



OUR "USED UP" MAN TAKES A WALK WITH HIS COUSINS IN KENSINGTON GARDENS.

### THE GRATUITOUS EXHIBITIONS OF LONDON.

IN this dearth of sights, open gratuitously to the public, we think it our duty to point the attention of the public to such objects of out of door attraction as may be seen upon those easy terms on which a cat is vulgarly supposed to enjoy the privilege of gazing at royalty. For those who cannot afford the Zoological Gardens, at one shilling, there is the collection of animals known as the Happy Family, in Trafalgar Square; and though there is a suspicious drowsiness about some of the inmates of the cage, which leads us sometimes to doubt whether the apathy of some of the antagonistic tribes is the result of discipline or drugging, the exhibition possesses sufficient interest to repay the passenger for a moment's pull up on the pavement. For those of active imaginations who can see in the spitting of the syringe the grandeur of the cascade, there are a few pints to be quaffed from pleasure's cup in a contemplation of the paltry piece of turncockery that is going on in the immediate neighbourhood of the exhibition already alluded to. For the lovers of pictorial art who cannot indulge their taste by paying for admission to galleries of paintings, there are numerous specimens of the modern masters to be seen in the course of a ramble through the metropolis. There are the illuminated vans, for instance, affording gratuitous glimpses of the exhibitions they are designed to advertise.

To those who cannot afford to visit the Panorama of the Nile, there is a camel, served up like a sandwich between a pair of pyramids, to be seen for nothing at all; and those who cannot muster a shilling for the excursion to Australia and back, under the guidance of MR. PROUT, who invites the public to enter into his Australian views, may enjoy any day in Regent Street a small taste of convicts and kangaroos, in a series of two tableaux, on a perambulating cart, drawn by a horse that would have caused RICHARD THE THIRD to have repented of his bargain, had the brute been brought forward when the monarch was offering his kingdom for a specimen of the animal. These tableaux are not only amusing but instructive, for one of them has taught us the fallacy of the saying that "a bird in hand is worth two in the bush," for we learn from the Australian views, that the birds in the bush are of such exquisite beauty, that one of them is worth any two or any twenty of those that we have ever had in hand in this country.

We need scarcely call attention to the numerous exhibitions of wax-work that are scattered all over the town at the tailors' doors, and which if they do not equal in fearful interest the Chamber of Horrors, yet afford pleasing illustrations of the state of national costume in the middle of the nineteenth century.

We say nothing about the Fantoccini performances that abound in London, for they are only quasi-gratuitous, inasmuch as the thrusting of a hat under one's nose amounts to a sort of *douce violence*, as LORD BROUGHTHAM calls it, which one is only too glad to get rid of at the sacrifice of one's loose copper. We had nearly forgotten that for those who love the bustle and excitement of military scenes, the glitter and clatter of camps and courts, there is the daily encampment of a British Cohort in the court-yard of St. James's Palace. There may be seen, for nothing, the young Guardsman first smelling fire from a smoky chimney in the neighbourhood, and learning while standing by his colours at his post—the lamp-post in the centre—to bear the heat of the action; for the action, though comparatively trifling, is certainly not without heat when the sun happens to be rather powerful. Such are a few of the gratuitous Exhibitions that London contains, and we have no doubt that having put people on the right scent, they have only to follow their noses to find out many others such as those we have drawn attention to.

### The Coming Animal.

A HIPPOPOTAMUS is waiting at Alexandria, to be shipped over to England. This will be the first visit ever paid to this country by this noble and rare creature. Apartments have already been engaged for him at the Zoological Gardens, where an artist will wait upon him at the very earliest opportunity, with the view of taking his portrait.

A ship has been put at the disposal of the Hippopotamus; and the captain has received orders to pay him every possible attention, and to spare no expense in "going the entire animal."

The Hippopotamus lately has been very noisy, and has not slept for weeks. The keepers say there is more in this than meets the eye; but for ourselves, we attribute it to a mean spirit of jealousy. The Rhinoceros is evidently afraid that the Hippopotamus will put his nose out of joint.