

THE ILLUSTRATIONS TO THIS VOLUME.

There is given with this Volume of Transactions, a handsome lithographed plate of the Exhibition Building at Toronto, a Devon bull, also lithographed, and eight wood-cut engravings of animals. It has been considered desirable to give pictorial illustrations of the exhibitions so far as possible, but unfortunately the means at present available of doing so, except at a very great expense, are but scanty. Owing to the short time the animals remain at the shows, the only method of taking their portraits which can well be adopted, is by photography. To employ artists to go into the country to take sketches of them, even if such artists could be obtained, would entail too heavy a cost for the object in view. And photography, although a very valuable auxiliary on many occasions, is not particularly well adapted to the taking of portraits of animals. It is difficult, especially during the crowding and bustle of a great exhibition, to get the animals in a good position, with all the necessary accessories of light and shade, or to keep them in position long enough to take the impression. Consequently the views are apt to be more or less distorted, or some parts, as the tail or other member, by a sudden frisking, to be altogether wanting. Again, the only means at hand of transferring the views to paper at a moderate cost, for the large edition required, was by engraving on wood. But to find artists in this country, when the opening for such employment is at present so limited, sufficiently skilful, and at the same time sufficiently familiar with the anatomy and characteristics of the various breeds of animals, as to be able to give truthful representations of them upon wood, from photographs, was not an easy matter. Under these circumstances the cuts in the present volume are offered with the belief that every reasonable allowance will be made for their imperfections, in consideration of the difficulties of obtaining them. Some of them are very fair portraits of the animals represented, while others are not so successful. It is hoped that in future years there may be the means at command of giving in the volumes of Transactions, such illustrations of the exhibitions as may be considered useful and interesting.