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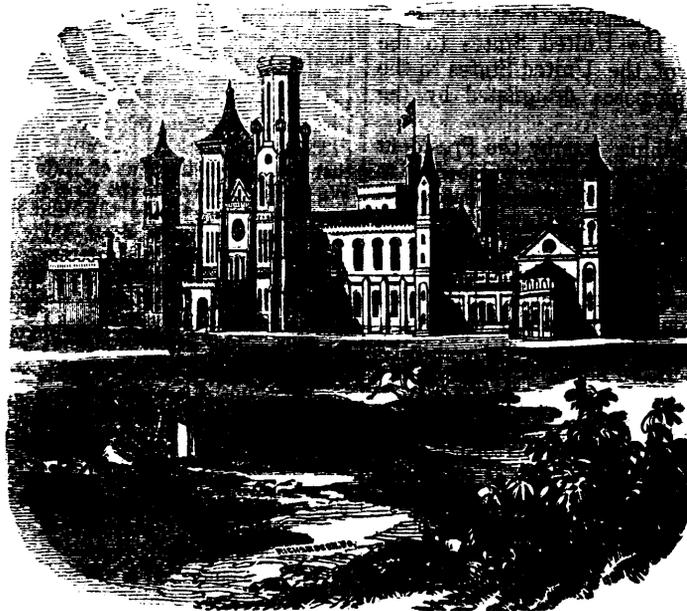
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kind:—"to increase and diffuse knowledge among men"—without restriction as to origin, country, creed or colour.

The conception of so noble a design is due to a native of England, a scion of one of its ducal houses, and a distinguished member of one of its chief universities.

The foundation of this handsome structure was laid at Washington—the metropolis of the United States—in 1847. The architecture is of the Romanesque or later Norman style. The material of the building is of fine reddish sandstone; and the structure itself, (as represented below) with its picturesque towers and irregular beauty of outline, presents an imposing appearance. It is situated on the "Mall," a wide area of ground which slopes down with a gentle declivity from, and directly in front of, the capitol. The extreme length of the building is 450 feet; its width 140 feet. It has nine towers, varying in height from 75 to 150 feet. The grounds which surround it are very extensive and are tastefully laid out.

The institution derives its name, by will, from its founder, the



THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON.

In the fulness of its scope and purpose, the Smithsonian is the most important scientific and literary institution in the United States—or even in the world. The principle upon which it was founded, was of a most beneficent and philanthropic

late James Smithson, Esquire, son of the first Duke of Northumberland.

He was educated at Oxford, where he distinguished himself by his scientific attainments. In 1787, the year after taking his Master's degree, he was elected a fellow of the Royal So-