

SOME EXCEPTIONAL FEATURES CONNECTED WITH LONDON.

Before lowering the light and asking the views to be thrown on the screen I will simply narrate a few of the prominent features or characteristics of London which cannot be portrayed on the canvas.

1.—London consists of two parts: the City of London proper which is small, but is of immense or inestimable wealth—the financial “hub” of the universe. It is presided over by the Lord Mayor and the generosity and almsgiving of the City of London is proverbial and it leads, and excites the wonder of, the charitable world; and secondly, London as generally understood which is by far the largest town in the history of the world.

2.—Dimensions and Population. It is difficult to say where London ends. It requires an addition of from 20 to 30 thousand new houses every year to accommodate in its suburbs its annual and continuous growth of population. But I may say that its dimensions are estimated generally as occupying a superficies of 20 miles by 16 miles, more or less, with the Thames River flowing through its centre, and that the population is about seven millions, with a floating population of about three-quarters of a million besides. The nearest approach to this condition in the history of the world is the encampment (a moving encampment) of the children of Israel, in the wilderness who required a superficies of something like 12 by 14 miles for their 2 or 3 millions of people.

3. London is not merely the largest and most populous town in the world; but, paradoxical as it appears, it is, at one and the same time, the Richest and the Poorest,—that is to say, there is more riches or wealth or money in London, and it contains a greater number of poor persons, than any other town in the world. Money, therefore, is more unevenly distributed than in any other town in the world.

4.—Although London is more cosmopolitan than any of the large capitals of the world, yet naturally its people are predominantly Anglo-Saxon and, consequently, progressive; yet you have your well marked