

KINGSTON EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

We had recently an opportunity, in company with the Council of the Agricultural Association and the Local Committee, of visiting the Exhibition Palace and Grounds at Kingston. *Unfortunately* the day of our visit was an exceedingly wet one, the rain pouring down during the whole time, and covering the grounds with a series of ponds or small lakes. *Fortunately*, on the other hand, the rain enabled us to see where and to what extent the present roofing of the Crystal Palace is capable of keeping out the wet, and protecting Exhibitor's goods. The building is in the form of a cross, the highest portion, or the Nave, is lofty, with a lean-to story of about one-third the width of the main portion all around the building. The vertical walls of the lean-to, and of the main portion of the Nave above the lean-to, are of ribbed glass; the roof of the lean-to is also glass, laid on with a lap at the ends same as is usually the case with roofs of Greenhouses. The roof of the higher portion of the Nave is covered with shingles. This latter roof was found to be in good condition, and without leaks, except at or around the cupola over the Fountain, and in some of the angles—the whole of which can be easily remedied. We wish we could say as much for the glass roof of the lean-to, but, unfortunately, the rain literally ran through the joints or laps of the glass, and we are satisfied that no patching or reputtying can entirely remedy this defect so as to make it secure. The glass roof also admits too much light, destroying the effect desirable in exhibiting goods. The only effectual remedy for this portion is to take off the glass and cover the lean-to with shingles; it would then be sure against leakage, and in the matter of light vastly improved—the vertical walls admitting all that would be desirable. In the wing to be devoted to the Fine Arts, unless the roof and walls of the lean-to are covered or lined with some opaque material, it will be impossible to show any picture to advantage. The lean-to roof being shingled, and the walls lined and coloured a maroon, or dull red, it would then be nearly if not quite equal to the Fine Arts Gallery erected in Toronto for the last Exhibition. We should think the glass and sashes of this roof might be sold so as to realize almost the amount required to replace them with shingles. We trust the Local Committee will see the desirability of making these improvements, so as to give confidence to Exhibitors that valuable Pictures and Manufactures will be properly protected from the weather, and at the same time be shown to advantage.

With these indicated improvements to the main building, and a temporary shed put up as in Toronto last year for heavy machinery and coarse Manufactures, this department would have sufficient accommodation; and the Building heretofore known as the Mechanical Hall could be exclusively appropriated to the Horticultural Department, and Agricultural grains, seeds and roots, for which it furnishes ample space and is well adapted. It would, however, be a great improvement to this Building if the Poultry sheds could be removed from the outside; for as now placed they obstruct more than one-half the light that should enter the windows of the lower storey, rendering it too dark for proper inspection of goods placed there. This building is 168 ft. long, by 36 ft. wide, and is two stories high—the upper flat of which, by making a good outside staircase at the southern end would be admirably adapted for the entire Horticultural Department; the grains, seeds and roots taking the lower portion.

It was too wet to make any general inspection of the stabling and sheds for Horses and Cattle, but, seen at a little distance, they appeared to be in very good condition. Not being so immediately interested in this portion of the arrangements, we did not pay much attention to it; but as the Mayor and Council of the City of Kingston, have given their pledge to have every thing sufficient provided in the way of necessary and safe accommodation, and as these Kingston gentlemen pride themselves in being "always up to the mark," we presume that Exhibitors may rest in confidence that all will be done that can reasonably be expected.

THE BIRDS OF WESTERN CANADA.

The *Journal* for January contained a Catalogue of Birds known to inhabit Western Canada, as prepared for this Board by the Rev. Prof. Hincks, F. L. S., &c., of University College, Toronto, as a guide for making as complete a collection as possible for the Paris Exhibition. In the last number of the *Canadian Journal*, the Professor directs attention to this catalogue, and also to a "List of Birds observed near Hamilton, C. W., by Thomas McIlwraith, extracted from the Proceedings of the Essex Institute, vol. v., 1866."

As a slight typographical error occurred in printing our list, and as Mr. McIlwraith includes several species not included in it, we think it best to publish the Professor's remarks in full:

"We have here two catalogues of the birds of Western Canada: one as general as it could be made from the information within the author's reach; the other professedly local, and the expres-