

XIX. TABLE T.—GENERAL STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE PROGRESS OF EDUCATION IN UPPER CANADA, FROM 1852 TO 1861, INCLUSIVE.

This Table contains all the statistics which could be obtained illustrative of progress of education, in connection with each branch and all the Institutions of Education in Upper Canada during the last twenty years.

XX. THE EDUCATIONAL MUSEUM.

What I remarked on this subject in my last Report is equally true and applicable at the present time. "Nothing is more important than that an establishment designed especially to be the Institution of the People at large,—to provide for them Teachers, Apparatus, Libraries and every possible agency of instruction,—should, in all its parts and appendages, be such as the people can contemplate with respect and satisfaction, and visit with pleasure and profit. While the Schools have been so established and are so conducted as to leave nothing to be desired in regard to their character and efficiency, the accompanying agencies for the agreeable and substantial improvement of all classes of Students and Public, and for the useful entertainment of numerous Visitors from various parts of the Country, as well as many from abroad, have been rendered as attractive and complete as the limited means provided would permit. Such are the objects of the Educational Museum.

This Educational Museum is founded after the example of what is being done by the Imperial Government as part of the System of Popular Education,—regarding the indirect, as scarcely secondary to the direct, means of training the minds and forming the taste and character of the people. It consists of a collection of School Apparatus for Common and Grammar Schools, of Models of Agriculture and other Implements, of Specimens of the Natural History of the Country, Casts of antique and modern Statues and Busts, etcetera, selected from the principal Museums of Europe, including Busts of some of the most celebrated Characters in English and French History; also copies of some of the works of the great Masters of the Dutch, Flemish, Spanish, and especially of the Italian, School of Painting. These objects of Art are labelled for the information of those who are not familiar with the originals, but a descriptive historical Catalogue of them is in course of preparation. In the evidence given before the Select Committee of the British House of Commons, it is justly stated:

"That the object of a National Gallery is to improve the public taste, and afford a more refined description of enjoyment to the mass of the people"; and the opinion is at the same time strongly expressed that as "people of taste going to Italy constantly bring home beautiful modern copies of beautiful originals," it is desirable, even in England, that those who have not the opportunity or means of travelling abroad should be enabled to see, in the form of an accurate copy, some of the celebrated works of Raphael and other Great Masters; an object no less desirable in Canada than in England. What has been thus far done in this branch of our Public Instruction is one part the result of a small annual sum, which, by the liberality of the Legislature, has been placed at the disposal of the Chief Superintendent of Education, out of the Upper Canada share of School Grants, for the purpose of improving School Architecture and Appliances, and to promote Art, Science and Literature by means of Models, Objects and Publications, collected in a Museum in connection with this Department.

The more extensive Educational Museum at South Kensington, London, established at great expense by the Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council of Education, appears, from successive Reports, to be exerting a very salutary influence, while the School of Art connected with it is imparting instruction to hundreds in Drawing, Painting, Modelling, etcetera. A large portion of the contents of our Museum has been procured with a view to the School of Art, which has not yet been established, though the preparations for it are completed. But the Museum has been found a valuable auxiliary to the Schools; the number of Visitors from all parts of the Country, as well as from abroad, has greatly