

plucked in academic groves or in the forcing-houses of the primary and secondary schools. On the sixth instant was formally opened in the provincial capital the City Public Library, an institution for the people, where, whatever taste for reading, and habits of study the schools may have implanted in the youth of the land, the means are now afforded of bringing both to maturity, and to the flowering stage of intellectual development. The opening of the Library fittingly signalized the fiftieth anniversary of Toronto's incorporation as a city, and the institution and its equipment form one of the most laudable civic enterprises which recent years have set on foot. Being the cradle of the material life of the Province, there is something peculiarly appropriate in Toronto being the first to found, under the Public Libraries' Act, an institution which shall be of the highest service in advancing its intellectual life. From an early period the city, like many towns in the Province, has had its Mechanics' Institute, and, with the funds at its disposal, has no doubt done much to keep the lamp burning of mental enthusiasm in the student and the artisan. But the old system of voluntary association has happily given place to a system less precarious in its character, and likely to be more efficient in the work expected to be done by such organizations. With the revenue at its command, the Toronto

Public Library will now be enabled to give such facilities for research as will adequately meet the wants of those who will make use of it, and, what is of no less importance, will in its collection of books and comprehensive scope show to the organizers of other institutions what books to purchase, and what to select from in setting on foot similar, though smaller, organizations. In this, as in other things, Toronto must necessarily lead the way, and we think that the successful founding of what is likely to prove a most useful institution will incite enterprise in other towns in the Province, and that we shall soon see every place of importance having its Public Library, and extending to the masses the incalculable benefits of free reading and the means of popular enlightenment. To direct this movement as an educating power of the highest type, that talent may receive the aid it must daily stand in need of, and that our people may live the best lives they are capable of living, the Library will want the counsels of wisdom and the thought and industry of broad-minded, far-seeing, competent managers. The ways of the world too much tend now-a-days to flippancy and idleness, but if the Library system can introduce the needed serious element into minds that are vacant, and lives that are motiveless, a real benefit will be conferred alike upon the people and upon the age. G. M. A.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of the Canada Educational Monthly.

SIR,—With your permission I would like to make some observations suggested by your article on Art Education, in the February MONTHLY, and to point out some hindrances to the proper growth of art in our schools. In the Report of the Minister of Education for the year 1883, will be found an interesting account of the founding of the Ontario School of Art. The vicissitudes of its early struggles in the cause of genuine Art Education, necessitated an appeal for pecuniary help to the

Government, which being insufficiently and erratically given, culminated in a negotiation for the entire expense of the School of Art being assumed by the Education Department. These negotiations resulted in the removal of the Ontario Art School to the Normal buildings, with an understanding and a written agreement that the Ontario Society of Artists should, as heretofore, manage the school, engage teachers, and provide Art instruction in the several branches of the day and evening classes respectively (vide page 171). The representatives of the Ontario