

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—It is perhaps, questionable whether London ever held so distinguished a position, or whether Britain was ever so truly great, in the sight of all nations, as at this moment, in anticipation of that grand cosmopolitan centralization of the whole world's enterprise, which will virtually elect the capital of England into the commercial metropolis of the nations. For then, without the slightest vestige of a hyperbole, will there be here assembled the representative fruits of the genius and industry of "every nation under Heaven" to do homage to the pre-eminence of the British Empire, as at least the central mart for all, whatever be the result to it in particular, as that "Great Babylon" to which "all the merchants of the earth" will doubtless be devoted till the ominous end of their commercial empire. The several announcements of the intention of many of the more civilized nations on the Continent of Europe and America to take part in the great jubilee or fair have long been made known, as indeed have subsequently those of the less-civilized Asiatic nations—such as the Hindus, Chinese, and Persians. Still more recent announcements are those from Turkey, the Sultan having decided that specimens of Turkish manufactures shall be sent in to the Exhibition; and from Peru, the President of which has issued a decree appointing a commission to select and take charge of the Peruvian contributions. In short, the whole world is astir, and London and its next year's sights are the anticipative subject of that whole world's wonder and expectations, from the present time forth till the grand consummation.—*The Builder*.

EXHIBITION OF 1851.—We understand that a register is about to be opened at No. 1, Old Palace-yard, Westminster, by the Secretary of the Executive Committee for the Exhibition of 1851, in which will be entered the names and addresses of persons disposed to provide accommodation for artisans from the country whilst visiting the exhibition next year. It is proposed to furnish copies of this register of lodgings and accommodation to all the local committees. Other arrangements are under consideration for guiding the working classes on their arrival by the trains, to the lodgings they may select. We believe the register will contain a column, in which the nature and charges for the accommodation each party proposes to afford will be entered.

THE EXHIBITION OF 1851.—The whole of the immense area in Hyde Park, assigned for the Exhibition of 1851, is now enclosed with railings about eight feet high, and men are now busily engaged in staking out the ground for the foundation, which, it is understood, is to be wholly of wood-work. Some notion of the enormous glass-house to be placed on the spot may be judged of from the fact that it commences opposite the

officer's house at the Knightsbridge barracks, and nearly reaches to the first gate of Kensington Gardens, being a length of 700 yards, by about 140 in depth, and extending from Rotten-row to Kensington, to the barracks. As the whole, when sent, will be ready for fixing, it is confidently stated this gigantic structure will be erected by the close of the year.

FLOWER GARDEN AND SHRUBBERY.

According to present taste, a large and well ordered flower garden is one of the greatest trials of skill within the whole range of Horticulture. When at Drumlanrig Castle the other day, we were informed that from 60 to 70,000 pot plants are propagated annually, and kent over the winter for bedding out, besides pounds of this annual and half pounds of the other; and on looking over *The Cottage Gardener* on our return, we find our highly intelligent friend, Mr Beaton, of Shrubland Park, very coolly speaking of putting in cuttings of Scarlet Geraniums in the open borders much in the way ordinary men prick out cabbage plants. He says, "our first stock plant of Geranium is our own Scarlet Seedling called *Punch*, and of it we annually root 5000 cuttings;" and yet he in the same column informs us that his list of Scarlet Geraniums contains 89 names, and to these he threatens this season to add some half a dozen more; verily we may exclaim with Dominie Sampson, "Prodigious!" Nor is it in the vast number of these plants that Mr Beaton cultivates, that our astonishment or admiration is to be entirely arrested; his mode of propagation to secure these results is equally interesting, both in regard to success, and the very simple means employed. Speaking of his favourite *Punch* (and, by-the-by, he has his *Judy* also), he says, "This is the greatest number we strike of any one sort, and it is very seldom we put cuttings of these kinds of Geraniums in pots, unless it is a very delicate or rare sort which we can ensure better that way. The whole are rooted in the open ground, and full in the sun, and the hottest day in the year will not hinder our propagation when we once begin, and we never shade a Geranium cutting. The Vine and Peach borders are generally the propagating beds, and it is a good old plan to put a slight coat of some light rich compost over these borders in July, when most of the liberal waterings are over for the season, the borders being first stirred with a fork to the depth of 2 or 3 inches and then a couple of inches of the mulching compost is added. The whole is then raked, and the usual alley is marked out near the wall, and the place is ready for the cuttings. You begin at one end of the border, and plant the cuttings in rows across it, two inches between every cutting, and six inches between the rows. Care is taken to