

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
Board of Arts and Manufactures
FOR UPPER CANADA.

JUNE, 1862.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1862.

The State opening of the International Exhibition of 1862 took place yesterday, and was in every respect a great success. The Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty to conduct the ceremony were:—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, K.G., His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord High Chancellor, the Earl of Derby, K.G., the Lord Chamberlain, Viscount Palmerston, K.G., G. C. B., and the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Address of the Royal Commissioners and Reply.

When His Royal Highness and the other Commissioners had taken their seats, Earl Granville said:—

“In the name of the Commissioners of the International Exhibition of 1862, I have the honour to present to your Royal Highness, your Lordships, and Mr. Speaker, our humble address to Her Majesty. In it we respectfully offer our condolence on the irreparable loss which Her Majesty and the nation have sustained, and we express our gratitude to Her Majesty for having appointed your Royal Highness and your colleagues as Her Majesty’s representatives, and we thank the Crown Prince of Prussia and Prince Oscar of Sweden for their presence on this occasion. In it we describe the rise and progress of the Exhibition, and the manner in which we propose to reward merit. We express our thanks to the Foreign and British Commissioners who have aided us in the work, and we express a humble hope that this undertaking may not be unworthy to take its place among the periodically recurring exhibitions of the world.”

Lord Granville then handed to the Duke of Cambridge the following address, of which his speech was a brief summary:—

“May it please your Royal Highness and my lords Commissioners:—

“We, the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1862, humbly beg leave to approach Her Majesty through you, Her illustrious representatives on this occasion, with the assurance of our devotion to Her Majesty’s throne and Royal person.

“And first of all it is our melancholy duty to convey to Her Majesty the expression of our deep sympathy with Her in the grievous affliction with which it has pleased the Almighty to visit Her Majesty and the whole people of this realm in the death of Her Royal Consort. We cannot forget that this is the anniversary of the opening of the first Great International Exhibition 11 years ago

by Her Majesty, when His Royal Highness, as President of the Commissioners of that Exhibition, addressed Her Majesty in words that will not be forgotten. After stating the proceedings of the Commission in the discharge of their duties He concluded with a prayer that an undertaking ‘which had for its end the promotion of all branches of human industry and the strengthening of the bonds of peace and friendship among all nations of the earth might by the blessing of Divine Providence conduce to the welfare of Her Majesty’s people, and be long remembered among the brightest circumstances of Her Majesty’s peaceful and happy reign.’

“When we commenced our duties, and until a recent period, we ventured to look forward to the time when it might be our great privilege to address Her Majesty in person this day, and to show Her Majesty within these walls the evidence which this Exhibition affords of the soundness of the opinion originally entertained by His Royal Highness—evidence furnished alike by the increased extent of the Exhibition, by the eagerness with which all classes of the community have sought to take part in it, and by the large expenditure incurred by individual exhibitors for the better display of their produce and machinery. We can now only repeat the assurance of our sympathy with Her Majesty in that bereavement which deprives this inaugural ceremony of Her Royal presence; and, while bearing mournful testimony to the loss of that invaluable assistance which his Royal Highness was so ready at all times to extend to us, we have to offer to the Queen our dutiful thanks for the interest evinced by her Majesty in this undertaking by commanding your Royal Highness and your Lordships to represent Her Majesty on this occasion.

“Our respectful thanks are also due to their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince of Prussia and Prince Oscar of Sweden, the presidents of the commissions for those countries, for the honour which their Royal Highnesses have done us in coming to England for the purpose of attending this ceremony. In the attendance of his Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Prussia we recognise a cordial deference to the wishes of our Sovereign and a tribute of affection to the memory of his illustrious and beloved father-in-law.

“It now becomes our duty to submit to Her Majesty a short statement of the circumstances connected with the realization of the scheme for holding a second great International Exhibition in this country, the necessary powers for conducting which were conferred upon us by the Charter of Incorporation graciously granted to us by her Majesty in the month of February, 1861.

“In the years 1858 and 1859 the Society of Arts, a body through whose exertions the Exhibition of 1851 in great measure originated, had taken preliminary measures for the purpose of ascertaining whether a sufficiently strong feeling existed in favor of a decennial repetition of that great experiment to justify an active prosecution of the scheme. Although the result was stated by the Society of Arts to be satisfactory, the outbreak of hostilities at that moment on the continent necessarily put a stop to further proceedings.

“The restoration of peace in the summer of 1859, however, enabled the consideration of the question