

disposal. They also gratefully acknowledge the facilities afforded by the Commissioner of Railways, in forwarding the articles intended for competition, and by the Minister of Militia, in granting the use of the Drill Shed and adjacent grounds and they beg especially to record their thanks to those gentlemen from various parts of the Province who have undertaken the arduous and responsible duties of Jurors in the various departments of agricultural and manufacturing industry and arts.

A kind and beneficent Providence has bestowed many resources on this favored Province, which it remains for man to develop by the application of capital and labor. The Commissioners believe that the present Exhibition will afford evidence that we have made some progress in that development since 1854, and they have a strong confidence that the present occasion will aid in still further encouraging the advancement of our country in a career of prosperity.

Animated by this hope, the Commissioners have given their earnest attention to the work entrusted to them, since their appointment some months ago, and in the completion of their labors, they have now respectfully to ask your Excellency to formally open the varied collection now brought together for inspection and examination by the public.

His Excellency made the following

REPLY:

*Gentlemen*,—It is, I assure you, great pleasure to me to be present to-day and to take part in the opening of this Provincial Exhibition, an occasion so interesting in itself and so full of good augury for the future prosperity of Nova Scotia.

While I thank you for the kind personal allusions to myself which you have now presented to me, I hope that it is hardly necessary for me to say that it is my earnest wish to be connected with, and as far as I am able, to assist in, the development of any enterprise which may be for the general good of this Province, the Government of which has been entrusted to my charge.

To yourselves, gentlemen, and to the Secretaries who have ably assisted the working members of the Committee in their laborious duties, I am sure the thanks of the Province are due; and I have no doubt the public will appreciate your services, when by an inspection of the Exhibition now to be opened, they see the amount of work you have had to undergo—the vast quantity of articles which have been sent in to your charge and the skill and care you have expended in their arrangement and display.

It is, as you justly say, now admitted by every one that immense benefits are derived from these Exhibitions if judiciously conducted, and if not recurring

after too short intervals. But while these advantages are now so obvious that I should only be enunciating truisms if I dilated upon them, it was not the case eighteen years ago, and it well becomes us as subjects of the Queen of England, to remember how much in this respect, as in very many others, we owe to the foresight, genius, and perseverance of the lamented Consort of our Gracious Sovereign.

We do not now aspire to hold an International Exhibition. The present one is restricted to the productions of this Province, and while it is exceedingly gratifying to hear from your report that so great and so general an interest has been awakened by it, and that the number of entries is so large and the articles exhibited so good and so interesting, I confess that, from my knowledge of the people and the country, I for one should have been much disappointed if such had not been the case; and it will be with much interest that I shall compare the present with that at which I was present in Kentville a few years ago, as well as with that, the opening of which I inaugurated last year in St. John, New Brunswick.

This land of Nova Scotia has been blessed by Providence far more bountifully than, until of late years, was generally understood. We may congratulate ourselves on having survived the era of apathy and indifference under which the resources of this noble Province so long languished; and the present occasion, at least, will happily demonstrate that, although we necessarily have our differences of opinion, we meet together here all classes of us, as a united people, in friendly rivalry for the advancement of the best interests of our country, and to foster the arts of Peace.

Nova Scotia was looked on, and is still sometimes to this day described as a rocky inhospitable land—a large portion of which is useless for all practical purposes—another large portion occupied by streams and lakes—that it is surrounded by a stormy sea, and kept back from advancing in agriculture by a rigorous and severe climate.

To-day, gentlemen, we can prove, I hope, to those who do not admit it already, that under our hardest rock lie veins of the metal most prized by man, which are now being worked with better system, greater individual profit, more general benefit, and with far less concomitant crime than any where else in the world; that we have inexhaustible supplies of Coal—a substance which is far more valuable than gold; that we have iron of sufficient quantity and suitable quality for the engines, railroads, and ships of B. N. America for ages to come. That, if our eastern coast opposes a bold rocky front to the waves of the Atlantic, we

have in our Western valleys, farms and orchards equal to those of any country. That if our seas are stormy, they afford a living and an education for a hardy race; that the portion of our country which is occupied by water will soon, under careful restrictions and judicious regulations, be as valuable in its products as the land itself; and that if our climate be rigorous, it is of that healthy severity that fosters a self-reliant, hard-working, God-fearing people.

We shall here to-day see some proof of the many material advantages with which God has blessed the inhabitants of this land. By the action of the Legislature in providing funds, and by the readiness with which the present Exhibition has been carried out, we have of our own free will invited the judgment and criticism of our fellow-men in the use we have made of these advantages. I have myself, and I am sure, gentlemen, you have also, every confidence that, after careful attention has been paid to the contents of the various buildings which are now submitted for inspection, a not unfavorable judgment will be pronounced, and that it will be found that in all branches of industry, the Province is making most satisfactory progress.

This confidence gives me much pleasure in complying with your request, and in declaring the opening of the Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of Nova Scotia.

The Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia then offered up a petition to the Sovereign of the Universe, whose beneficence had blessed the country so richly.

An Anthem was then sung by the united choirs of the city.

CHIEF JUSTICE YOUNG'S ADDRESS.

His Lordship the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia then delivered an eloquent address which was briefly reported in abstract as follows by the *Halifax Reporter*:

He referred to the large gathering, to the gentle disappointment that had been felt when the Lieutenant Governor had returned from his visit among the high born of England, alone—unwedded.—After a few pleasantries upon this point, the Chief Justice turned to the subject of Industrial Exhibitions; spoke of the influence exerted upon the agricultural industries of Nova Scotia by his late father; how, under that influence, agricultural societies had networked the land; then had come a time of decadence—a period of apathy succeeded an awakening long to be remembered when Sir G. LeMarchant, speaking of his interest in agriculture, made his memorable declaration that the farmer in his homespun was at all times as welcome to Government House, as the gentleman in his broadcloth.