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EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS.

An advertisement, inviting parties in this neighbourhood who proposed to contribute articles of interest to the exhibition of 1851, had the effect, on Thursday afternoon, of convening several gentlemen, who considered themselves addressed in it, including Mr. Hughes (Blind Asylum), J. Simpson, J. A. Shipton, D. Dolan, David Naylor, John Clay, W. Ford, John Hargreaves, P. Jackson, C. Sichel, G. Gradwell, Thomas Worthington, Peter Spence, and others; and who, at three o'clock, met the following gentlemen of the committee in the mayor's parlour:—E. R. Langworthy (mayor of Salford), Thomas Bazley, Salis Schwabe, W. Entwistle, M. Ross, J. Dunn, James Hertz, J. Aspinall Turner, E. T. Bellhouse, R. J. Jones, J. Harding, and — Curtis.

The Mayor of Salford having, in the unavoidable absence of the Mayor of Manchester, taken his seat as president, the proceedings of the previous committee were confirmed, and it was stated to be the first business of the meeting to consider a letter received from the royal commission in London, of which the following is a copy:—

Palace of Westminster, June 8th, 1850.
Sir.—We are directed by her majesty's commissioners for the exhibition of 1851 to acquaint you, for the information of the Manchester committee, that they have had under their attentive consideration the question as to the conditions under which articles should be exhibited. They are strongly impressed with the conviction that it is desirable, as far as possible, to publish the names of those who have merit in the production of such articles; but at the same time, they have found it difficult to frame such regulations as shall meet in an equitable manner the various circumstances of each case. Having been compelled to arrive at the conclusion that it would be impracticable to carry into effect a compulsory regulation that the name of the producer should be attached to every article exhibited, the commissioners have confined themselves to expressing their wish that all exhibitors should, in each instance, give the names of those who are the producers, or who have aided in the production or design of the articles exhibited by them. But although this decision on the part of the commissioners leaves the question open so far as regards exhibition, instructions will be given to the juries to ascertain, previous to their making the awards as to prizes, the degree of merit which the exhibitor is entitled to claim in respect to the production he exhibits. It has, however, been represented to the commissioners by the mayor and local committee of Birmingham, that the decision rendering it optional and not compulsory for the producer to attach his name, involves the interest of manufacturers to such an extent that it is very desirable that they should have an opportunity of laying their views before the commission, and of suggesting the modes by which the difficulties experienced by the commissioners may be overcome. Under these circumstances, her majesty's commissioners are anxious to ascertain how far their decision is in accordance with the views of the principal manufacturing towns, as represented by their local committees. They have, therefore, fixed the 27th instant for a conference on the subject. Should the Manchester committee be desirous of sending a deputation on the occasion, we are directed to request that it may not consist of more than one or two gentlemen. Some of the commissioners will be ready to receive the deputation at one o'clock on the above-mentioned day; and at three o'clock his royal highness the president will take the chair at the meeting of the commission. Should, however, it not be convenient for the Manchester committee to send a deputation, it would be important for the commissioners to receive in writing a copy of any resolutions to which they may have come in considering the subject. We are further directed to state, that her majesty's commissioners will avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by this meeting, to collect the opinions of the various committees on several important matters connected with the exhibition.—We have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servants,
J. SCOTT RUSSELL,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

By this letter it would be seen that the question for present consideration was, whether it ought to be rendered compulsory on exhibitors to attach to every article exhibited the manufacturer's name. The gentlemen of Birmingham considered that it ought to be so rendered, and had shown strong feeling upon the subject; and it was now wished to obtain the opinion of the Manchester people upon this question. As a general rule, the commission desired every exhibitor to attach his name to the article which he intended to contribute; but many articles would be offered which would proceed from middlemen, and the question was whether the middlemen should be compelled to declare the name of the manufacturer? It was quite evident that, in many cases, such men originated designs and obtained their realisation by means of others, and it would in such cases be hard if the merit of the invention or design should be taken from the real originator, and given to the person who had carried it out only at his instance and under his instructions. It was represented to be the prevalent opinion, that it was only correct and right that the contributors' names should be attached to the articles sent, and that, upon the whole, some discretion should be left for the executive committee to determine under what circumstances other articles could be received. It was shown to be quite impracticable in many cases to affix the names of the persons to whom the merit of manufacture was due; as the real merit belonged not to firms or masters, but to workmen, the actual performers of the labour and exerts of the skill; so that if it were made a rule that the manufacturers' names should in every case be attached, the list of names upon each article must in many cases be very great, and the commissioners would be under the greatest difficulties in awarding prizes. In such cases it was manifestly just that the party who was at the expense of the exhibition, and at whose motion and instance it was effected, should be the party to whom the merit should attach; and it was further pointed out, that in many instances it would occur that an exhibitor might be the inventor of the article exhibited, and might be himself a manufacturer of such article, and yet might, for the purposes of the exhibition, prefer to employ in the manufacture of the article exhibited a manufacturer more skilful than himself; and also that, in frequent cases, there would be several parties employed upon an article,—designer, engraver, and printer, for example,—with regard to whose proportions of desert it might be exceedingly difficult to judge, if the names of all of them must be affixed. With regard to this latter point, it was observed that at the French exhibition the same production was allowed to be exhibited in different departments;—in one department it might win a prize for the designer; in another for the engraver; in a third

