

Animated by that hope, the Commissioners have given their earnest attention to the work entrusted to them, since their appointment some months ago, and on the completion of their labours, they have now respectfully to ask your Excellency to formally open the varied collection now brought together for inspection and examination by the public.

WILLIAM YOUNG,
Pres. of the Board of Commissioners.

His Excellency made the following

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—It is, I assure you, a great pleasure to me to be present to-day and to take part in the opening of this Provincial Exhibition, an occasion so interesting in itself and so full of good augury for the future prosperity of Nova Scotia.

While I thank you for the kind personal allusions to myself which you have made in the address you have now presented to me, I hope that it is hardly necessary for me to say that it is my earnest wish to be connected with, and, as far as I am able, to assist in the development of any enterprise which may be for the general good of this Province, the Government of which has been entrusted to my charge.

To yourselves, gentlemen, and to the Secretaries who have ably assisted the working members of the Committee in their laborious duties, I am sure the thanks of the Province are due; and I have no doubt the public will appreciate your services, when by an inspection of the Exhibition now about to be opened, they see the amount of work you have had to undergo,—the vast quantity of articles which have been sent in to your charge, and the skill and care you have expended in their arrangement and display.

It is, as you justly say, now admitted by every one that immense benefits are derived from these Exhibitions if judiciously conducted, and if not recurring at too short intervals. But while these advantages are now so obvious that I should only be enunciating truisms if I dilated upon them, this was not the case eighteen years ago, and it well becomes us as subjects of the Queen of England, to remember how much in this respect, as in very many others, we owe to the foresight, genius, and perseverance of the lamented Consort of our Gracious Sovereign.

We do not now aspire to hold an International Exhibition. The present one is restricted to the productions of this Province, and while it is exceedingly gratifying to hear from your report that so great and so general an interest has been awakened by it, and that the number of entries is so large and the articles exhibited so good and so interesting, I confess that, from my knowledge of the people and the country, I for one should have been much disappointed if such had not been the case; and it will be with much interest that I shall compare this one with that at which I was present in Kentville a few years ago, as well as with that the opening of which I inaugurated last year in St. John, New Brunswick.