

its chief promoter, that illustrious individual, Prince Albert. That circumstance would carry conviction to every mind, that the institution was not established for any political or party purposes, but was merely intended to effect measures of advantage to this country and to the world at large. [Hear, hear.]—He would only say, that he would render all the assistance in his power, to a project which he believed would be attended with the most beneficial consequences. Mr. Alderman Gopeland, well known as the leading partner in the firm of Copeland and Co., said, "many gentlemen then present must recollect the small exposition in Manchester as well as that in Birmingham; and speaking for his own branch of manufactures, he must say, that he knew nothing that had done more good than those expositions; and he was delighted to see at Whitsuntide the anxiety of the operatives in Manchester to pay their penny to see the exhibition."—Sir John Duke said, "the country must derive great benefit from the collections from every quarter of the globe, of the finest specimens of manufactures, and nothing could better show the points in which we were inferior to the manufacturers and producers of other portions of the world."—Mr. Dilke continued, he would allude to another portion of the public not the least influential, those connected with the press. The articles in the *Times* and the *Daily News* were so commendatory, and had so well grappled with the whole of the details of this subject, that he would read some extracts. [He proceeded to read extracts from publications of the *Times* and *Daily News* of last week, in which were articles on the proposed exhibition.] He would conclude on this part, with the words uttered by a gentleman, who said, that "he would be happy to aid in this measure, that it would tend to the advantage of industry, not only in this country, but also over the whole world; that Providence was hastening the period when men should break their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks." The next point was the subjects that should be comprehended in this exhibition. His Royal Highness considered that such a collection should consist of raw materials, machinery, and mechanical inventions, manufactures, sculpture, and plastic art generally. Under these heads there were hardly any objects of industry that could not be exhibited; and the raw materials comprehended not only every thing produced in England; but they were promised, that products would be exhibited by the East India Company. The chairman of the court of directors says—

I beg to inform you, that I communicated to the court of directors the conversation I had with you on the subject of the proposed exhibition of the works of industry which His Royal Highness Prince Albert is desirous to institute in the year 1851. I have the satisfaction of acquainting you, for the information of His Royal Highness, that the court expressed their entire concurrence in the views which I then suggested, and that they will be prepared to give their cordial co-operation in carrying out the wishes of His Royal Highness, by obtaining from India such specimens of the products and manufactures of that country as may tend to illustrate its resources, and to add to the interest of the great national exhibition of which His Royal Highness is the patron.

The Hudson's Bay Company, with equal liberality, would assist in the effort.—Sir John Henry Pelly, in seconding one of the resolutions passed at the Mansion-house meeting, as chairman of the Hudson's Bay Company, said, "he would promise, that they should have, at the proposed exhibition, the best specimens he could obtain of the products of the company's possessions. A ship was then on the point of leaving the river for Vancouver's Island, and he would give directions that anything which could be there produced, that was likely to prove interesting at this exhibition should be forwarded!"—The minutes stated, that various sites were suggested as the most suitable, which it was settled must be on the first occasion at least a temporary one. The government had offered the area of Somerset-house, or if that were unfit, a more suitable site on the property of the Crown. His Royal Highness pointed out the vacant ground in Hyde Park, on the south side, parallel with and between the Kensington drive and the ride commonly called Rotten Row, as affording advantages which few other places might be found to possess. The choice of a site was a matter of more difficulty than appeared at the first blush. It should not only be convenient, but suitable for the approach of large masses of people; a site available for those who chose to avail themselves of public conveyances, as well as for those who used private carriages. It was requisite to find a spot capable of containing an enormous amount of things that might be anticipated would be sent to the exhibition, and he could best give an idea of this by telling the meeting, that it was stated at Manchester, that if the makers of locomotives only sent a single specimen each, it would require a stable half a mile long. The site now suggested was that known as the exercise ground for the troops, opposite Knightsbridge, which was an open space with nearly a mile of frontage, and containing 30 acres, perfectly level and with few trees.—The next point was one on which a considerable degree of diffidence was expressed in forming an opinion. Those whom the Prince consulted were unanimous as to the course to be pursued, but not so as to the opinion of the manufacturers. It was a question whether the exhibition should be exclusively limited to British industry. It was considered that whilst it appears an error to fix any limitations to the productions of machinery, science, and taste,

