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*. Parties in correspondence with the Educational Department will please quote the number and date of any previous letters to which they may have occasion to refer as it is extremely difficult for the Department to keep trace of isolated cases, where so many letters are received (nearly 600 per month) on various subjects.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES OF THE RECENT PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

Last year we inserted such notices of the educational features of the Provincial Exhibition at Cobourg as were presented to the public on that occasion. We this year follow the same example; and, in doing so, we cannot but congratulate the country on the growing attention to the interests and claims of popular education, which is thus manifested at these interesting and useful exhibitions.

Education is at the foundation of all intelligent agricultural operations, as well as of all successful mechanical skill and enterprise. To connect, therefore, with the Provincial Exhibitions a purely educational feature; to incorporate that element in its yearly operations is both wise and appropriate. It is a just recognition of that great moral agent in the amelioration of the mental soil and character, as is appropriate culture and the introduction of suitable agents necessary to the amelioration of the soil of the earth. It is also in harmony with the public feeling and sentiment of Canada, where the education of the people is considered one of the most important duties and interests of the state.

To contribute to the promotion of this object as far as possible at the Exhibition of this year, the Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada (in compliance with the wishes of some members of the Provincial Board of Agriculture) decided upon sending to it a collection of interesting and instructive objects from the Depository and Museum connected with the Educational Department. These objects comprised the following articles, viz.:

I. A collection of models of Agricultural Implements, arranged in three groups. 1. A series of about 40 models from the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, South Western Germany, which received the Gold Medal at the Paris Exhibition, 1855. 2. A similar series of about 20 from Austria, North Eastern Germany. And 3. A smaller series of 10 from Denmark.

II. A variety of interesting articles from the Provincial Educational Museum.

III. Specimens of Maps, Charts, Diagrams, Models and Apparatus for the Public Schools of Upper Canada.

1. The Agricultural Models were procured at the recent Paris Exhibition by the Chief Superintendent. Those from Wurtemberg received the Gold Medal. As a collection they are designed to illustrate not only the agricultural implements now in use, but also the various kinds of ploughs, &c., which have been used in these countries—in fact to exhibit by a series of models a comparative view of the progress of agricultural science and enterprise in the countries from which they

were obtained. The practical utility of such a comparison can well be understood by those who make the subject of agriculture and of agricultural progress in Canada their constant study and aim. In this spirit, as well as from a feeling of curiosity in the general public, these models attracted a good deal of attention at Kingston; and the importance of having accessible to our agricultural population so complete and varied a collection of models of implements in use in the great farming countries of Europe, was very generally felt and expressed at the Exhibition.

2. The articles from the Educational Museum included, among other things, a beautifully coloured series of French Maps, in relief, of all the countries in the world. That which attracted most attention was a large plan of the city and harbour, and famous dock-yard of Sebastopol. This plan also exhibited the physical features of the country for many miles round the city; together with the ports of Balaklava and Kamiesch; the line of railway, and the trenches, parallels and batteries of the besiegers and besieged, during the memorable contest. This map was an object of great interest to the soldiers in the garrison—many of whom gave evidence, both from their appearance and from the Crimean medal on their breast, that the scene was well known to them.

A large map, exhibiting in bold relief the physical features of France, divided into departments; also, maps of the Crimea itself, the Ottoman Empire, and other places of special interest at present, were also included in the collection—together with a series of large glass models, illustrative of the science of crystalization; models of human hands and feet in plaster, for drawing; samples of improved school furniture, &c., &c.

3. The collection of specimens from the Educational Depository comprised series of mechanical, astronomical, physical and anatomical diagrams; the National and Johnston's series of geographical maps, maps of Canada, models of steam engines, and a great variety of philosophical and school apparatus; prints and diagrams for use in the public schools. It also included specimens of the meteorological instruments recently imported from London by the Department, for the senior County Grammar Schools of Upper Canada.

The entire contribution from the Department was placed in the "Educational Court," or north transept of the Exhibition building. From each side of a staging in the centre of the transept were hung the maps, charts, diagrams and lesson sheets; and on the shelves at each side of the platform were placed the meteorological instruments, the models of steam engines and agricultural implements, and the philosophical and school apparatus, school furniture, &c. At the end of the transept facing the central fountain, and suspended from the ceiling by evergreens, were the words, "EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT, UPPER CANADA," in large letters. The beautifully executed copy of the arms of the Department,* of a large size, in relief, was placed immediately below; and beneath the arms were the raised models of Sebastopol, the Crimea, &c. On each side of the transept were placed the mottoes, in large letters, "CHRISTIANITY THE SOUL OF EDUCATION!" and "EDUCATION OF CANADA HER GLORY!" The *tout ensemble* of the court thus arranged, and decorated with flags and shields,

* The artistic beauty of these arms attracted the attention of the Committee on Fine Arts, who awarded to Mr. S. P. May, of the Educational Department, a prize and diploma in consideration of the skill manifested by him in the execution of the design.