and so it will be with the Botanical Society, if we do not at the first attempt too much. It may be said that now is scarcely the time to commence a Botanical Society, that the country is not yet far enough advanced, that botany is not sufficiently studied, to warrant the establishment of a Botanical Society. It is true that botany has been neglected in this country. But there is a patriotic feeling rising up in Canada, which is especially strong in the youth of the province, and every well-wisher of Canada must be delighted to see it. Here then is an opportunity, by the establishment of this Society, to wipe off a reproach that has long hung over the country, by prosecuting a path of research that has been neglected. The proper method, then, is to begin early, to engage in the work, and the Society will progress, increasing not only our botanical knowledge, but fostering the taste for its study. Thus, as the science progresses among us, the Society will extend, so that we may hope in time to see the germ which we this evening cast into the soil grow up into a goodly tree, spreading its branches over the length and breadth of Canada, which is yet destined to be a great country.—See page 14.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ADDRESS OF PROFESSOR LAWSON.

After referring to the prosecution of botanical science as at a low ebb in Canada, he said: At the close of the eighteenth century only five dissertations on botanical subjects had been published by the whole medical graduates of the great continent of America. Since then the indefatigable labours of such men as Michaux, Torrey, Harvey, Curtis, Boott, Engelmann, Tuckermann, Sullivant, Lesquereux, and especially of one whose name and fame rise above all the rest, Asa Gray, have brought our knowledge of the botany of the United States on a level with that of the best botanized countries of Europe. The Flora of Canada has also been elaborated since then by one who still presides over the destinies of botanical science, not in England alone, for the authority is recognized wherever the science is pursued. But during a period of nearly thirty years very little has been added to our published knowledge of Canadian botany. Information respecting our indigenous plants must still be sought in the work of Sir William Hooker, issued from the Colonial office in England in 1833. That work, founded as it necessarily was, on dried specimens carried home by passing travellers, afforded to the botanical world an admirable example of how much could be made out of slender material when in good hands. Unimpeachable as a work of science, unsurpassed in the whole range of botanical literature in the accuracy and beauty of its illustrations, the *Flora Boreali-Americana* afforded the means of developing still more fully a knowledge of the Canadian Flora. The North American Flora of Torrey and Gray, and the Manual of the Botany of the Northern States, afforded additional temptations to the pursuit; but advances have not been made commensurate with the advantages that were offered; we have still, therefore, the singular anomaly of a country distinguished by its liberal patronage to science, dependent for its information respecting its native plants on the descriptions of specimens culled by early travellers. * * * We already possess in Canada several important scientific societies in active operation. While the Canadian Institute is of a comprehensive character, embracing all branches of science, literature and philosophy, the special department of geology is amply cultivated by the Natural History Society of Montreal, which has also, however, made valuable contributions to zoology and botany. In addition to such institutions as these, we have, of still more special character, the Government Geological Survey, which has been instrumental in carrying out investigations of the greatest importance to the country, whether their results be viewed as intellectual achievements or as contributions to material industry. It is proposed that our Society shall have for its object the advancement of Botanical Science in all its departments,—Structural, Physiological, Systematic and Geographical; and the application of Botany to the useful and ornamental arts of life. * * *

IV. THE EDUCATIONAL MUSEUM, UPPER CANADA.

From the Report of the Chief Superintendent of Education for 1859.

This Educational Museum is founded after the example of what is being done by the Imperial Government as part of the system of popular education—regarding the indirect and scarcely secondary to the direct means of training the minds and forming the taste and character of the people.* It consists of a collection of school apparatus for Common and Grammar Schools, of models of agricultural and other implements, of specimens of the natural history of the country, casts of antique and modern statues and busts, &c., selected from the principal museums of Europe, including busts of some of the most celebrated characters in English and French history; also copies of some of the works of the great masters of the Dutch, Flemish, Spanish, and especially of the Italian schools of painting. These objects of art are labelled, for the information of those who are not familiar with the originals, but a descriptive historical catalogue of them is in course of preparation. In the evidence given before the Select Committee of the British House of Commons, it is justly stated, "that the object of a National Gallery is to improve the public taste, and afford a more refined description of enjoyment to the mass of the people; and the opinion is, at the same time, strongly expressed, that as "people of taste going to Italy constantly bring home beautiful modern copies of beautiful originals," it is desirable even in England, that those who have not the opportunity or means of travelling abroad, should be enabled to see, in the form of an accurate copy, some of the celebrated works of Raffaelle and other great masters; an object no less desirable in Canada than in England. What has been thus far done in this branch of public instruction, is in part the result of a small annual sum, which, by the liberality of the Legislature, has been placed at the disposal of the Chief Superintendent of Education, out of the Upper Canada share of school grants, for the purpose of improving school architecture and appliances, and to promote arts, science and literature by means of models, objects and publications, collected in a Museum, in connection with this department.

The more extensive Educational Museum at South Kensington, London, established at great expense by the Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council of Education, appears, from successive Reports, to be exerting a very salutary influence, while the School of Art connected with it is imparting instruction to hundreds, in drawing, painting, modelling, &c. A large portion of the contents of our Museum has been procured with a view to the School of Art, which has not yet been established, though the preparations for it are completed. But the Museum has been found a valuable auxiliary to the Schools; the number of visitors from all parts of the country, as well as from abroad, has greatly increased during the year, though considerable before; many have repeated their visits again and again; and I believe the influence of the Museum quite corresponds with what is said of that of the Educational Museum in London.

V. ACADEMY OF ART, ST. LOUIS.

As showing the flourishing state of Art in the West, it may be stated that the Western Academy of Art, in St. Louis, has just completed a gallery for its accommodation, and opened an exhibition of nearly five hundred works of art.

VI. LIBRARY HALL AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

While at the Cape of Good Hope, Prince Alfred laid the foundation stone of the Sailors' Home and inaugurated a new Library-hall, where Sir George Grey delivered an address, which was answered on the part of the public by the Attorney General.

VII. CATALOGUE OF FRENCH MUSEUMS.

A catalogue is being made by authority, of all the objects of art in the numerous French museums and palaces. The number already reached amounts to 40,000. A second catalogue is to follow of the paintings and sculptures in the public buildings of France—churches, convents, hospitals, town halls, &c.

VIII. MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES IN EGYPT.

The Pasha of Egypt is establishing a magnificent palace, built of French cast iron, for a museum of antiquities, to be filled with relics of antiquity found in Egypt, in the execution of which 2,500 men are now employed under the direction of Mariette, the French archæologist.

IX. INTERESTING EGYPTIAN DISCOVERIES.

Dr. Simonidez announces the discovery in the Egyptian Museum of Liverpool, of the following papyrus manuscripts:—

1st.—A portion of eight chapters of the Book of Genesis, written on papyrus in the Alexandrian style of Greek capital letters, which, from the purity of the text, and the quality of the papyrus, (being first class, and that called sacred,) I conclude to belong to the first century before Christ.

2nd.—The Ten Commandments, written in Greek and Egyptian Demotic characters in parallel columns, belonging also to the first century before Christ.

3rd.—The Voyages of Annon, King of Carthage. This MSS., is more correct than any yet known, and bears evidence of being written about the same period as the foregoing, viz.: the century before Christ.

* See my Annual Report for 1857, in which is a full detail of what is done in England in this respect.