

4. THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AT OTTAWA.

The Report of the Commissioner of Public Works, just issued, says that the expenditure on the Ottawa Buildings during the past year was, omitting figures below thousands; Paid contractor for Parliament Buildings, \$120,000; ditto departments, \$101,000; heating and ventilation, \$5,000; superintendence and contingencies, \$20,000—total, \$248,347. During the season about 4,500 yards of cubic masonry was built, fully one million of bricks laid, and over 2,760 yards of concrete. The Commissioner thus reports the present condition of the buildings:—The main roofs of the departmental blocks are completed and slated throughout. The roof of the principal front of the Parliament Building is also put in, and that part of it west of the main tower slated. The roofs of the Legislative Chambers and library are not yet commenced, the outer portion of the building remaining nearly as it was when the works were suspended. The towers of the departmental blocks were generally carried above the level of the roofs and then temporarily covered in, it having been decided to direct all efforts, after the resumption of the works, to prepare them for occupation at as early a date as possible, for which purpose the completion of the towers was, of course, not of pressing necessity.—In the Parliament Buildings the front angle towers are carried up to the full height, and the western ones roofed, whilst the central tower stands a considerable height above the main cornice. The Speaker's tower has also been carried up and covered in. The windows are in their place and glazed, and it will thus be seen that the exterior fronts of the buildings present a finished appearance, with the exception of the portions above named.—*Globe*.

5. NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AT HALIFAX.

They are about erecting a new Provincial building at Halifax, to combine the Parliament building and government offices. The building will be 120 feet long, 55 wide and 80 high. From six inches below the ground-line up to the base-moulding, the walls will be of granite, and all above of Wallace free stone. The *Chronicle* says:—"If the plans are adhered to in the construction of the edifice it will be a magnificent one, and a building that for architectural beauty, durability and extent of accommodation, would do credit to any city in North America. It will be three stories high. The cornices, entablature, pilasters and window heads will be ornamented and enriched by carving execution in artistic style, bold in relief, sharp, true and graceful in outline. In the face of the east pediment will be the City, and on the west the Provincial Arms, and on the south front the figure of 'Britannia,' all executed of free stone. The 'Britannia' will be 11 feet 6 inches high, 8 feet wide and 5 feet thick, so that a large block of stone will be required to make it out of. The main entrances, north and south, will be faced with freestone, including rubbed and moulded base and plinth, and have fluted columns, moulded archivolt, architraves, keys, spandrels, &c, with rustic piers and jambs. The hall will run completely through the building, north and south, and the floor will be paved with rubbed Caithness paving stones of large size. The post office will be located on one side of this hall. The remaining portions of the building will be occupied as offices for the use of various public departments, except a very large room on the third floor, which is designed to be used as a public hall upon certain occasions. The interior will be finished in elaborate style, of the best materials that can be procured."

IX. Miscellaneous.

"GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THY STEWARDSHIP."

THOUGHTS OF A DYING TEACHER.

O good and gracious Master,
Who didst vouchsafe to call
My talents to Thy service,
Tho' few they were and small;
Whose love did lighten labour,
Whose smiles my courage fired,
Whose promise and example
To noblest aims inspired!

Thou only, only knowest
What might my life have been,
Its actual shortcomings
Thine eye alone hath seen;
But now, the past reviewing
Thro' penitential tears,
My stricken soul confesseth
The faithlessness of years.

O Jesus, O my Master,
So oft betrayed, denied!
By cowardly concessions
Wounded and crucified,
By heartless prayers and praises
Grieved, to just anger driven,
O Patient, O Forbearing,
How much Thou hast forgiven!

In all the sacred service
Committed to my trust,
I stand this day convicted
Of stewardship unjust;
Called an account to render
Of faithful duties done
With single aim to please Thee,
Alas! I find not one.

O much-enduring Master,
How vast Thy love must be,
Which speaketh words of pardon
And tenderness to me!
How dear the mediation,
How rich the atoning blood,
Which covers my transgression
And seals my peace with God!

