

law of the lower. I was sorry to observe that the singularly ornate pile which contains the new Houses of Parliament, now nearly finished, could, like the glass palace or a railway terminus, and very unlike either St Paul's or York Minster, be made either twice as long as it is now, or shorter by one-half, without rendering it either a better building or a worse.

Once fairly entered within the edifice, the objects first singled out by the eye were a few noble statues, such as the Greek Slave and the Amazon and Tiger; nor was it until these works of genius were scanned that the humbler works of mere talent and art succeeded in forcing themselves on the attention. And yet these last served to show much more definitely the actual stage of progress at which the nations that produced them had arrived, than the higher order of works. When genius is the artist, the goal is soon reached; whereas talent labours slowly. Genius, too, can work very much alone, and bid, as Johnson expresses it, "help and hindrance alike vanish before it;" whereas talent requires the assistance of a thousand coadjutors. And so we find that genius, labouring in ancient Greece greatly more than two thousand years ago, produced its statues and its architecture, its orations, its history, and its poetry, to be models and patterns to the world throughout all after ages. But the world at the time was too much in its infancy to excel in works of talent; and so Greece, even when erecting the Parthenon, or sculpturing the figures on its frieze, could not have built and furnished a single ship of the line, or raised such a palace of glass and iron as that of Mr Paxton. I found, however, that in works of genius, as certainly as of talent, what may be properly termed the civilized nations of the world march abreast of each other in nearly the same line,—not serially in file; and it is one of the advantages of the Exhibition that it should teach this lesson. The United States of America, France, Austria, Northern Germany, Denmark, Italy and