

those of Europe or the East. Russia reminded one of serfdom and Siberia. Austria reeked of butchery and Haynau. Liberty dwells not in Rome or Florence. The gorgeous fabrics of India are wrought by half-naked, half-starved and wholly ignorant slaves. But he who looked on the productions of Canada, if he saw nothing dazzling, at least was reminded of nothing degrading. He saw evidences of industry, improvement and great natural resources, and the works before him were wrought by a young giant, free and full-fed.

One fact brought to light by the Great Fair, was worthy of especial notice. It has been a prevalent idea that among the ranks of the humbler orders of society, there are many men of genius whose conceptions are only not appreciated, and not lauded, because not known. The picture of patient genius toiling in a garret, vainly struggling to place before the world the ingenious and brilliant conceptions, which, if once known, would startle the scientific and bring fame and fortune to the inventors, and breaking down at length under the sickening pressure of obscurity and deferred hope, is imagined by many to be a common one. Perhaps it is so. Perhaps there are many thus living in anxiety and dying in despair. But the Great Exhibition set one point at rest. Numerous were the specimens of ingenuity sent in to that great museum, by the humble and the obscure; the talent displayed was frequently indisputable; the cleverness undenied; but in nine cases out of ten it was found that though perhaps the specimen was original, so far as the individual inventor was concerned, still the principle had long been known in the scientific world. And though there was ingenuity and theoretical skill, yet owing to some element not taken into consideration by the self-taught and insufficiently instructed inventor, no practical result could be obtained. In some instances the cost precluded all idea of successful operation; in others the conception was of old date, and had been superseded by something newer and better. At all events, it was found that, after all, the highly educated and long practised leaders of the scientific community knew more of their business than the neglected geniuses of the hamlet and garret, and that a truly practical improvement or invention was tolerably sure to burst the fetters of poverty and obscurity, and force its way into notice.

We saw the Exhibition under every aspect: we saw it full, we saw it empty, of visitors—and we saw it empty of furniture. A friend who had the *entree* took us one morning at 9 o'clock, when only privileged persons were admitted, and there were not fifty in the building. It was, however, hardly worth the trouble. The place looked solitary; it felt damp, as the floors were being watered to keep down the dust; and many of the most splendid articles were covered with brown holland. It required about thirty thousand people to give effect to the building. Then everything looked *unique*. There were beautiful things to look at, and crowds looking at them. The eye and mind