

to be resumed, though at a period so late as to render it necessary that the Exhibition should be deferred till the present year; and the Society of Arts obtained a decisive proof of the existence of a general desire for a second great Exhibition in the most satisfactory form, namely, the signatures of upwards of 1,100 individuals for various sums of from £100 to £10,000, and amounting in the whole to no less than £450,000, to a guarantee deed for raising the funds needed for the conduct of the Exhibition.

"The Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, mindful of the source from which their property and their continued existence as a corporate body arose, and of one of their earliest decisions, that any profits that might be derived from that Exhibition should be applied to purposes strictly in connection with the ends of the Exhibition, or for the establishment of similar Exhibitions for the future, without hesitation placed at our disposal, free of all charge, a space of nearly 17 acres on their Kensington Gore estate, which was at first considered sufficient for the purposes of the Exhibition, but to which at a subsequent period a further area of upwards of eight acres (being all the land which could be made available for those purposes) was added on our application, when the original space proved to be insufficient. For this grant of a site we have to express our thanks.

"To the Governments of Foreign States and of Her Majesty's Colonies our acknowledgements are justly due for the manner in which, with even greater unanimity than in 1851, they have responded to the appeal made to them to assist in this undertaking. In this cordial co-operation we find another proof that the time had arrived when a repetition of the Exhibition of 1851 had become desirable in the common interests of all nations.

"A similar tribute is due from us to those of her Majesty's subjects who appear as exhibitors, or who have placed at our disposal many valuable works to illustrate the various branches of British art, and in this respect our grateful thanks are especially due to her Majesty.

"About 22,000 exhibitors\* are here represented, of whom about 8,000 are subjects of her Majesty, and 14,000 of foreign States. The arrangement and design of the building is such that the exhibited articles have been generally arranged in three great divisions:—

"1st. Fine arts, in the galleries especially provided for that department.

"2nd. Raw materials, manufactures, and agricultural machinery, in the main building and the eastern annexe.

"3rd. Machinery requiring steam or water power for its effectual display, in the western annexe.

"Within these divisions the classification adopted is in most respects similar to that employed in 1851, the British and Colonial articles being kept separate from those sent by foreign countries, and each country having its own portion of the several departments allotted to it. The catalogues now presented by us for the purpose of submission to her Most Gracious Majesty will be found to contain all the necessary particulars respecting the articles exhibited.

\* These numbers are only approximate, the returns not yet being all made.

"In the selection and arrangement of many of the more important branches of the Exhibition we have been materially assisted by the cordial co-operation and advice of persons of all ranks in various local, class, trade, and other committees, whose services we gratefully acknowledge.

"Following the principle adopted in the case of the Exhibition of 1851, we have decided that prizes, in the form of medals, shall be given in all classes of the Exhibition, except those in the fine arts' section; such medals, however, being of one kind only—namely, rewards for merit, without any distinction of degree. Those medals will be awarded by juries appointed for the several classes, and composed of both British and foreign members.

"We are happy to be able to acquaint her Majesty that foreign nations have selected persons of high distinction in science and industry to act as jurors; and we have to bear testimony to the cordial readiness with which eminent manufacturers of this country and other persons distinguished in the State, as well as in the various branches of science and art, have consented to serve as jurors, and accept the responsibilities and labour entailed upon them by so doing. We feel assured that the eminence of the jurors, both foreign and British, thus selected will satisfy exhibitors that the objects displayed by them will be examined by competent as well as by impartial judges. It is certain that the meeting of so many leading men on such a duty, from all parts of the world, must exercise a favourable influence on agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, by disseminating valuable and practical information respecting the condition of science and industry in their several countries, as well as by making known to all that which they need and that which they can supply.

"The articles now exhibited will show that the period which has elapsed since 1851, although twice interrupted by European wars, has been marked by a progress previously unexampled in science, art, and manufacture.

"It is our earnest prayer that the International Exhibition of 1862, now about to be inaugurated, and which it is our privilege to conduct, may form no unworthy link in that chain of International Exhibitions with which must ever be connected the honoured name of Her Majesty's illustrious Consort."

The Duke of Cambridge read the following reply:—

"We cannot perform the duty which the Queen has done us the honour to commit to us as Her Majesty's representatives on this occasion without expressing our heartfelt regret that this inaugural ceremony is deprived of her Majesty's presence by the sad bereavement which has overwhelmed the nation with universal sorrow. We share most sincerely your feelings of deep sympathy with her Majesty in the grievous affliction with which the Almighty has seen fit to visit her Majesty and the whole people of this realm. It is impossible to contemplate the spectacle this day presented to our view without being painfully reminded how great a loss we have all sustained in the illustrious Prince with whose name the first Great International Exhibition was so intimately connected, and whose enlarged views and enlightened judgment were conspicuous in his appreciation of the benefits