

seems fitted and gifted by nature, and prepared by study, to play a conspicuous part on the page of future history. He is a noble representative of the municipal privileges in which we boast. His motto is self reliance, and his aim, that each man should feel and act, as if he were a man. The other disturbances which have agitated society, are such as not likely to leave a lasting impression. We have only to lament the loss of life which has occurred both in Caffraria and in Cuba. We rejoice in the success of the gold regions and trust that all the efforts made will lead to the welfare of society. May our latent energies be directed to so holy a cause.

Toronto Mechanics' Institute.

On the evening of Friday the 19th ult., Mr Robinson, Head Master of the Normal School delivered his second lecture on the history of Canada to a numerous and highly respectable audience. The extent of ground travelled over allowed him little scope for dilation on any point. He commenced with the early voyages of Champlain in 1603 and 1605, in the second of which he founded Quebec, and visited the river Richlieu, Lake Champlain and Lake George. Champlain's exertions for the Colony were unremitting, and in the course of them he spared neither expense nor labour. In 1611 he selected the site of Montreal and afterwards undertook a dangerous and difficult journey through the wilderness by way of the Ottawa and Lake Nipissing, to Lake Huron, where he spent the winter. Disappointed, however, in his hopes of discovering a northwest passage by this route, he departed to Europe, but in 1620, he again returned and settled, with his family, in Canada. The Indian wars and treacheries, which succeeded, very much impeded Champlain's efforts and retarded the settlement of the country. The formation, in 1627, of the Company of "The 100 associates," under the care of Cardinal Richlieu, helped, for a time, to direct more general attention to the Province, and to increase the number of speculators who expected to derive wealth from the fur trade. Though clothed with almost royal authority, their arrangements were eventually found not to be of a character likely to advance the real interests of the Colony, and the company was afterwards broken up and the Province made a royal government in the year 1653. In the meantime some events of importance had taken place. The whole of Canada was surrendered to a British force in the year 1663, and though returned to the French at the peace three years after, it encountered a most serious misfortune in the death of Champlain in 1635. Towards the middle of the 17th century, various circumstances rendered the Iroquois almost masters of the country, the French in reality being in possession of none of it beyond their forts at Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal, the Indian tribes that had occupied the northern bank of the river were almost exterminated, and the remnant of the Christian Indians were transferred to the neighbourhood of Quebec for protection. Active efforts were made by many of the French Governors to advance the interests of the colony, and more attention began to be paid to agriculture. Unfortunately an act of treachery, by which a number of the Iroquois were carried off and shipped to France to man the galleys of Louis 14th, provoked a desolating war, in which all the inhabitants of the Island of Montreal were swept off, 1000 being slaughtered, and 500 carried away into hopeless captivity. The affairs of the colo-

