

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

### PLATE I.

INTERIOR OF POMPEIAN COURT, AS SEEN ON ENTERING FROM THE NAVE.

“Dost thou love pictures? we will fetch thee straight  
Adonis, painted by a running brook;  
And Cytherea all in sedges hid;  
Which seem to move and wanton with her breath,  
Even as the waving sedges play with wind:  
Or Daphne roaming through a thorny wood,  
Scratching her legs that one shall say she bleeds:  
And at that sight shall sad Apollo weep,  
So workmanly the blood and tears are drawn.”—SHAKESPEARE.

As it was considered desirable, even in this unpretending Series of Views, to convey some idea of Pompeian colouring, an attempt has been made in the present Plate to convey, not only the ornamental forms, but the polychromatic aspect, of the restoration to which the genius of Signor Giuseppe Abbate has so signally contributed. We shall therefore defer to our notice of Plate IX. some general remarks on the subject of Pompeian architecture, confining ourselves in this place solely to its coloured decorations.

It was alike fortunate for the public and for the officers of the Crystal Palace, that they were enabled to meet with a gentleman possessing such singular qualifications for the task which he undertook as Signor Abbate. Originally brought up as an architectural draftsman in Naples, the attention of Abbate, while yet a boy, was concentrated upon the interesting remains of the ancient decorations from time to time exhumed at Pompeii. So much skill had he attained in the delineation of these subjects, that, on the commencement of Herr Zahn's great work, although only a very young man, he became one of the principal *employés* in connexion with that publication. Of late years it has been his principal occupation to trace from the walls of Pompeii the actual paintings as they have been brought to light under the authority of the successive Neapolitan commissions. During the long period over which his labours have extended, Signor Abbate has accumulated a vast number of drawings and tracings of Pompeian paintings, coloured in direct facsimile from the originals. It appeared to the officers of the Crystal Palace Company, that the possession of copies of these designs would supply a great desideratum in our National Art-collections; and it was, therefore, at once determined to obtain, if possible, not only Signor Abbate's drawings, but also his personal assistance in reproducing them. Happily he himself entered into the interests of the Company with the greatest good-will and energy; and it should never be forgotten that the public is indebted to him alone for the beautiful series of paintings now offered to their notice in the Pompeian Court.

Although all the visitors to the Crystal Palace can now judge for themselves as to the artistic merits of