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THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

Already the details of this splendid exposition of the progress of Upper Canada, not only in material wealth, but in industry and art, have been scattered broadcast throughout the land by the daily and weekly press. Elaborate and excellent descriptions of the numerous improvements in manufactures, machines, and agricultural implements have been read, no doubt, by the greater portion of the reading public. There remains but for this journal, which as yet only ventures upon a monthly issue, to record the facts which have been made patent to all, and which by the time these pages meet the eye of our readers, will have become matters of history, so rapid is the progress of events with us.

Among the tens of thousands who visited the Provincial Exhibition last week, there were some who were able to go back in mental review to the time when a dense forest covered Upper Canada from the Ottawa to the St. Clair; when the Province which has so recently displayed such a magnificent collection of grain and fruits, of domesticated animals and home manufactures, was an almost uninhabited and pathless wilderness. If the recollections of those now living can carry them to the dawn of the history of Upper Canada, how bold may be the aspirations and predictions of those who in the full vigour of manhood contributed towards the seventeenth Exhibition of Upper Canadian industry, enterprise, and skill. Each succeeding year has attested in a remarkable manner the rapid progress of the country, but on no former occasion did the resources of Upper Canada exhibit themselves to such advantage as during the last week of September in the present year. Many fortunate circumstances assisted in giving effect to the display—the presence of illustrious visitors, the continuance of most favourable weather, a bountiful harvest, and a happy revival of general prosperity—all contributed to make the exhibition held at Toronto, not merely far superior to its predecessors, but a striking and truthful representation of the progressive civilization of the western half of the Province.

Well might Lord Mulgrave express his astonishment at what he witnessed when he contrasted the

scene before him, with all its evidences of industry, energy, activity, with the wilderness from which the accumulated wealth was won. Reflecting men will endeavor to trace the probable future of a people who during the present century have increased from a few thousands to more than a million and a quarter; who came to a wide waste of dense woods and gloomy swamps, and within the memory of thousands now living have converted it, by dint of the labor of their hands and the energy of their will, into a land of rich farms, producing thirty million bushels of wheat; fruits surpassing in every point, the skilled productions of the father land; cattle and horses equal in many respects to the best; and as a people preserving, notwithstanding 3000 intervening miles, a singular attachment of loyalty to the institutions and throne of the country under whose protection they maintain inviolable the greatest freedom and the utmost respect for the law.

It was generally supposed that the late Exhibition would surpass all its predecessors chiefly on account of its being held at the capital of Upper Canada. In this respect most anticipations were fully realized. There was, nevertheless, some want of arrangement in the so-called Crystal Palace, which might have been remedied if more time had been bestowed upon the distribution of the articles exhibited, and if opportunity had been offered for completing arrangements before the public were admitted. In some instances, the judges found great difficulty in discovering the articles of which they were in search. Such disorder is by no means a necessary accompaniment of the sudden assemblage of a large number of contributions of every conceivable variety. The printed classified catalogue, always ready weeks beforehand, serves as an excellent basis on which a regular plan of arrangement might have been adopted. It seems absurd to place articles belonging to the same class in different parts of the building, although it may happen, as was the case in this present instance, that the manner in which different articles are presented for exhibition precludes their being placed side by side. In one or two instances great carelessness was apparent, though with whom the fault lies does not appear. A case of fish, for instance, was exposed to public view, just as if it had come from a long journey, with its contents jumbled together. The admission of the public before the judges have completed their rounds is always objectionable, and must materially interfere with that quiet discussion respecting the worth of different articles, so needful in awarding positions of merit. The inconvenience arising from dust was much felt in the