the Exhibition of 1851. Who that had occasion to collect the information contained in that Exhibition, as every member of the press who wrote for the guidance and instruction of the public had, but felt the want of classification? To have been able to have compared the porcelain of Sèvres, Belgium, Austria, Dresden, Berlin, and Prussia, with that of Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and other parts of the United Kingdom, what an incomparable advantage would it have been! How