

**STATEMENT MADE BY THE
ASSOCIATION FOR THE EXHIBITION
OF THE INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS,
IN REGARD TO THE ORGANIZATION
AND PROGRESS OF THE ENTERPRISE**

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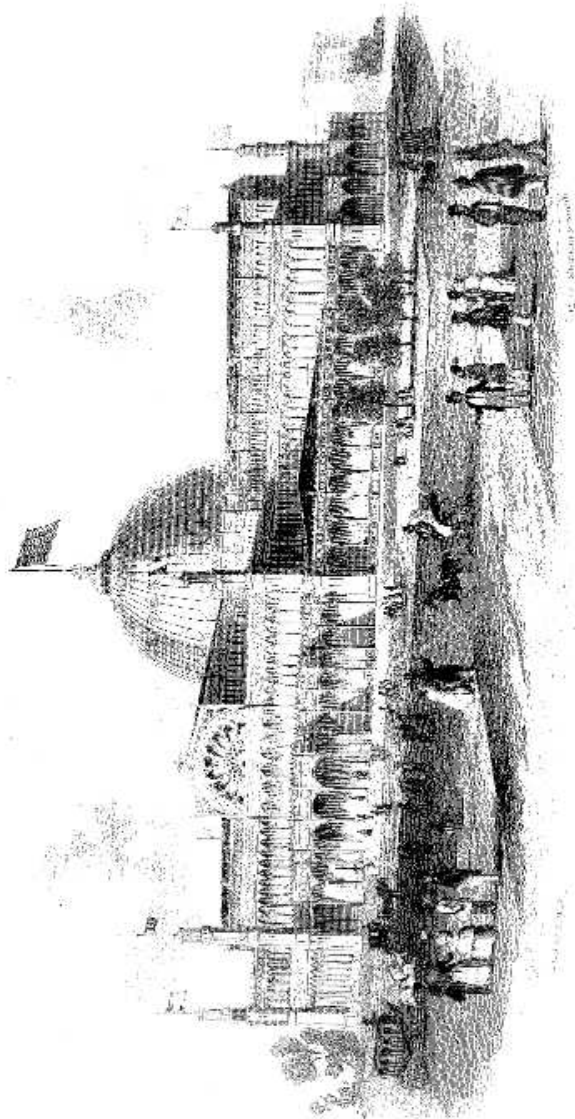
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NEW YORK CRYSTAL PALACE FOR THE EXHIBITION OF THE INDUSTRY OF

STATEMENT

MADE BY THE

Association for the Exhibition

OF THE

INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS,

IN REGARD TO THE

ORGANIZATION AND PROGRESS

OF THE

ENTERPRISE.

NEW-YORK:

CARR & HICKS, STATIONERS AND PRINTERS, 21 MAIDEN LANE.

1853.

STATEMENT.

THIS pamphlet is published under the direction of the Association which is preparing the Industrial Exhibition, to take place in the city of New-York, in the spring of the year 1853; and is drawn up for the purpose of preserving and communicating to all parties interested in the enterprise, a detailed account of the origin, purposes, organization and progress of the enterprise, up to this time.

The undertaking is still far from its completion. The Directors are perfectly aware how much severe labor yet remains before their task is performed. They are especially desirous to avoid all boasting and vain-glorious language, but it seems not too much to affirm that their ultimate success is now certain. It is convenient for the Association to have, in a condensed form, a narrative of all that has been hitherto done; and it appears due to those public-spirited persons who have lent their aid to the enterprise in its infancy, to preserve a record of their co-operation.

The brilliant success of the London Exhibition turned the minds of the industrial world to the propriety and expediency of repetitions of that effort in different parts of Europe. Thus, steps have been taken to

organize one in Dublin for the next year; and preparations are making for one on a very extensive scale in Paris in the year 1854.

It was natural that those citizens of the United States who were in London in 1851, who witnessed the triumphs that our people achieved during that year, and who also saw the peculiarly popular character of expositions of this kind, and their beneficial tendencies in regard to the working classes, should early have entertained the idea of repeating the Exhibition on this side of the water. Accordingly, shortly after the close of the London Fair, steps were taken for the purpose.

It was manifest, however, on its face, that the enterprise was one of great magnitude, and calculated severely to tax the energies of all who embarked in it. The form of our political system, and the constitutional restrictions imposed on our State and Federal action, rendered it impossible that the affair should be, as it was in England, taken up and carried on by Government; and it therefore became necessary to rely upon individual enterprise and activity. But it was plain that no amount of vigor, nor any sum of money, would effect the object, unless the affair was so managed as not to subject it to the jealousy which a private enterprise is liable to encounter. It was necessary to inspire entire confidence as to the liberal objects of the managers; to satisfy the people of our own country that no sordid motive was the incitement to the scheme, and that it would be conducted so as truly to subserve the general interests of Industry; while it was equally necessary to create in foreign countries a confi-

dence that no local prejudice and no personal interest would warp the undertaking from its true aims. To any one at all familiar with the multitudinous currents of opinion in our own country, the innumerable conflicting interests of trade and of locality, the great difficulty of the enterprise will be at once apparent; but when to these are added the obstacles arising from international rivalry, distance, difference of language, and the as yet imperfect intercourse of the most highly civilized countries of the world, it will not be considered surprising that the managers of the enterprise thought it indispensable to secure all the aid that could properly be asked, from the public authorities.

In regard to the locality of the Exhibition, if the object had been to make a representation of American Industry only, it might have been considered expedient to select some one of the great manufacturing centres, as Boston and Philadelphia; but a display of European products being a necessary part of the scheme, it seemed indispensable to choose New-York; all the considerations which give that city its commercial pre-eminence as the chief entrepôt of European goods and the principal financial centre of the Union, tended to this result.

New-York, therefore, was selected, and on the 3d of January, 1852, the municipal authorities of that city, perceiving the benefits that must flow from the enterprise, if properly conducted, not only to the commerce and prosperity of the city, but to the cause of popular instruction and healthful entertainment, granted a lease of Reservoir Square for the object for five years, upon

two conditions: one that the building should be constructed of iron and glass, and the other, inspired by a proper regard for the interests of the public, that no single entrance-fee should exceed fifty cents.

The Legislature was then applied to, and that body, on the 11th of March, granted a Charter of Incorporation to the ASSOCIATION FOR THE EXHIBITION OF THE INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS.

The principal provisions of the Act were as follows :

The Association was incorporated with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars, leave being given to raise the sum to three hundred thousand dollars.

The Directors were authorized to occupy any real estate that might be granted them, and thereon to erect a building for the purpose of the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations. They were further empowered to award Prizes, and to do every thing necessary to carry out the general object.

It is not however to be supposed that these steps were taken with as much ease as they are here related. On the contrary, as was indeed to be expected, somewhat both of indifference and of hostility was at the outset manifested.

The charter, in particular, was not obtained without contest, and the managers of the enterprise found here something of the opposition that they were aware they must encounter. It was urged that the enterprise was hostile to the interests of Domestic Industry; and finding that this suggestion met with little favor, technical difficulties founded on the terms of the Constitution of the State were sought to be interposed. But if the