

efforts last year have met with approbation from all parties both in the Legislature and the press, and his selection for a second visit will, we are sure, meet with the cordial approval of the people of Ontario. His acquaintance with the work will enable him to perform his duties with even greater efficiency than before; and the experience of the immigration of last year will enable him to guard unsuitable people against the disappointments which are almost certain to overtake them. The season of the year at which he goes is the best that could be selected; as he will be in England about ten weeks before the emigration movement commences. We understand that it is his purpose to visit the principal agricultural centres, and to press strongly the field which Ontario presents for the agricultural laborer, and the small tenant farmer. For these classes there is, fortunately, an almost unlimited demand, and no risk is run in advising them to come to Canada in almost any numbers. Mr. White sails for England by the City of London from New York on the 5th instant. We wish him a prosperous voyage and a successful mission; and shall keep our readers fully informed of such of his goings as may possess interest for them.

We are glad to learn that the Dominion Government is waking up to a full appreciation of the importance of this immigration movement; a fact due, to a large extent, to the bold and outspoken criticism of their former apathy by Mr. White, after his return from England last autumn. They are about erecting large immigration sheds at Toronto, which we hope will be so constructed as to afford to the newly arrived immigrant all the comforts possible during the time he is compelled to remain in them. We hope they will also put up better buildings at Quebec, where the immigrant first arrives, and from his treatment at which point, and the provision made for his reception, he is very apt to form his impressions of the country.

THE LAST TEN YEARS OF CANADIAN HISTORY.

A lecture on the above subject was delivered in the Music Hall, Peterboro, on Thursday, the 27th ultimo, by Thomas White, jr., Esq., under the auspices of the Mechanics' Institute. The chair was occupied by William Helm, Esq., President, who briefly introduced the lecturer. The Hall was filled by a most intelligent audience, who, by their deep attention to the lecture, showed their appreciation of the manner in which the subject was handled. The following is a brief and inadequate summary, and it but partially indicates the line of

thought of a most able, eloquent and interesting lecture:

Mr. White, on rising, was received with loud applause. He expressed the satisfaction he felt in once again meeting his old friends in Peterborough, and thanked them warmly for the cordial greeting with which they had received him. When invited to lecture for the Mechanics' Institute, he had felt some doubts about his ability to do justice to any subject which would be of interest to a mixed audience, as his time was so fully occupied that he had little to spare for ordinary literary labor. But when it was pressed upon him that his presence would insure a good audience, and might be the means of promoting the interests of the Institute, he resolved to accede to the request, choosing as his subject one upon which he could probably interest them for an evening, without imposing any serious labor upon himself. After choosing it, however, it had occurred to him that to an audience of ladies and gentlemen, it was scarcely such a one as would be altogether acceptable. There was a popular idea that ladies had no concern with questions of politics; and perhaps of a very goodly number of Canadian ladies, this might be said to be true. Yet at a time when, among our neighbors in the States, woman's rights conventions were the order of the day; and when even in Old England, remarkable for conservative and old-fashioned notions, women had imposed upon the courts the task of deciding whether they had not the right to vote under the late Reform Bill, he might fairly assume that to the less strong-minded (though more sensible) ladies of Canada, the history of this new Dominion, its past, its present and its future, were matters of warm interest and of deep concern. He did not propose to trouble his audience with matters of dry detail, important as they were; but there were certain facts, as illustrative of the progress of Canada during the last ten years, for which we had not any returns, that might at the outset be briefly stated. The blue books of Parliament were not the most fascinating reading; and perhaps the least fascinating of them all were the Trade Returns. Yet nowhere could we find material more important in estimating our material progress as a people. We had no returns later than those of 1868, and in order to make his review complete for ten years, he would go back for comparisons to the corresponding year of 1858. In that year our imports amounted to \$29,078,527; and in ten years they had nearly doubled, having reached the large sum of \$57,805,013. Our free list during that time had increased from \$8,373,614 to \$18,772,007. These imports represented fairly our growth in population and in wealth, but there were tables which more accurately told the tale of our progress in practical industry and development. Our exports in 1858 reached in value \$13,472,609, while in 1868 they had risen to more than double that sum, \$47,499,876. Of these, the products of the forest, in which the people of Peterboro were so deeply interested, had increased from \$9,284,514 to \$14,471,697, while our exports of agricultural produce had risen from \$7,904,400 to \$12,642,083. Our exports of manufactures, though still very much below what they should be, had considerably more than doubled, rising from \$325,376 to \$834,158; and our exports of the mines, neglected as they have been, had risen from \$314,823 to \$607,101. He left this part of the subject with the one remark, that a community