

Contemporaneously with the Social Science Association, the *Congres International de Bienfaisance* sat at the west end of the town in Burlington House. The foreign philanthropists are very like the English ones. They wear the same benign placid expression of countenance, penetrating spectacles and huge shirt collars, and carry the same baggy umbrellas or gold headed sticks. They equally exhibit disgust at those sordid people who are content to be happy and comfortable without a theory, and profound schemes of moral and material reformation, which are adapted only to a 'purer ether, a diviner air,' than the murky atmosphere we breathe on earth.

Like Mr Buckle, whose death you noticed last week, Mr Darwin has devoted himself to a great work which it is scarcely probable, in the ordinary course of things, that he will ever live to complete; but he has prudently published an abstract of it in the meantime. The 'Fertilization of Orchids by Insects' may be regarded as a development of one of the chapters of the 'Origin of Species,' in which the philosophic author traces the agency of cats in the production of honey. The cats promote the growth of red clover by preying on the mice, who would otherwise destroy, and the clover affords galls to certain species of the wild bee. In his new volume Mr Darwin extends this interesting branch of scientific research. Sir Charles Lyall is, I understand, still touching up his work on the contemporaneity of man with the mammoths as proved by the alleged axe-heads of flint found in the 'drift' at Abbeville and elsewhere. While on literary topics, I may refer to Professor Kingsley's ode on the installation of the new Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. Let any one who wishes to appreciate the perfection of Tennyson's ode on the opening of the Exhibition, compare, or rather contrast it with this production by the author of *Hypatia*, and see how hard, stilted, and prosaic the latter is, even though it be composed by a man of genius, and gifted with much poetic fire.