

Exhibition, it seems not improbable that weavers' shuttles, and this simple art of painting by light without the aid of chemistry, may have been spread all over the world at the dispersal of mankind from before the great tower. And it seemed quite curious enough to reflect, that in this world's other great building the nations should have assembled for the first time, to show whether and to what extent they had been improving the talent, or whether, like a few of the barbarous tribes, they had not sunk into utter degradation, and buried it in the earth. In passing along through this textile department,—one of the most largely represented in the Exhibition,—it was interesting to mark the different ideas that had been superadded from certain countries to the original stock. The Jacquard idea seemed one of the most important; and we find that, with the potency of a true idea, it has spread all over Europe and America. The other great idea in this department is of such recent origin, that we found it well-nigh still restricted to its original centre of production. We refer to the invention of our fellow-citizen Mr Richard Whytock, of barring the threads across in the state of yarn, according to a nice calculation, with varying stripes of colour, and of then forming them, by simply committing them to the loom, into rich patterns, that grow up under the workman's hand, he scarce knows how. The rich magnificence of the pieces exhibited,—a magnificence that, in at least their immediate neighbourhood, threw all competition into the shade,—demonstrated the happiness of the idea; and its uniqueness in the Exhibition, though occurring in one of the oldest of arts, its great originality.

One of the next things that struck, in the general survey, was the tendency of all the merely ornamental ideas presented in the Exhibition to arrange themselves in the mind, irrespective of the dates of their production, into modern and ancient. The semi-barbarous and the civilized nations are