



HRH Prince Albert's Carpet made in Wilton

The carpet ordered by Prince Albert for one of the state apartments at Windsor Castle and manufactured by Messrs. Blackmore of this place, has been submitted to public inspection for the past two or three days, previous to its being forwarded to the Crystal Palace for exhibition.

Though not intended for competition, as we are informed, no efforts have been neglected by H.R.H Prince Albert to secure a choice and beautiful design, with a view to contest the palm of superiority with the French, and the Messrs. Blackmore have ably seconded the inventive skill of the designer, and have produced a fabric equally commendable for beauty and durability.

The carpet is 52 feet long and 45 feet wide. The main portion consists of five compartments- the central one being square and the others parallelograms. Green and crimson are the predominating colours in the former, and, in the midst of it, a gorgeous assemblage of flowers is comprised within a circular enclosure of cable- work with centripetal radiations. The adjoining compartments are of a drab ground with orange foliations in the style of the Renaissance, having the Royal initials in central lozenges. The external compartments are similar in design to the central one, excepting that the circle in one case exhibits the thistle, and in the other the shamrock. Surrounding these 5 compartments runs a rich border- a floral garland of great beauty, bound by an amethyst riband, and admirably shaded on the outer margin. A triple border of amethyst, russet brown and maroon encompasses the whole. Supplementary to the main portion of the carpet, is a smaller one intended to fit in the space afforded by an oriel window, and this comprises a repetition of the drab and external compartment, the rose of England occurring in the latter, as the Scotch thistle and the Irish shamrock had done in the compartments previously described.

Numbers have availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting the carpet, which reflects the greatest credit upon all concerned in its design and manufacture, and cannot fail to advance the reputation of the Wilton factory, and, we hope, stimulate the demand for Wilton fabrics.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 12 April 1851