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THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND ITS INFLUENCE UPON CANADA.



I have attempted to have given a description of even a fractional part of this wonderful exhibit of the World's progress, we have felt the task was far beyond the scope of the pages of a monthly periodical. We purpose, however, to give, from time to time, illustrations and descriptions of many of those improvements in machinery that may be of most service to our mechanics.

If any of those who have been enabled to exhibit at the Exposition bore with them, there, any feeling of the self-sufficiency of the productions of their own country, they doubtless had it suppressed and corrected, when their goods were placed, side by side, in comparison with the manufactures of other countries; they have then found where they excelled and where others excelled them, and much benefit must evidently result from this comparison to all parties. The result of the splendid collection of these resources and skill, the contribution of nations, will be to impart to all who visited it a healthy appreciation of the talents of others, and a stimulant to their energies to endeavour to produce, in every branch of art, science, and manufactures, still more perfect results. Much do we wish that Canada, ere half a century has elapsed from the date of her ranking as a Dominion, will be able to hold a World's Exhibition of her own, and exhibit fine arts and manufactures inferior to none on this Continent. Let her remember that from a population of less than four millions, and when science and manufactures were but in their infancy compared to the present day, the United States has become one of the first nations in the world, and is still marching onward, with gigantic strides, to greater progress and power. One hundred years ago, nay fifty years ago, even a quarter of a century since, she possessed few of those advantages arising from scientific discoveries with which Canada now starts in

the race fully equipped. In her early existence after a long and bitter struggle for independence, she had to depend almost entirely upon her own resources; but in the last quarter of her centennial life, the use of steam as a propelling power, the revealing of the uses to which electricity can be applied, the discoveries in chemistry, and the numerous and useful inventions of, not only of her own people, but of other nations, have enabled her to develop her enormous resources, to utilise the wealth of her minerals and forests, and to encircle her vast territory with the band of civilization, and, developing the talent of her people through the influence of education, from which such great prosperity to the nation has resulted, proving again the truth of Lord Bacon's words—as has often been proved before—that “Knowledge is Power.”

It is only eleven years ago that eight millions of her people were engaged in a “bitter and terrible internecine war,” a war which was inevitable in order to stamp out the law of slavery from the statute of a free and enlightened country, and although suffering from financial difficulties arising from an over distension of trade and manufactures, the result of four years of civil war that would have entirely prostrated many other nations possessing less recuperative powers and youthful muscle and sinews, she engaged in this vast national enterprise, and not only carried it out successfully, and to the satisfaction of all nations who participated therein, but exhibited to the world such a representation of the fruits of her industry, perseverance and genius, as has never been displayed before by a nation in but the minority of its existence.

From this Exposition Canada has much to learn, and we trust the spirit of emulation will be diffused throughout the whole country. As it is, she has excelled in many of her productions, and earned well merited reward; but let her not stop short satisfied with her honors, but strive to benefit by the new stock of ideas which her people have now obtained from a close intercourse with other nations, and let the proud cosmopolitan spirit of enterprise enter more fully into her future career. Let there be no distinction of races, of which there is too much at present, and let the impetus of education diffuse itself over the whole Dominion.

We want more education of a mechanical and technical