

most fitting embellishment; and the application of a very little art will speedily be found to raise the varnished deal cabinet or book-case far above the majority of our standard 'institutions' in the way of heavy and expensive mahogany ones—in interest at least, if not in money value."

If our ordinary house-painters could be induced, through the Mechanics' Institutes or other means, to educate themselves in the art of illuminating, by beginning at first to copy from examples of ancient manuscripts or similar works, which can now be got at trifling cost, and having studied the true principles of polychromatic effects, we should soon see a vast improvement in the style of our house decoration.

What is the present style of the art? Suppose we should wish to spend a few dollars in the extra embellishment of our drawing-room, we send for the painter and ask his advice. "Have the walls grained oak," is the ready suggestion; and he adds, "If you wish a first-rate job, have it twice varnished." "But we are tired of oak; is there no other way?" "Oh, yes; there is satin wood and maple, but there is nothing stands like oak." So, if we should follow the advice of the painter, we are absolutely tied down to a base imitation of what we could as easily, and as cheaply obtain in its genuine state. Nor would we succeed much better with the architect. He would perhaps tell us, if he should happen to know, that there is a description of wall decoration, much admired in England, by which we could avoid the objectionable sham of graining; but that it would be impossible to attempt it in this country, unless we imported the workmen. Any attempt to introduce a superior style of decoration to that in use, we are fully assured, would result in failure, unless our painters, well qualified to execute the painting usually required, gave their attention to the subject.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1862.

We had hoped to have been in a position to have announced in this number of the Journal, the appointment by His Excellency the Governor General, of a Provincial Commission to act on behalf of contributors to the International Exhibition of 1862.

Our readers are doubtless aware that the Boards of Arts and Manufactures for both Upper and Lower Canada, as well as the Boards of Agriculture, memorialized the Governor-in-Council during the last Session of Parliament to appoint such a Commission, and to make a grant of money for the purpose of aiding in securing a proper representation of the Arts, Manufactures, and Natural Products of Canada.

The Government did not see fit to recommend to Parliament any appropriation for this purpose, nor

did the prayer of the memorialists for the appointment of a Commission meet with any better success; the consequence is, that Canada will be entirely unrepresented, unless this error on the part of the government is at once remedied by the appointment of a Commission, through whom alone private contributors can hold communication with Her Majesty's Commissioners, or enter articles for exhibition. This position of affairs is much to be regretted, as we are confident that an appropriation of money for this object would have met with the cordial approval of all parties; and as the Provincial Exhibitions are now about to be held, excellent opportunities would have been afforded for making suitable selections of articles for transmission home.

Memorials have again been presented by the above named Boards, with a view to induce the government to reconsider the matter of appointing a Provincial Commission.

The decisions of Her Majesty's Commissioners on the reception, classification, and charge of the goods sent for exhibition, appeared in the April No. of the Journal, but as the Commissioners have since made several amendments and additions thereto, we now publish them in full as amended.

#### AMENDED AND ADDITIONAL DECISIONS OF HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS ON POINTS RELATING TO THE EXHIBITION.

1. Her Majesty's Commissioners have fixed upon Thursday, the 1st day of May, 1862, for opening the Exhibition.

2. The exhibition building will be erected on a site adjoining the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society, and in the immediate neighborhood of the ground occupied in 1851, on the occasion of the first International Exhibition.

3. The portion of the building to be devoted to the exhibition of Pictures will be erected in brick, and will occupy the entire front towards Cromwell-road; the portion in which machinery will be exhibited will extend along Prince Albert's-road, on the west side of the gardens.

4. All works of industry to be exhibited should have been produced since 1850. The decision whether goods, proposed to be exhibited, are admissible or not, must, in each case, eventually rest with Her Majesty's Commissioners.

5. Subject to the necessary limitation of space, all persons, whether designers, inventors, manufacturers, or producers of articles, will be allowed to exhibit; but they must state the character in which they do so.

6. Her Majesty's Commissioners will communicate with Foreign and Colonial exhibitors only through the Commission which the Government of each Foreign Country or Colony may appoint for that purpose; and no article will be admitted from any Foreign Country or Colony without the sanction of such Commission.

7. No rent will be charged to exhibitors.

8. Every article produced or obtained by human industry, whether of

Raw materials, machinery, manufactures or fine arts, will be admitted to the Exhibition, with the exception of

1. Living animals and plants.

2. Fresh vegetable and animal substances, liable to spoil by keeping.