

rooms of the Board will then be available for the purposes originally intended, as expressed in a circular to the Mechanics' Institutes of Upper Canada, under date of February, 1858, asking their co-operation in establishing a "Museum to contain not only a collection illustrating the mineral and vegetable wealth of Canada, and all native substances of an economic value, but also of models of machinery and new inventions, or even, when practicable, of the machines themselves: specimens of all articles manufactured in this Province, both in their crude state and in all stages of completion; and generally of all such objects, the inspection and study of which may tend to the promotion of Mechanical and Industrial science."

At South Kensington, London; Dublin, in Ireland, and Edinburgh, in Scotland, extensive and interesting museums of this character have been established; and others are springing up in various places in the mother countries. The late Professor George Wilson, on this subject, said: "The whole of our public bodies have come forward to encourage the industrial museums;" and to give an idea of what should be their aim and object he says:—

"The Industrial Museum, like the College, the Court of Sessions, or the House of Commons, is at once a walled-in space, and an embodied idea or cluster of ideas. The walled-in space takes its character from the idea which it embodies, and that idea is fourfold. It includes the conception of—

"1. An ample exhibitional gallery, where the raw or workable and other materials of industrial art, the tools and machines employed to modify these, and the finished products resulting from their modifications, shall be displayed.

"2. A laboratory and workshop, where the qualities of industrial materials and products, and the effectiveness of industrial apparatus and machines, may be investigated.

"3. A library, where the special literature of industrial art may be consulted.

"4. Systematic Lectures on the contents of the galleries, the investigations of the laboratory and workshop, and the records of the library, as illustrating the nature of Technology or industrial science."

We will not be able, for many years to come, to establish an institution here on so comprehensive a scale as alluded to by Professor Wilson, but we may hope to soon make a beginning, and gradually go on increasing as circumstances may favour.

Connected with the Free Public Museum of Liverpool, we notice a "Gallery of Inventions and Science," lately organised, which possesses features likely to ensure a large measure of success. It is thus described by the *Mechanics' Magazine*:—

"This institution was founded by the late Sir William Brown, Bart., for the purpose of affording to inventors, manufacturers, and others the following advantages, gratuitously:—Firstly, space for exhibiting useful inventions illustrative of the practical applications of science or mechanical skill; secondly, publicity, which is effected by giving the public free admission to the gallery, which is a part of the Free Public Museum of Liverpool, the average daily number of visitors exceeding 2,000; and, thirdly, permission to affix a description to each object, to attach the price, when saleable, and to leave other information with an attendant, who will be the medium of communication between the public and the exhibitors.

"The object of the gallery is to bring under public notice inventions and manufactures calculated to economise labor, utilize natural productions, promote health, and open up new fields of industry. Thereby valuable instruction will be conveyed, a desire to adopt improvements induced, useful invention and production stimulated, and the interests advanced of those who have applied knowledge usefully. The gallery is under the management of a committee appointed by the Architectural and Archaeological Society, the Chemist's Association, the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, and the Liverpool Polytechnic Society. For the attainment of the founder's object, the committee rely, in a great measure, upon having it made advantageous to inventors and manufacturers to become exhibitors, and thus to benefit themselves while contributing to the instruction, improvement, and enjoyment of others.

"Every loan is received for a specified time, until the expiration of which it will not be removed. Subsequently, if the exhibitor desire to continue the loan, the committee will consent thereto if, in their opinion, the public continue to take a sufficient interest in the particular object, but otherwise it will have to give place to articles having newer or stronger claims for space—the chief aim of the committee being to render the gallery practically useful, rather than to make it a storehouse for things either abstrusely scientific or out of date. We wish to draw special attention to this peculiar feature of the Liverpool Gallery of Inventions, for by thus maintaining freshness of interest, withdrawing what has ceased to attract, and adding new illustrations of progress in the arts and sciences, a greater degree of utility will doubtless be secured, and the object of exhibitors more fully attained."

Within a very limited time confederation of the Provinces will, no doubt, take place; and as under the QUEBEC RESOLUTIONS it is provided that the promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures, shall be under the controul of the local Legislatures, it is but mere conjecture to speculate on what that measure of support is likely to be. We trust, however, that the encouragement of Arts and Manufactures, in Upper Canada, will be considered of more importance than has been heretofore indicated by the support given them by the Legislature of United Canada.