

took the train at 9 a.m., and arrived at the Station at 2 p.m., took a cab to our comfortable quarters as above, and on Monday the 11th, I paid my first visit to the Exhibition. I found our Canadian Department presenting a very creditable appearance, and from the extensive and well arranged specimens of mineralogy and woods, attracting much attention. The articles of the exhibition are not nearly all in their places yet, and the arrangement of the departments is not completed, but from the cursory observations I was able to make,— I found every one who had an opportunity of making the comparison of the same opinion, will as an exhibition far exceed that of 1851. I was particularly struck with the improvements in the Implement Department, to which I, as a matter of course, gave my first attention. There a great many new inventions of a very useful kind, and old inventions perfected and improved. Steam is brought largely to use in performing the most important operations. I only at present make general observations; when I have made a more particular examination, I may be able to give some details that will interest your readers. The English, Scotch and Scotch manufacturers seem all to have exerted themselves most successfully in getting a show of useful labor saving implements, which exceeds by ten times anything of the kind I have ever seen. Our neighbors, the Americans, notwithstanding all their difficulties, make a very creditable appearance. Though they have not nearly so much on exhibition as 1851, they have not more than one-fifth of the quantity they had on that occasion, and will in consequence make a better appearance. Their department is not yet complete in its arrangements. The French are also behind in their arrangements, but will have a splendid display. The articles on exhibition from Sheffield, Birmingham, Huddersfield, and indeed from all other parts of England, Scotland and Ireland are beyond description. The value is immense. One alone has more than a million pounds worth of articles on exhibition.

Australia makes a good show, particularly in cereals. The grain is very superior. I think I may safely say that the International Exhibition of 1862 will be an entire success. Building itself externally has not so elegant an appearance as its predecessor, but much taste and artistic skill have been displayed in its interior, and the effect will be very imposing and beautiful. In respect to the appearance of this beautiful country at this season, it is most delightful. The trees in full foliage and bloom, the early grain covering the garden-like cultivated fields, the luxuriant grass, all produce a most beautiful effect. No finer season of the year has been selected for a visit to England than the month of May. The country is truly lovely, and has been seen to be appreciated.

We were unfortunate in not getting here in time for the opening of the exhibition. Owing to the delay on the railroad we were two days behind time in leaving Portland. The opening was a most splendid affair, as you will see by the English papers.

May 7th.

I yesterday again went to the Exhibition, and examined the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick departments. They are very good, many articles of superior quality. Vancouver's Island sends some of the finest grains I ever saw. The colonies generally are well represented. We went in the afternoon to Sydenham Palace, and were really enchanted with it. There is nothing that can be imagined more delightful than the surrounding scenery. We have to go again to make an examination of those departments of the palace that we could not get through yesterday. The drive from where we are, about four and a half miles, is very fine; the fields are looking so beautifully green and luxuriant that it produces the most pleasing sensation to see them. There have been several showers within the past few days and the air is warm. Vegetation is rapid; the tares are fit to cut for food for animals, and you see loads of them carried about. The month of May has been, so far, all that could be desired, and the people seem to enjoy it.

This is rather an important day at the Exhibition, as the juries are to meet, some six hundred, and organize for the commencement of the general examination, which will probably occupy the whole of this month. Professor John Wilson is the party who has the general management of this matter. That gentleman occupies the same position on this occasion that he did in 1851. The organization is to commence to-day at 11 o'clock, and as I must now close in order that this may be in time for the mail, I will say no more at present.

Yours, &c.,

E. W. THOMSON.

#### SECOND LETTER.

London, May 12th, 1862.

Since I wrote last, there have been quantities of rain falling almost every day; and it has been somewhat cold, though not unusually so for the season, people say. The weather ten days since, I find now, was considered unusually warm. Notwithstanding that last week has been cold and wet, the trees and fields maintain their cheerful and delightful appearance. The exhibition attracts its thousands, and all who do not hold three guinea season tickets pay their five shillings entrance fee.

There is still a good deal to be done to get everything in its place; but there is enough in complete order to employ visitors for weeks in examining and admiring. The French de-