

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

JUNE, 1867.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION PRIZE LIST.

This number of the *Journal* contains the Prize List for the Arts and Manufactures department of the next Provincial Exhibition, to be held in the city of Kingston during the month of September of the present year.

Last year the Committee having charge of this department secured a great many improvements, both in the arrangement of prizes and classification of goods. In the Fine Arts classes especially was this observable. Previously, no distinction was made between original works and copies; and the terms "professional" and "amateur," as applied to artists, were indefinite, and generally so differently understood in their application, even by those who were without doubt professional artists, as to result in continual difficulties, and in numerous *protests* being made to the Association. The terms have now a published definite meaning, which cannot be misunderstood by exhibitors. This year further improvements have been made, by striking out the entire list of prizes for "professional copies," and reducing the number of prizes for "amateur originals." The Committee have thus been enabled to add a few prizes to the remaining divisions, and also slightly to increase the several amounts offered in prizes to both professionals and amateurs.

It is gratifying to the Committee to know that their efforts to improve this department meet with the full appreciation of artists; one of whom, in a recent communication to us, said, "I wish I could hope that the arrangements for the Fine Arts at Kingston would not fall short of yours at Toronto, which were in all respects excellent; the display being most creditable to the opportunities and circumstances of the Province." Another leading artist writes: "I must, at the risk of being thought a flatterer, say, that the Board of Arts has been the greatest boon to professionals in this new country," and expresses a hope that the Board may long continue to have the management of this department. We regret that the Board has not the means for more extended usefulness, not

only in this but in the *Decorative and Industrial* arts.

It will be noticed that in the Prize List the Fine Arts have been separated into two classes. The number of entries, and the merits of the several productions, having progressed so rapidly within the past two or three years, have rendered this change necessary, so as to enable the Judges to complete their onerous duties either in proper time, or with satisfaction to themselves or the exhibitors. The first class now comprises all works in oil, statuary and photography; the second class all water colours, pencils, crayons, sepias, pen-and-ink sketches, &c. This change, we have no doubt, will give satisfaction.

It will be observed that the class heretofore termed "Decorative and Useful Arts," has been superseded by what is believed to be a more correct classification, its several sections having been distributed into classes with which they respectively the nearest assimilate. With so limited a number of classes, there will always be a difficulty in arranging many articles in the proper positions: the only alternative is to place them with things similar in materials or uses, or that will best come under the consideration of the same Committee of Judges. Thus, in the new class we have Designs, materials and workmanship in Building construction, and such other articles as might most fittingly be judged by a committee of architects and civil engineers, rather than by any of the other committees of Judges. In the various departments of wood, iron, leather and woollen manufactures, are severally placed the raw materials, furnishings and tools connected with the respective trades, so as to bring them under the same judges as the finished work. This arrangement, no doubt, tends to secure the most efficient judgment possible under the circumstances.

The Ladies' department, next to the Fine Arts, is always the most extensive in the Exhibition, and imposes a large amount of labour upon the lady Judges. This, it will be observed, is also now divided into two classes, the first embracing chiefly all kinds of needle-work, plain or fancy, and knitting, netting, tatting, &c. The second class includes all work in flowers, hair, moss, shells, cones, seeds, wax and worsted. This change will greatly facilitate the work of the Judges.

Other improvements will no doubt hereafter be introduced, as circumstances from year to year may demonstrate their necessity. In the mean time, we have no hesitation in saying that the present list is a very good one, and we trust that the competition induced by it may be in every way satisfactory.