

education covers the whole field of manufacture, and reaches students of every age and grade. The United States are not idle in a like direction: New York and Illinois have schools of Technology and Industrial Instruction. Massachusetts in 1870 made drawing a compulsory study, as being the basis of all instruction in industry and in art, and drawing is now taught with as great regularity as reading, writing and arithmetic. That state also makes it compulsory upon towns and cities of 10,000 inhabitants to maintain evening drawing schools for boys and girls over fifteen. In 1863 a Normal School was established in Boston to train teachers of industrial drawing, modelling and design. The result of these provisions is, as we learn from the report of the State Board of Education for 1876, that "public interest has been aroused, and facilities for efficiency in industrial drawing are multiplying on every hand, results mainly attributable to the influence of our Normal Art School, and the movement out of which it sprang." Up to 1877 over seven hundred students had already attended that school, and "its good influences," we are told, "have already extended far beyond Massachusetts;" this, we believe, for Ontario is feeling its influence perceptibly to-day.

Our sister Province of Quebec some years ago established Art Schools in a number of towns and cities. These are maintained by government aid, and are doing, as we have repeatedly shown, important work in training mechanics and school-boys of a large growth in drawing and design. The recognition by this journal of the operation of these schools, and the attention we have paid to the subject, has, we are glad to learn, been impressed upon the government of that province.

Considering the position which Ontario holds in the Dominion, her admirable display of educational appliances in the face of the world, and what her commissioners saw at the Centennial, of Massachusetts progress in art training, it is natural to expect to find broad and liberal provision on the part of our Provincial Government, for both present and future education in so momentous a matter. As already stated, drawing has been placed upon the programme of instruction in Ontario, manuals are provided, from which teachers, having themselves no previous special training in drawing, teach the elementary part of the work from Walter Smith's patterns. This is of decided utility, as far as it goes, and is probably the best method yet adopted for teaching drawing to the masses in a young country. Advanced scholars in the cities have greater advan-

tages. In some cities once, and in some twice per week, regular qualified drawing masters visit the schools, giving blackboard lessons and teaching object drawing. Testimony is not wanting to the benefits already resulting from this system, for the introduction of which Mr. Jas. Hughes, the Toronto Inspector of public schools, was perhaps the earliest to move, as he has been most indefatigable in extending and explaining it. The lectures of the Deputy Minister of Education have also thrown valuable light upon the subject.

But the Government measures for education in industrial art stop here. A pupil leaving school, and going to learn a trade, or a teacher, desiring to learn drawing more effectually than a manual with copy-plates can instruct him, does not find a governmental academy suited to his needs, where, by models, object-lessons, lectures or instructions from a staff of artists, his taste can be improved, and his eye and hand trained. A point must soon be reached in the use of the present manuals when the pupil shall have got beyond them; who will then train him further?

It is greatly to the credit of the Ontario Society of Artists, and to the honor of a few self-sacrificing gentlemen among that body who for the past three years have labored not only without personal reward, but at an absolute loss, for the establishment of an Art School, that a number of the appliances we have mentioned in the preceding paragraph have been provided. Teachers are in attendance at the Society's rooms on morning, afternoon and evening classes; drawing, perspective, ornamental design, sketching from figure models, oil and water color painting are taught, at fees so moderate as require no excess of wealth to afford them. We know engravers as well as draughtsmen who take lessons at this school whose work, as well as whose words, attest the value of the instruction there received. And we are told of some young persons whose means of livelihood are enhanced by the progress they have made at the Ontario School of Art. But to establish and maintain such a school, with the limited attendance possible, and the small revenue from fees, requires means; and demands, to make it properly efficient, an expenditure which thus far its promoters have not been able to command. Indeed there is a debt now existing upon the institution the responsibility of which rests upon the shoulders of two or three.

It appears to us that there are many less worthy objects than this school for Governmental recognition and aid. Indeed we feel certain that there are more among the

enterprises which, with it, are applicants for aid from the Provincial coffers during the present session, which better deserve a legislative grant. Among its pupils are lithographic draughtsmen, engravers, house decorators, architects' apprentices, governesses and other teachers. It is well worthy of remark with how little expense the school has thus far been conducted. The annual outlay being but \$1,500 as remuneration to seven gentlemen who have daily or nightly during the session given their time as teachers, and the total outlay \$3,600 yearly. For this the revenue has not been adequate, and the result is a debt which now amounts to some \$1,600. This expenditure represents the tuition of one hundred and thirty pupils in the last session as against 104 in the winter of 1878-79, 58 in January, 1878, and only 20 in the first year; so that the need of the school is being attested by the yearly increasing attendance.

We are far from advocating any inconsiderate or lavish expenditure on the premises. It should rather be the aim of the Government, or whoever it may entrust with the control of its grant provided one be made, to adhere as far as efficiency will allow to the economical system already pursued, only spending only what is really requisite to make the School, in its models, appliances and means of instruction, worthy of its name and aim. The grant need not be a large one, at present at least, but it ought at the same time to be proportioned in some degree to the requirements of the Province as demonstrated by experience in this direction, and to the growing importance of our industrial population.

FINANCES OF THE CITY OF QUEBEC.

The new Treasurer of Quebec, M. Lefranc, argues with some show of reason that the financial affairs of the city are by no means desperate. The accounts come down only to the 30th April last. From the figures given it may be admitted that the affairs of this corporation ought not to be in a very bad condition; though it is true that there is considerable embarrassment. The debt is set down at \$4,130,000, while the value of city property represent \$3,569,141. In this are included the water-works and other unspecified properties. If any public buildings be included, the estimate is to that extent false; because a municipal corporation cannot count among the assets available, in any contingency, for the payment of its debts, the public offices in which its business is conducted. The water-works form a real asset, the value of which, for fiscal purposes, must