for the printer; thus each party obtained the award due to his merit, and it was considered desirable that such a regulation should be adopted in the London exhibition. One of the gentlemen present suggested that it might be allowable to attach only the name of the inventor or designer to the article, on condition that the name of the manufacturer should also be stated, if the commissioners considered that justice required it to be so. A gentleman who had made himself acquainted with the plans of the commissioners, stated that it might happen that an article of great ingenuity, and promising to be of great utility, would, in the first instance, be executed in a very crude manner; and it had been determined upon, that inferiority of workmanship should not damage the reputation of that original design, and that the party contributing it should be entitled to all the honorary distinction the commission could confer. Wherever there was superiority of skill manifested in workmanship, it was intended that there the manufacturer or artisan should attach his name. Much would depend upon the arrangements of the parties who contributed. There were instances where several members of a family, or one or more friends, might combine in the production of an article for exhibition; in these cases the names of both parties ought to appear. But to use the word "compulsory" in the matter would seem harsh and dictatorial. Mr. Curtis moved to the effect that the meeting agreed with the views originally entertained by the royal commission, as to the impracticability of carrying into effect a compulsory regulation for the attachment of the name of the producer to every article; this was seconded by Mr. Hertz, and carried unanimously.—Mr. Entwistle, who had been named as one of a deputation to be sent up for the purpose of conferring with the commission on the 27th inst. in London, wished to take the sense of the meeting upon the point, whether it should be compulsory to state upon each article the price at which the exhibitor was prepared to sell that article in bulk or in a finished state. It was observed that in Leeds it had been suggested that this point should be legislated upon by the commissioners; but it seemed to several of the gentlemen present to be beset with difficulties. All agreed that in some cases prices could not be affixed; although it was thought desirable to allow parties to insert prices in the catalogue, if they thought fit to do so. In case of a large demand arising, the impossibility of adhering to any price stated at the outset was pointed out; inasmuch as whenever a man found that he had an excess of orders, he would, of course, raise his price. Then in the case of goods, in which the price of the raw material was fluctuating, it might happen that the article sent up, as it must be, in March, might be worth a very different figure before May, the time when the exhibition would open, owing to the price of the raw material having changed meanwhile. At the same time it was observed, that if a prize was offered for excellence combined with cheapness, a wide door would be opened to fraud, as it would not be possible to make a man adhere to the price which he might have stated, and by stating which, with dishonest intentions, he might have won the prize.—The matter then was allowed to fall, and the gentlemen who did not form part of the committee were told that the conference was at an end; but as their departure was not requested, many of them stayed till a later period. The committee divided itself into sub-committees, for financial and other purposes; and it was agreed to employ a salaried assistant to Mr. Fleming, the honorary secretary; and to open some office for the reception of communications for parties desiring to contribute towards either the exhibition or its funds. Amongst the sub-committees was one for the mechanical and engineering department, another for the calico printing, a third for the weaving in its various branches, and another for financial purposes. It was stated that, as yet, only five calico printers had sent in their names, as intending to exhibit; and it was hoped that this number would be considerably increased, for the honour of Manchester, and of the country at large. A committee for the Salford district was also ordained; the Mayor of Salford stating, that although that borough could not rival the borough of Manchester, it would be able to contribute in some small degree. The sub-committees were then requested to meet and report; after which some conversation was held on the subject of providing for current expenses during the exhibition. Motive power for the machines will be furnished from the funds of the exhibition; but the question as to by whom is to be borne the expense of maintaining the skilled workmen who will be necessarily employed to work, and exhibit the capabilities of each machine, was stated to be still under consideration. The desirability and propriety of this being done at the expense of the commission, was fully admitted; but whether it will be so done will depend, it was apprehended, very much upon the manner in which the public come forward to provide the necessary funds for the carrying on of the exhibition. The meeting then dissolved.

THE EXHIBITION OF INDUSTRY.—The following is the address of the Manchester working men's committee to their fellow-workmen:—

Fellow-workmen.—You do not appear to take any interest in the forthcoming exhibition of the industry of all nations; whether from deficient knowledge of the fact, or that you see no possible advantageous result, is not known.

You are at any rate interested in the existence of plenty of the necessities and comforts of life; you know the results of a bad harvest; how that food being deficient in quantity is raised in price, and the means which ought to supply clothes and furniture is all absorbed in the purchase of bread. And it is not difficult to see that if the bulk of you leave off buying manufactured goods trade will fall off, while workhouses, gaols, and famine-fed graves will be filled.

But if you are interested in the existence of plenty, so are you interested in the increase of all those inventions, mechanical and chemical, which tend to produce it. You are therefore interested and your welfare is consulted by the promoters of the exhibition, who invite the inventors of improved agricultural implements, and the discoverers of improved modes of tillage, to make public their inventions and discoveries, securing them from appropriation and piracy by others.

You are also interested in the existence of plenty of calico, flannel, woollen cloth, fustian, &c. in order that they may be cheap, and you and your families well supplied; for the winter wind whistles not pleasingly through rags, and decent clothes lay in