

Your Committee from personal observation report that in general the American Museums are maintained within these lines, and that, with perhaps the exception of Boston and Cincinnati and it may be one or two others, the Institutions known as Museums do not include Fine Art collections. On examining into these exceptions, especially at Cincinnati, it will be found that they contain no precedent for your Committee to recommend special work of this kind; and your Committee would not feel safe in so doing without Legislative authority.

COLLECTIONS.

Your Committee report that they are placed in advantageous circumstances by the fact that the Ontario Government and the Canadian Institute have placed in their custody for exhibition the magnificent Archæological collection at present in the Canadian Institute, and have given assurance of their good will in aiding in the formation of a collection of the minerals of this province. Your Committee as the result of their inquiries are of the opinion that it is not advisable to make any purchases for the Museum, and are assured that donations sufficient to fill the rooms will be received within a very short period. One experienced curator said on this point:

“Objects of Natural History, Historical Relics, etc., have no fixed market value, and only persons of experience can give an opinion as to their real value in many cases. I would say also that in museums much more is obtained by donation than by purchase, in fact many persons have it in their power to present objects to a museum which cannot be obtained in the market. A museum cannot have too many friends.”

Your Committee received most gratifying assurances from a number of Museums both in the United States and Canada that they would gladly exchange specimens.