

## THE CENTENNIAL AND ITS EDUCATIONAL FEATURES.

No. 2.

## ONTARIO.

Before proceeding to speak of other countries, it may be interesting to our readers to know what our own Province has done to place before the world an exhibit of her educational status and progress. As stated last month, the Ontario exhibit is in the main exhibition building, in the space allotted to this Province. An elegant arch forms the back-ground, having above and around it, the words "Educational Department, Ontario," and the coat of arms of the Department, with which all our readers are familiar. On the wall of the arch, on stands, and in cases in front of it, are the articles on exhibition. They embrace maps of various kinds; enlarged photographs of the principal school buildings in the Province; seats, desks, and other school furniture; models of school buildings; globes, and a great variety of philosophical apparatus; specimens of drawing, writing, &c. We can add our own testimony to that of many others as to the exceedingly creditable character of the exhibit. It is undoubtedly the best in the main building, and excepting the Pennsylvania exhibit, and the United States Government exhibit, the best on the grounds. This is saying a great deal, but numerous quotations might be made from Canadian and American journals corroborating our own opinion. The June No. of Ayer's *Advertiser's Guide* published at Philadelphia, in the course of a description of the educational exhibits at the Centennial says:

"Ontario makes decidedly the best exhibit in the Main Building. The arrangement is not made with reference to any system, but in its details is exceedingly fine. Several models of common and high schools are given. The scientific and mechanical instruments are of the most approved

patterns, and from the work shown the natural conclusion is that the scholars know how to use them to the best advantage. A number of maps and pictures, drawn by scholars in the different schools, are very handsomely executed. The mineral and anatomical collections are also complete and attractive. A sectional puzzle-map of North America, made of wood, and neatly painted, attracts considerable attention, and must aid the little folks very materially in remembering the many divisions of the country. The public schools, judging from the models, are very neat and comfortable."

A gentleman occupying a very distinguished position as an educator in Ontario, recently visited the Centennial, and thus gives his impressions in the *Globe*:

"The Canadian newspapers on both sides of politics, and the newspapers of the United States as well, have concurred in expressing admiration of the noble place at the Centennial Exposition taken by the Department of Education for Ontario. The testimony I have to give on this subject is an accordance with that of every other observer.

"The excellence of the Educational Exposition from Ontario is all the more striking from the contrast presented by the Expositions from other Canadian Provinces. The display from Nova Scotia is utterly insignificant; that from Quebec ditto. \* \*

"It is a relief to turn from such abortions to the Department of Education for Ontario. It has for its background an elegant arch—the conception, I believe, of Dr. May. On the wall of the arch, in the open space in front of it, and in a number of glass cases, we have the articles connected with Education contributed by our Province. In quantity they are sufficiently abundant. They have the variety necessary for exhibiting the material instruments adapted for instruction in the different branches taught in our schools, from the most elementary forms up to the highest classes of science. They are of a style and quality which, taken in connection with the prices at which it appears that they can be