

Fitzgibbon exhibited, as quite a novelty in flower-painting, a water-coloured group of the blossoms of our every-day vegetables, very true to nature. Miss McTavish's drawing of birds from nature, in a mixed style crayons, was very well executed. All these "extras," with possibly some others, were recommended for a special prize. The Picture exhibition of 1866 was an undoubted success; and if a sense of duty to art requires us to say anything calculated to reflect on that success, it is to hope as well as suggest that more attention be paid to *original* subjects; and that *professional* artists be no longer awarded a prize for *copies* in oil or water colours, unless made from *original paintings* by artists of reputation.

The sister class, of Decorative and Useful Art, does not call for more than the passing remark, that most of the articles exhibited possessed more or less merit; but as the collection did not contain any new creation in this connection, the class may be dismissed without more than general commendation—unless, indeed, the stained glass, by Messrs. McCausland and Lyon, both of Toronto, calls for particular notice.

But how to dispose of the Ladies' department, which comprises thirty-seven kinds of needle work, besides extras, and contained some three hundred different articles, so as to give satisfaction, puzzles us more than enough; and how the fair judges managed to pick out what was best among so many, puzzles us still more. There was no end of embroidery in muslin, in worsted, and in silk; artificial flowers in silver and in feather work; guipure work, so mysterious to us male animals; hair work, bead work, cone work, braiding, tatting and crochet work. Then there was ornamental needle work, to which three prizes had been allotted; while "plain sewing by hand" found its place of refuge among the "extras;"—knitting; lace work; moss pictures; wax flowers and fruit; worsted work, fancy for framing, and raised; shell work; wreaths in flower and seeds; and many other specimens of those charming productions of the needle, which female taste and skill delight in, but which provoke so much wonder among old bachelors. Among the articles more strictly useful might be seen quilts, very handsome and good, in silk and patchwork; stockings, socks and mittens, hand-knitted; gentlemen's shirts; and that useful though much neglected article, Canadian plait, for bonnets or hats. Let us devote a word or two to the subject of straw plait of home production, and ask how it is that in a grain country, such as Canada, where the wheat and rye straw are of the finest quality, clean and strong, we *import* from abroad what we ought to *produce* at home? Bon-

nets and hats can be as well made up here as anywhere else; but *home manufactures* halt, and the benefits are not half realized unless the *raw material* be also of *home production*! But to return to the ladies' work. It will be found that under the head of "extras," not less than seventy-six entries were made, comprising fancy quilts, gauntlets and socks; fancy leather work; rag carpets and mats; seaweed work; slipper patterns; anti-macassars, screens, perforated card work, and other kinds of work known only to needlewomen; and, what we rejoiced to find, "plain sewing by hand," as well as some good specimens of bonnets and hats, made from Canadian straw plait. Amidst all this variety, how can one mortal man decide? Except that our fancy was captivated by Mrs. Crown's comfortable rag carpet, we must leave to the Prize List the duty of setting forth a true and particular account of the honours carried off by the successful competitors; and we accordingly close our remarks by recording our great admiration of the ladies' beautiful work, as well as the ladies' charming appearance.

Turning from the merely ornamental to the practically useful, we shall first notice the Agricultural Implements and Tools, of which there was an extensive and capital assortment; but as they were exhibited out of doors, not very orderly arranged, and were not subjected to any practical trials then and there, the merits claimed for many of them depended a good deal on the maker's own assurances. Messrs. Dickey, Neil & Co. exhibited a sixteen-horse power steam engine, for agricultural purposes; but we were not fortunate enough to see it in operation, so as to judge of its working merits. There were a few well made, but rather gaudily painted, team and market waggons. Keeping pace with our progress in agriculture, the ploughs of all varieties were well made, serviceable articles. It may be that the wood-plough is best adapted to a large portion of the farmers of Canada; but where the ground permits the use of an iron plough (and those shown were a credit to our craftsmen) it must always be preferred—for quickness of work and neatness of furrow, nothing can touch it; and those shown by Alex. Duncan, Markham; John Gray, Egmondville; and Hugh Milloy, Erin, were all well proportioned, highly finished implements, and richly merited the prizes awarded to them. The other kinds were also very good, but must be passed over for want of space. Companions of the plough, the harrows, came next in order, of which several very good iron ones were shown, those made by Peter Mallaby, West York, whose handiwork showed to advantage in ploughs also, and by H. Collard, Gananoque, were