



COUNTESS RUSSELL.

—Sir P. Lely.

future, increase its area, and add year by year to its buildings upon a definite system. It already surpasses any annual fair held on the continent, and would thus in a few years have an equipment worthy of comparison with the great international expositions of the world. The commercial value of such an institution it is difficult to estimate. The sales secured through the advertising thus effected must be enormous, and capable of indefinite expansion.

The history of such fairs is an interesting record of human progress. They were originally, however, great gatherings for the purchase and sale of goods, or the hiring of servants, occasionally associated with religious festivals

and popular entertainments. In the 5th century fairs were established in several French and Italian cities. The fair of St. Denis was instituted by Dagobert in 629, and the fair of St. Lazare by Louis VI. Aix-la-Chapelle and Troyes trace their fairs to about the year 800. Alfred the Great introduced them into England in 886, and in 960 they were established in Flanders.

Fairs for the sale of slaves were common throughout Germany and the north of Europe about the year 1000; and in 1071 they were encouraged in England by William the Conqueror. Slaves were sold also at St. Denis, and French children were taken in return to be bartered away in foreign countries;