

"I cordially concur with you in the prayer that, by God's blessing, this undertaking may conduce to the welfare of My people, and to the common interests of the human race, by encouraging the arts of peace and industry, strengthening the bonds of union among the nations of the earth, and promoting a friendly and honourable rivalry in the useful exercise of those faculties which have been conferred by a beneficent Providence for the good and the happiness of mankind."

After which His Royal Highness Prince Albert took his place again by the side of Her Majesty.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, commencing with "The Lord's Prayer," proceeded to invoke God's Blessing upon the undertaking in the following words:—

"Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things both in heaven and earth, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; accept, we beseech Thee, the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and receive these our prayers, which we offer unto Thee this day in behalf of the kingdom and people of this land. We acknowledge, O Lord, that Thou hast multiplied upon us blessings which Thou mightest most justly have withheld: we acknowledge that it is not because of works of righteousness which we have done, but of Thy great mercy, that we are permitted to come before Thee with the voice of thanksgiving; and that instead of humbling us for our offences, Thou hast given us fresh cause to praise Thee for Thine abundant goodness. And now, O Lord, we beseech Thee to bless the work which Thou hast enabled us to begin, and to regard with Thy favour our present purpose of uniting together in the bonds of peace and concord the different nations of the earth. For with Thee, O Lord, is the preparation of the heart in man. Of Thee it cometh that violence is not heard in our land, wasting nor destruction within its borders. It is of Thee, O Lord, that nation does not lift up sword against nation, nor learn war any more. It is of Thee that peace is within our walls, and plenteousness within our palaces. It is of Thee that men go to and fro in safety, and knowledge is increased throughout the world: for the Spirit of man is from Thee, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding. Therefore, O Lord, not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy name be all the praise. Whilst we survey the works of art and industry which surround us, let not our hearts be lifted up, that we forget the Lord our God, as if our own power or the might of our hands had gotten us this wealth. Teach us ever to remember that all this store which we have prepared cometh of Thine hand, and is all Thine own. Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, O God, we thank Thee, we praise Thee, and entreat Thee so to overrule this assemblage of many nations, that it may tend to the advancement of Thy glory, to the diffusion of Thy holy word, to the increase of general prosperity, by promoting peace and good will amongst the different races of mankind. Let the many mercies which we receive from Thee, dispose our hearts to serve Thee more faithfully, who art the Author and Giver of them all. And, finally, O Lord, teach us so to use those earthly blessings which Thou givest us richly to enjoy, that they may not withdraw our affections from those heavenly things which Thou hast prepared for them that love and serve Thee, through the merits and mediation of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever."

After which the Hallelujah Chorus was sung by the Choir.

*A Royal Procession was then formed in the following order:*

Pursuivants of Arms, viz.,	
Bluemantle, H. Murray Lane, Esq.	Rouge Dragon, Edw. S. Dendy, Esq.
Portcullis, George W. Collen, Esq.	Rouge Croix, William Courthope, Esq.
Contractor, Mr. Fox.	Architect, Joseph Paxton, Esq.
Superintendents of the Works, C. H. Wild, Esq.	Owen Jones, Esq.
Financial Officer, F. S. Carpenter, Esq.	
Member of the Building Committee. I. K. Brunel, Esq.	
Members of the Finance Committee. Samuel Morton Peto, Esq. M. P.      Sir Alexander Young Spearman, Bart.	
Treasurers, William Cotton, Esq.	Arthur Kett Barclay, Esq.
Secretary to the Executive Committee, Mathew Digby Wyatt, Esq.	
Executive Committee,	
George Drew, Esq. Charles Wentworth Dilke, jun. Esq.	Francis Fuller, Esq. Henry Cole, Esq.
Lieut.-Colonel William Reid, Royal Engineers, C.B.	