

tion, called the Mercantile Library Association, sprang up soon afterwards, which speedily followed the fate of its predecessor. After a lapse of three or four years the matter was again taken in hands by a few energetic gentlemen, when it was attended with entire success. On the 31st January 1853, the Bytown Mechanics' Institute and Athenæum was incorporated, and the opening lecture was delivered by Dr. Van Cortlandt, on Saturday, 15th March, his subject being, The Phenomena of Vegetation. This Institution has already gained for itself a high position, and, if divested of Political and Sectarian bias, bids fair to rank ere long among the foremost in the Province. Some of its operations have been of so important a nature, and have served so good a purpose, in furthering the interests of the Ottawa Country, that it would be unjust not to notice them amongst the records of the place. In the latter end of June, 1853, it being understood that His Excellency the Governor General, Lord Elgin, and suite, together with other distinguished personages, intended visiting Bytown, the Managing Committee of the Institute considered that it would be conducive to the interest thereof to devise some means of bringing it particularly under their notice, when it was determined that an artistic and scientific local exhibition should take place on 28th July, and that His Excellency should be invited to open the same in person.

The Exhibition was opened accordingly on Thursday, the 28th July, by the Governor General, and was kept open to the public between the hours of ten in the morning and ten at night, until Saturday the 30th, and was visited by some thousands of people.

We copy the following from the report of the managing committee shortly after the event had taken place:—"Although the time for making preparations was exceedingly limited, considering the amount of labour that was performed, your committee feel much satisfaction in reporting that their success exceeded all that was anticipated.

"The Exhibition called forth the admiration of His Excellency and suite, and of all others who visited it. The results, your committee have no doubt, will be highly beneficial, by bringing the Institution into notice, and by giving it a standing in the eyes of the community at large, which it otherwise would not have obtained."