nists were now at so low an ebb, that the safety of Canada was almost despaired of, and in 1683 the Count de Frontenac who had already managed the affairs of the colony without success, and possessed moreover considerable popularity among the Indians, was sent out as the only person capable of restoring the French power. The active measures of Frontenac, who had formerly built the Fort at Cataragi now Kingston, were so successful, that in 1692 the fur-trade revived, and agriculture began to flourish. From this period the almost unceasing wars and perpetual jealousies existing between the Canadians and the new Eugiana Colonists, embittered by violent religious animosity, materially retarded the improvement of both parties. At length an interval of repose, consequent on the peace of Utrecht in 1713, permitted the Canadians to direct their attention to the measures requisite to enable them to resist further attacks by fortifying Montreal and Quebec, and training a numerous militia. A French traveller, in Canada during 1720 and '21, gives an interesting account of its condition at that period. Quebec contained about 7,000 inhabitants, Montreal 3,000, and Three Rivers about 900. The society was gay and agreeable, though there was but little evidence of superior wealth. A Fort and Indian Village existed at Cataragi, but above this there was nothing that could be called a settlement, though there were small forts or trading stations at Niagara, Detroit, and Mackinaw; Upper Canada was then a forest. Mr. Robertson then proceeded to detail some of the events of the war which terminated in the final surrender of Canada to the British in 1760, alluding to the surrender of Fort Necessity to the French by George Washington; the proposition of Franklin in 1754 for a general union among the New England colonies to resist the French, the defeat of Braddock, the taking of Quebec in 1759, the deaths of Montcalm and Wolfe, &c.—After the surrender of Montreal 1760, which terminated French rule in Canada, various efforts were made by the British Government to advance the commercial interests of the country and though at first English laws and language were introduced yet afterwards the French laws to which the inhabitants had been so long accustomed were restored. The lecturer passed rapidly over the succeeding events, alluding to the American Revolutionary War, and the attack on Canada in 1775 by the Generals Montgomery and Arnold, whose repulse was necessarily owing to gallantry of the Canadians themselves. The following year saw the American forces driven out and Canada established as a province of the British empire—the division of the country into Upper and Lower under the Government (1786) of Lord Dorchester, the abolition of slavery, the difficulties that unfortunately arose towards the year 1810, between the Governor and the House of Assembly, and which were afterwards productive of so much mischief, were noticed. After mentioning the American war of 1812, Mr. Robertson expressed his regret at being compelled by want of time to pass over so rapidly the latter events of the history of Canada down to the year 1812, beyond which he did not intend to carry his sketch. In conclusion, he pointed out, in very general terms, the rapidity with which Upper Canada whose settlement may be dated from the acknowledgment of American Independence, had advanced, the bright hopes that might be entertained from the prospects of Canada being in the hands of her sons, and explained that his motive in selecting Canadian History as the subject of his address, was the hope of being instrumental in directing public attention to the subject, particularly as a branch of elementary education.

Arts and Manufactures.

DRAWING IMPLEMENTS.

An incidental circumstance connected with drawing materials, shows very satisfactorily that a growing interest is manifested in the prosecution

of the FINE ARTS. The philosophy of the Great Exhibition demonstrated the truth of the aphorism; that as iron sharpeneth iron, so doeth the countenance of a man his friend; and a new vitality superinduced by that wonderful display has so inspired the Royal Society of Arts, that they have as it were phœnix like sprung forth a new creation. One evidence of this resurrection is the fact stated in the Art Journal for December that the Council of the Royal Society, desirous to obtain for the humblest artisan, the means of prosecuting the practice of ART have determined to present the Society's large medal to the person who shall produce the box having the greatest number of the best colours for general use, and brushes, which may be sold retail for one shilling. The Council will be prepared to purchase not less than one thousand of the successful boxes. The Council further offer the Society's large medal for the best and cheapest set of drawing instruments; and will be prepared to purchase not fewer than one hundred sets of the successful case. This spirited activity for practical uses is a cheering feature of vitality in a body so highly respectable and of so long standing as the Society of Arts, and is worthy the most attentive consideration of parties whose business it is to provide the implements specified.

Natural History.

There is no subject so pleasing to the youthful mind, so truly engrossing, and so well calculated to drive away the whims and the phlegm from the freeling spirit, as one connected with natural history. One which presents NATURE in her floral grandeur, her verdant luxuriance or her woodland minstrelsy. How the youthful spirit bounds with glee, at the nimble evolutions of the deer, the sportive gambols of the leveret, the pleasing carols of the lark, or the bold and martial music of the merle. Impressed with this, we have given several very interesting extracts from Natural History in this number. The first refers to the ants of Peru, and truly if they are as formidable actors as here represented, the exhortation of the wise man, "Go to the ant thou sluggard," is not without point, for he would there learn industry, perseverance, and usefulness. The second refers to ravens, a class of birds much persecuted by ignorant, unthinking men, and even in former times by many honest farmers, who foolishly imagined that they were destructive to their seed. Thanks to the discoveries of naturalists, which have for ever cleared the mind from so impure an idea, this bird is now allowed to roam at large, and is looked upon as the farmer's friend. Still there are men found to ignore every philosophic idea for their own sensual gratification, as the extract will show. The third shows the peculiarities and daring of the Sparrowhawk.

ANTS IN PERU.

The forests of Peru swarm with ants. Every shrub is alive with them. The large yellow *pacis* is seen in myriads in the open air, and it even penetrates into the dwellings. This insect does not bite, but its crawling creates great irritation to