

so many anxious applicants, crowded into a few weeks, will be no ordinary task. The Commission state that, wherever it is deemed desirable and advantageous, they will gladly avail themselves of the assistance of local committees. Unfortunately there does not appear to be *time* for the organization and action of such committees. Before they could communicate with producers and manufacturers, the 4th of December would have passed away; of this the Commissioners are evidently aware, or they would have pressed the point deemed so important in the preparations made for the Paris Exhibition of 1855.

In the preliminary report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Provincial Committee in 1855, the following paragraphs occur :

“After much consideration and discussion, they have arrived at the conclusions—

“That it is absolutely necessary, in order to secure the end desired, that authority should be given to the Provincial Committee *to purchase such articles as they deem essential to that object.* They are of opinion that any attempt to induce voluntary effort by means of local Fairs would be fruitless. The experience of all who were actively engaged in promoting the Canadian Exhibition at the World's Fair in London in 1851, is, that the success of the present effort must depend entirely upon the energy and judgment to be displayed by an efficient Executive to be appointed by the Commissioners.

“They would recommend that the Provincial Committee should delegate their powers to an Executive Committee, to be composed of twenty-one members, fifteen of whom should be in a position to give their attendance at Quebec; two should be resident at or near Montreal, the remainder to be gentlemen specially connected with the industrial resources of Upper Canada.”

The Commissioners for the forthcoming Exhibition are in a totally different position to that of their predecessors in 1855. They have no money to purchase manufactured articles to be sent to London, they are consequently cut off from the only hope which the Committee of 1855 possessed of despatching to Paris a fair representation of our industry. One would almost suppose, from the wording of the circular, that the present Commissioners did not entertain very sanguine expectations respecting their mission to “secure a representation of Canadian products at the International Exhibition,” for they only “venture to hope that the public spirit of manufacturers and other producers will induce their general coöperation.” In the face of the “absolute necessity” for purchasing articles which the Committee for 1855 were governed by, backed by the experience of 1851, the present Commissioners can only fairly express “a hope” that they will receive active coöperation; but we trust that that hope will soon be transformed into a certainty, and that public spirit as well as

private sense of honourable distinction will induce our manufacturers and artizans to exert themselves, in order that the reputation of Canada may be upheld. Knowing, as every one must know, that Canada has made remarkable progress since 1851, it will be galling, indeed, if the criticism upon our appearance in London should imply that we have retrograded, or are become indifferent, or too poor, or too much involved, to make a creditable appearance on the great Exhibition ground of the World. The Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada will no doubt take all the measures which lie within their power to stimulate manufacturers and artizans to send the productions of their industry and skill, but it is clear that they can do little or nothing before the 4th of December; and without the Commissioners consent to an extension of time during which they will receive applications, little can be done.

Many persons we think take too narrow a view of the advantages which might accrue to Canada if well represented at London. It is not unfrequently urged that it is absurd to send Canadian manufactures to be placed side by side with the highly finished and cheap productions of the skill and capital of Britain or France. We grant willingly that it would be absurd to put them in competition, but it would be wise to display what we have done and can do, in order to advertise the country and call the attention of intending emigrants to its capabilities and the *field for enterprise* which it presents. However meagre may be the display of our manufactured articles by comparison, in such an arena, it will serve the purpose of directing attention to Exhibitors, advertising their goods, and having Canada mentioned continually in the newspapers, periodicals and reports published in Europe. People do not look for such results here as are only attained where capital is abundant, and where skilled labour is cheap. But they would be gratified to find that in this “distant Colony” all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life are easily and cheaply procured, and that a boundless field is open to their enterprise. A Canadian piano for example, such as was lately exhibited at London, C.W., of Canadian manufacture, down to the most insignificant piece of ironwork, would produce a favourable effect as an advertisement for the whole country, because it is one of those articles which imply taste to appreciate and skill to produce; such as many a penny-a-liner would delight to enlarge upon, and probably take as a text for a wordy column on “Art in the Backwoods of Canada.” We want the well to do emigrant classes of the people of Great Britain and Ireland to see something from Canada, to know that the two millions and a half of their fellow subjects on this side of the Atlantic are as full of enterprise and