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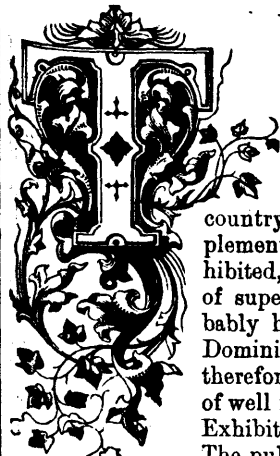
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THE CANADIAN EXHIBITION OF 1880.



THE press of Montreal,—the city in which the Canadian Exhibition for this year was held—has given such full details of the various manufactures and industries of the country; machinery, agricultural implements, produce, &c., which were exhibited, that it would be a mere work of supererogation to repeat what probably has been read throughout the Dominion. We will confine ourselves, therefore, to a few remarks in the form of well intended criticism, both on the Exhibition itself, and the management.

The public journals, we observe, have been very reticent about making known the complaints of the public of a want of foresight and proper management by the Committee, nor were those complaints by any means frivolous; certainly, it was very desirable not to throw any reflection upon the affair that would deter the public from visiting our city, but we do think, now it is over, it would be wise to point out the mistakes that were made in order to avoid any recurrence of the same in future.

The apology which is so frequently upon the tongues of Canadians, as an excuse for deficiency—that we are but a young country yet, and, that everything not up to the line of excellence is excusable, and anything of mediocre merit is deserving of praise, because it is the effort of a young country, is not only unmanly, but unworthy of our nationality. It is true that we are a young country, compared with the age of European nations, but it must be borne in mind that, if our country is young in years, we are an old people, descended from two races that have ever been foremost in energy and excellence. We are, therefore, members of those races, inheriting all the intellectual ability of our forefathers, but instead of living in the land of our ancestors, we have simply transplanted ourselves to another soil. Steam and the Telegraph has brought us nearer to them to-day, in a business point of view, than people residing

in London, fifty years ago, were to those who lived in Liverpool. All that science has done for the old world we participate in; the labours of centuries is before us to benefit by. Whatever genius, talent, or skill, has produced, both on the Old Continent and the United States, is for our benefit. We have not to seek for light in darkness, nor have we to work with crude materials and imperfect implements. We have the same access to the great results of all that has been done for us, just as if we were living in the highest of civilized countries. We can buy the same machinery which produces such excellence in manufactures, as they can; we can obtain the skilled workmen of Great Britain and France, if we feel disposed to employ them; in fact, there is nothing in all the improvements of the past in art, science, or manufactures which it is not in our power to obtain; why then should we childishly take refuge for our defectiveness by harping on the cry, as an excuse, that we are but a young country? We would much sooner pass a few just and friendly criticisms, when necessary, then lead into error by praise undeserved.

That the Exhibition was a success—so far as numbers go—will be acknowledged by all. That it was remunerative, is beyond a doubt. But that it was a success, as a Dominion Exhibition, or in its management, we most decidedly deny. The Art Gallery contained little of real artistic worth, and of the exhibits altogether, there ought, and could have been a much greater show had a proper understanding been arrived at by all the provinces months before. Blame has been cast on Toronto; she has been accused of antagonism and selfishness, in not having decided upon a day for her Provincial Exhibition, until after the Dominion one had been proclaimed, and then, by fixing the opening day of hers a few days previous to ours, they drew off the bulk of the agricultural implements and produce in which she so much excels. Whether this action on the part of Toronto was done in an unfriendly spirit towards Montreal, or not, is more a matter of feeling than of fact. We feel disposed to believe it arose from a want of disposition, with both parties, to give way to the others' wishes. However, we trust that when the next Dominion Exhibition takes place there will be no provincial ones held at the same time to take anything away from it of interest to all, and also that its management will be put