

character, and to give to the world the utmost assurance that the award of the Prizes would be impartial, he had reserved to himself the power of withdrawing from the contract if there should be no Royal Commission appointed.

His Royal Highness was pleased to consent to become one of the Five Trustees, in whose names the £20,000 and general receipts should be invested.

It was reported to His Royal Highness that the Council of the Society of Arts had appointed an Executive Committee of Four of the Council, namely: Mr. Henry Cole, Mr. John Farey, Mr. Francis Fuller, and Mr. Joseph Woods, to act with Mr. George Drew the representative of the Contractor.

A brief statement was then made to His Royal Highness of the success which had attended the visits of the Deputation to Manchester, the Staffordshire Potteries, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Rochdale, Huddersfield, Kendal, and Glasgow. His Royal Highness inspected the signatures of the Manufacturing Firms attached to the following declaration :

“ The views of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, President of the Society of Arts, upon making a great Exhibition of Industry of all Nations, to be held in London in 1851, as the first of a series of Quinquennial Collections, by means of funds contributed voluntarily by the Public, and rewarding the most meritorious works then brought forward, having been submitted confidentially for our consideration—

“ And having understood it to be the wish of His Royal Highness that the opinions of influential persons upon the expediency of making such collections, and their willingness to aid His Royal Highness in establishing them, should be ascertained,—

“ We, the undersigned, request Mr. Francis Fuller (duly authorised to make this inquiry) to express to His Royal Highness our sense of the great importance of the proposed undertaking, of the national honour that would attach to its successful accomplishment, and of our desire to be its promoters, both by personal co-operation and by subscriptions as far as may be in our power.”

Mr. Cole reported that before he left Town he had communicated with the Chairman and some of the chief Officers of the East India Company, and that they had expressed the utmost willingness to promote the under-