

Sardinia, England and Scotland, are all labouring in nearly the same arts, artistic and mechanical, and producing nearly the same results. Their inhabitants are intellectually of like stature, and similarly trained,—a fact which national pride, schooled in the Exhibition, will now scarce venture to deny, and which, we are disposed to think, the English people will be much the better for knowing; seeing that to undervalue a competitor or opponent is one of the most certain ways possible to secure defeat, and to form a correct estimate of him one of the most effectual means of avoiding it.

It was interesting enough to read, in the extent of some manufactures all over the world, as shown in the various departments of the Exhibition, a chronicle of their great antiquity. Tried by this test, the art of the weaver seemed to be the most ancient: it was, in at least this display of human industry, the most widely diffused. With the exception of a few barbarous islands, where a kind of coarse paper, or animal skins, or the layers of vegetable tissue, form an imperfect substitute for cloth, every nation presented for examination its textile fabrics, very diverse in pattern in most instances, but constructed on the same mechanical principles, and ornamented, if not in the same style, at least by the same arts. That quality of thread, for instance, of reflecting light according to the disposition of its fibres and to the angle in which it is viewed, which forms the foundation of the style of ornament employed in damask, and in so many other fabrics, seems to be known all over the world,—in China, with its insulated and far-distant centre of civilization on the one hand, as certainly as in America on the other; and in all countries the same arts have been employed to make this quality paint without colour the surface of the fabric. It is now more than three thousand years since the patriarch Job compared the short life of man to the swift and brief flight of a weaver's shuttle. Judging from what appears in the