

earth, to the Great Father of us all in Heaven, I thought, Does any wretched mother ever come here, and look among those young faces, wondering which is the child she brought into this forlorn world, never through its life to know her love, her kiss, her face, her voice, even her name ? ”

The treasure-houses of London are manifold. We have in our National Gallery a collection of pictures which, from many points of view, stands unequalled. Founded in 1824, it has grown year by year, until now the mass of artistic wealth that lies stored within its walls is stupendous. Besides, there is now the National Portrait Gallery, founded in 1856, under the ægis of the late Prince Consort. In 1889 Mr William Henry Alexander offered to build, at his own expense, a Gallery, provided the Government would grant a site. This munificent offer was met by the grant of the site on which the Gallery now stands. It was erected at the cost of £96,000, of which Mr Alexander contributed £80,000. It was opened to the public in 1896. Carlyle wrote :—

“In all my poor historical investigations it has been, and always is, one of the most primary wants to procure a bodily likeness of the personage inquired after—a good portrait, if such exists ;