which are of no country, but belong as a whole to the civilised world, particular advantage to British industry might be derived, from placing it in fair competition with that of other nations. On that point evidence was taken. Mr. Dilke proceeded to read the evidence of Mr. Henry Thompson, Mr. Nelson, Messrs. Dawson, and Mr. Patterson, in favour of the universality of the exhibition, and of its being open to all nations.—There was a point on which he would say one or two words; as to the prizes. He wished it to be understood, that nothing was settled in regard to the prizes. It would be one of the duties of the Royal Commission to collect information from all parties as to the objects the prizes should be established for, and therefore it would be indelicate for him to say anything as fixed, till the Royal Commission had decided for themselves. It was settled, that by offering large premiums sufficient inducement should be held out for the production of works, which, though not profitable in the market, should, by the effort made for their accomplishment, raise the powers of the country and improve the character of manufactures.—Mr. Dilke again read from the minutes, stating the object of the Royal Commission to be for the promotion of arts, manufactures, and industry, by means of a great collection of works of industry in London. The duties and powers of the Commission were, to extend to the determination of the prizes and the selection of the objects, the definition of the nature of the exhibition, and the determination of the method of deciding upon the prizes. The society felt, that the Royal Commission should nominate the different juries to award the prizes in the different classes, as that was the only course likely to give satisfaction to Englishmen and to foreigners. The society would organise the means for raising the funds. The last paragraph of the minutes was to this effect, "All agree that medals conferred by the Queen, would very much enhance the value of the prizes." [Applause.]—In conclusion, Mr. Dilke observed, if any one was so isolated as to be totally unconnected with agriculture, manufactures, trade, or commerce, and asked him in what way he would be benefited? he answered, he would be benefited, both directly and indirectly—directly, as a consumer; and indirectly, by the general benefit afforded to our manufactures, and which must tend to the common good of the country. He thought, therefore, that all who were thus favoured, would be content to lend their willing aid to urge forward the completion of this project. [Applause.]

The Sheriff, (R. Chamberlin, Esq.) said, he felt honoured in being called upon to take a part in the interesting proceedings of this morning. He had had frequent opportunities of seeing the exhibition of the manufacturers in Paris, and it struck him with great surprise that there were no such exhibitions in England. As a purchaser of French goods, he had been enabled to judge of the importance that manufacturers attributed to the exhibition. At these annual meetings, the manufacturers for many years, and perhaps as long as they were in business, had words written on their goods stating when they obtained the prizes at the exhibition. He was sure they were under great obligations to His Royal Highness for the comprehensive project which he had started, and which was only in accordance with His Royal Highness's liberal and expansive mind. [Applause.] He would conclude by moving the resolution, that this meeting viewed with great satisfaction, the interest which His Royal Highness Prince Albert evinced in favour of the arts and manufactures, not only of this country, but of all nations, and desired to express its opinion unanimously in favour of the great exhibition of 1851, open to all the world.

Capt. Money seconded the resolution, which was put and carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Sultzer said, he very cheerfully complied with the call which had been made upon him to propose the next resolution, which was, that this meeting was convinced that a Royal Commission was the tribunal the most competent to give general satisfaction in distributing the prizes, which such an exhibition offered. He thought there could be no difference of opinion in regard to this resolution, that the tribunal which should select the subjects open to competition, and which should award the prizes to those who were successful, should be of the highest character. He knew of no other tribunal in which those powers could be so safely placed as in the hands of a Royal Commission, appointed by persons of high standing and character, discountenancing the possibility of all jobbing. He thought, that all who had heard the details, which Mr. Dilke had laid before them, must be rejoiced to find, that the question of arts and manufactures had been taken up, under such favourable auspices in England. They must all feel indebted to the Prince, with whom this thought originated, and who had so nobly come forward, devoting his time and talents to the furtherance of the project; and who was willing to give his time and talents to the consideration of it. He [Mr. Sultzer] thought, that the manufacturers had very wisely determined in favour of the universality of this scheme, and that the exhibition should be open to the competition of all nations; and from that competition they might expect much good. It was a saying of a dear friend of his, now present, that, that man was in the greatest danger who sat down satisfied with his own exertions. He agreed with that saying, and he thought they had sat down satisfied too long in this city, and that they were feeling the deplorable evils of it. There had been, time out of mind, almost a jealousy on the part of the manufacturers,