



Engraved by H. Bibby from a Daguerreotype by Mayall.

GREAT EXHIBITION, MAIN AVENUE.

LOOKING EAST. No 5.

dering his circumstances, a very costly one. Of course it will not be denied that there was something in such a spectacle to enlarge and elevate the mind, and that it was one that must have indelibly impressed the senses, if seen but for a few minutes. There are objects which, if once seen, affect the mind for ever. Ten minutes' sight of a splendid landscape, or a magnificent cathedral, leaves a vision of beauty that the mind can always recur to. Even a display of fireworks is never forgotten. Any striking incident, any moment of danger, or any novelty of circumstance, leaves a new idea on the mind. Seville, they say, in Spain, is a place to see and die. The Jewish lawgiver was allowed one gaze at the land he had lived for; the apostle had a glimpse of the third heaven; and Dante, it was said, had seen hell. One sight of a great thing is something; but nobody will be content with one sight, if more is in his power. The painful contrast we have drawn between the benefits offered by the Exhibition to the holder of the season-ticket, and what it affords to the Lancashire excursionist, prompts the inquiry whether more may not be done. How far may these visits be repeated or prolonged? If it is possible to bring up so many thousands from such a distance in a few hours, is it not equally possible to house and board them for a few days? Some large buildings, we know, have been constructed for the purpose. How long can the Exhibition be continued,—of course in a less costly and complete form? To what extent may it be taken down to the country—that is, how far is it possible to have similar exhibitions in a greatly-abridged form in our leading provincial towns? These are questions that occurred with increasing force to all who compared the grandeur of this undertaking with the very small edification that a vast majority of the visitors were able to derive from it. The able and enterprising men who so successfully surmounted the difficulties of the Great Exhibition, have now followed up their own example in a much grander form, sufficient for the permanent benefit of the people at large. Let us, however, in the meanwhile continue our remarks, and take a peep into the building during the five-shilling days and one-shilling days:—

“The day of the great folks, and the day of the little folks—the day of the peach-coloured *visites* and the gaudy mousselines de laine, and the day of the cotton prints and the handkerchiefs at 1s. 11½d.—the day of the shiny boots, and the day of the ankle-jacks with hob-nails—the day of the newest palletot, and the day of the most primitive smock-frock—the day of vanilla, ices, and wafers, and the day of lanches of crust, lumps of meat, and liquid refreshments in small bottles—the day of languid lounging and chatting, and the day of resolute examining and frank amazement—the day of the west-end of London, and the day of all the other ends of the earth—the five-shilling day, in fact, and the one-shilling day, come—pass each before us, with your votaries; exhibit each your phenomena and your usages; introduce us each to your train of company; tell us, each, your comparative value; read us, each, your separate lesson; for you have and you present, each of you—crown day and twelpenny day—your distinct train of appendages and characteristics. Sunday in the world is not more unlike Saturday, than Saturday in the Exhibition is unlike Monday. On one day, society—on the other, the world. On the one day, the nave crowded in such fashion as opera corridors and Belgravian saloons are crowded, and the aisles and galleries empty. On the other day, the aisles and galleries crowded, and the nave a thoroughfare—a street—swarming, bustling, pushing with loud voices and brusque movements; and people who have sharp elbows, and can use them, and who push along as in Fleet-street or in Cheapside, intent upon going somewhere—determination in their muscles and purpose in their eyes—the energetic business-like march of this energetic, business-like nation.

“And first—as they have had their earlier innings in the great game of the Exhibition—we take the five-shillings. On Saturday, St. James fairly ousts St. Giles; the latter