

THE WORLD'S FAIRS

tractor, instead of being distributed, as an encouragement, to the trade in general.

The plans that were adopted left but little room for the exercise of the inventive ingenuity of the individual exhibitors in the arrangement of their goods. The interests, most directly concerned, were, therefore, made secondary to the above-mentioned patriotic purpose, and the chief attraction of exhibitions, diversity, was almost sacrificed in the German department to the contrary principle, uniformity.

Many persons who, like the writer, are declared partisans of centralisation, when applied to the means of communication, the arteries of trade, consider it a serious mistake whenever that principle is allowed to encroach directly on the domain of commerce and industry. We, therefore, consider it a mistaken conception of the duties of an Exhibition Commission, when they determine the dress, as it were, in which the national products are to present themselves. The manufacturer himself knows best which is the most advantageous manner of displaying his goods.

The Commission, as the intermediary between the General Direction and the exhibitors, should give every possible latitude to individual initiative, and not try to force it into a straight jacket, by