Here at Thy feet, O Master,
With mingled grief and joy,
I learn that Thou hast deigned
Me, worthless, to employ—
In sin, in weakness spoken,
Thine own all-saving word
Hath reached a few poor wanderers,
And brought them to the Lord.

Not all alone before Thee
Shall I, a saved one, stand,
For "children" Thou hast given me,
A small but loving band;
And these shall blend their praises
With mine, before the throne—
O good and gracious Master,
The glory is thine own!

And now, my labours ended,
My time for labour past,
Once more on Thee, dear Saviour,
This guilty soul I cast;
O let Thy grace, pronouncing
Her life-long sins forgiven,
Make room for earth's poor saved one
Amongst the saints in heaven.
Ion.

2. THE QUEEN'S SECLUSION.

The following article, unanimously ascribed by the English press to the pen of the Queen herself, appeared in the London *Times* of the 6th inst. It is a distinct and direct reply to articles that have lately appeared in British journals relative to Her Majesty's disappearance from public life, and to the course which she has marked out for herself in future. It has excited great attention throughout the Kingdom, and is the first instance in English history in which the occupant of the throne has held direct intercourse with the public press of the country. Some of the passages in this remarkable State document are very touching and beautiful:—

"An erroneous idea seems generally to prevail, and has latterly found frequent expression in the newspapers, that the Queen is about to resume the place in society which she occupied before her great affliction; that is, that she is about to hold levees and drawing-rooms in person, and to appear as before at Court balls, concerts, &c. This idea cannot be too explicitly contradicted.

"The Queen heartily appreciates the desire of her subjects to see her, and whatever she can do to gratify them in this loyal affectionate wish she will do. Whenever any real object is to be obtained by her appearing on public occasions, any national interest to be promoted, or anything to be encouraged which is for the good of her people, Her Majesty will not shrink, as she has not shrunk, from any personal sacrifice or exertion, however painful.

"But there are other and higher duties than those of mere representation which are now thrown upon the Queen, alone and unassisted—duties which she cannot neglect without injury to the public service which weigh unceasingly upon her, overwhelming her with work and anxiety.

"The Queen has labored conscientiously to discharge these duties till her health and strength, already shaken by the utter and ever-abiding desolation which has taken the place of her former happiness, have been seriously impaired.

"To call upon her to undergo, in addition, the fatigue of those mere State ceremonies which can be equally well performed by other English members of her family, is to ask her to run the risk of entirely disabling herself for the discharge of those other duties which cannot be neglected without serious injury to the public interests.

"The Queen will, however, do what she can—in the manner least trying to her health, strength, and spirits, to meet the loyal wishes of her subjects; to afford that support and countenance to society, and to give that encouragement to trade which is desired of her.

"More the Queen cannot do; and more the kindness and good feeling of her people will surely not exact from her."

3. THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO A WORKHOUSE.

Her Majesty, lately, paid a visit of inspection to the Windsor Union Working house. Her Majesty and suite on alighting were received by the very reverend the Dean of Windsor, Mr. Wellesley—who is a constant visitor to the invalids and infirm poor of the house. Her Majesty commenced her inspection with an examination of the men's dining hall and old men's ward, whence the illustrious visitors passed to the boys' school-room, where the boys were at work under the superintendence of the schoolmaster, and after an examination of this portion of the house, her Majesty was pleased to express her approbation of the discipline and appearance of the children. The boys' dormitory, the old men's and able-bodied men's wards and store-rooms, were then inspected, the Queen appearing surprised and delighted with the arrangement of the latter department. Her Majesty then passed through the women's sleeping wards and the girls' dormitory, and afterwards proceeded to the girls' school room, where the girls of the union were engaged in school and needle-work. The Queen examined the girls' work, and spoke kindly and encouragingly to several of them. On leaving the school the royal party