

PREFATORY NOTE.

WITH a view to afford every information on the subject of the establishment of an Educational Museum in Upper Canada, (as in part contemplated by the Act 16th Vic., ch. 185, sec. 23,) the following pages are re-printed, with additions from the Report of the Chief Superintendent of Education for 1856.

An historical and descriptive catalogue of the objects of art in the Museum has not yet been prepared; nor has a selection of architectural casts, illustrative of the different orders of ancient architecture and the early Norman and later styles of Gothic architecture, been yet arranged, for want of space, until the completion of the new Normal and Model Grammar School building. In the course of the ensuing spring, it is hoped that the original plan of establishing a School of Art and Design will be carried into effect, when the collections made will be available for purposes of instruction, as well as open to the public, and when, it is hoped, practical effect will be given to the objects and wishes of the Board of Trades and Manufactures in regard to a Central School of Art and Design for the promotion of art education in Upper Canada.

The papers in the Appendix, taken from recent official documents, exhibit in a satisfactory manner the progress of Art Education in England, and the establishment of local schools of science and art throughout the United Kingdom. They also contain an account (illustrated by a plan, specially re-engraved to accompany this pamphlet) of the establishment at South Kensington of an Educational Museum similar to that which has been recently attempted on a smaller scale in Upper Canada.

It will be seen, from speeches and items of intelligence, published from time to time in the *Journal of Education*, how vigorous have been the efforts put forth of late years in various places to promote art education, and to cultivate a taste for the fine arts by means of popular exhibitions and museums. England and France have been foremost in this great work of social amelioration and enlightenment. In various parts of Europe, and in the United States, the same desire to combine amusement with instruction and a cultivation of popular taste is also manifest. Canada, therefore, is but following the example of other countries in this respect in providing herself with the means of refining the taste and promoting the general intelligence of her people.