

VIEWS
OF
THE CRYSTAL PALACE AND PARK,
SYDENHAM.

WHEN Dante made the memorable remark that there is no greater grief than to remember happier times in a state of misery, he might have added that there are few greater joys than the realisation of happiness, when contrasted with past suffering or anxiety. In the plenitude of the possession of a CRYSTAL PALACE worthy of the resources of this country, the nation may not only forget the grievous disappointment it anticipated when the Exhibition Building of 1851 was doomed, but may even rejoice in a decision which has led to the present far nobler creation of genius.

When "DENARIUS," in his able and energetic appeal,* fashioned his wishes into the most attractive forms, to allure the public into the creation for themselves of beautiful horticultural collections and temples of art in Hyde Park, and experienced the disappointment necessarily attendant on the want of success which appeared to attend his efforts to persuade, he could never have hoped for such a realisation of the artistic tendency of his views as has since been so happily consummated upon Sydenham Hill.

Hitherto, in England, the Fine Arts have been wooed only under their severest aspects. They have been made objects of study, of trade, of research, of fashion, and even of necessity; but we have yet to learn to regard them as inexhaustible sources of innocent, and, at the same time, stimulating *pleasure*. To supply such a defect, it has become imperatively necessary to popularise them, and by placing them in juxtaposition one with another, to exhibit their mutual relation, and the harmony which links them together, through the medium of the common agent—the intellectual powers—upon which they act, and through which they can alone produce agreeable and beneficial results.

Although but few words may appear requisite to introduce to our readers' notice the Series of Views collected in the present volume, yet the occasion is so tempting, that we cannot refrain from offering a few observations on the subject of the Crystal Palace, of which, up to the present time, as we apprehend,

* "Shall we keep the Crystal Palace, and have Riding and Walking in all Weathers, among Flowers, Fountains, and Sculpture?"—By DENARIUS. London: John Murray, 1851.