

PUNCH

“The Great Opportunity to Show Off our Useless Inventions to the Upper Class”

1st May 1851, the first world exhibition has opened: The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations. Or should we call it “The Great Opportunity to Show Off our Useless Inventions to the Upper Class”? A revolution. Obviously, just the richest come and see the exhibition. Well, they are not really here for the exhibition and they don't seem to be enjoying it. They all have a stone face, but do they look good, all wearing the same trendy and expensive outfits. Yes, the upper class is creative... Thank God, no paupers with their distasteful rags can be seen around. We make sure to keep them busy in their workhouses! We're not going to feed them and entertain them as well! But let's come back to our Upper Class, much more worthy. Of course, they are not working, but they kindly spend their money on culture, they invest in the future of our country, and they make England proud - even though they have no interest in science or industry, but it doesn't matter, it shines, and one has to follow the trend.

Certainly, there are some ground-breaking inventions that could shape the future. That is to say, our future, the wealthy ones'. However, the utility of most of them seems rather doubtful, but one never knows...

Seriously, does this exhibition have any sense?

Punch line: Our national pride and wealth is showcased in a palace of crystal, if we want to exhibit our shameless indecency, that's the way to do it!