

and upon what site? Much has already been written in some of the daily and weekly press, upon the assumption that a new building is to be erected. If such is the fact, the Society of Arts would do well to take immediate steps to secure suitable designs for the building they will require. The experience gained by the Royal Commission, and for which it paid so dearly in 1851, must surely be remembered by them. The work then done in haste was highly creditable to the skill, ingenuity, and perseverance of the contractors: but at what cost was it effected? Why, £35,000 above the contract price is stated to have been allowed to Messrs. Fox, Henderson & Co., the original contract being to erect the building designed by Mr. Paxton for £79,800. Surely, such a result will be sufficient inducement to the Society of Arts to at once set about obtaining designs and contracts for the required building. Where, then, is the Exhibition building to be placed? Government will certainly not allow a second Crystal Palace to be erected in Hyde Park. Is Battersea Park to be the site? We would hope not; as although a fine building placed on the banks of the Thames would form an interesting object to those who pass up and down that river in the steamboats, we much doubt if the land is suited to receive so large a building as will necessarily be required. To form an imposing object, it must be on the river bank; if placed on the flat portion of the park, all picturesque and architectural effect would be lost, at the same time that the foundation would be unsound and exceedingly wet. Moreover, is Battersea Park a desirable site for an Exhibition in point of accessibility? We think not. The great majority of the English and London population reside north of the Thames, and our railways communicating with the seats of industry in the Midland and Northern Counties of England have no connection with the south side of that river, nor are there many direct approaches for the ready carriage of goods through the metropolis to it. Is the new Palace proposed to be built at Muswell Hill a speculation, in anticipation of the possibility of its being opened in 1861 as the successor of the Exhibition in Hyde Park? If so, we fear it also is far too inaccessible. Are Victoria, or Regent's Park, Primrose Hill, the proposed site for the Finsbury Park, available? Regent's Park or Finsbury Park are far more accessible than the others, but is the Government to be called on to aid the Society of Arts to obtain a site, or will the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851 lend their land at Kensington for the time being for such a purpose? If the latter can be obtained we believe it possesses many points in its favour. There is an identity of locality in the minds of foreigners and the British public at once effected; it is accessible from many leading thoroughfares—it is not far distant from our railways, and if any of the plans for uniting the London and North-Western, the Great Western, and North London Railways with those on the south side of the river, which are already deposited and advertised to be brought before Parliament next session, can be carried out,—and some such plan must be carried out,—the goods from our great seats of industry might then be delivered at once, by means of a short branch line, on to the grounds of the Exhibition itself without delay, and at a diminished cost. We would urge on the attention of the Society of Arts the above considerations. The year 1861 is not far distant, and if time is lost in settling the design of the building, or the site on which it is to be built, it can only be at a greatly increased cost on its ultimate completion.