

Notices of Books.

THE ANNUAL RETROSPECT OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE, A RECORD OF PROGRESS IN THE SCIENCE OF CIVIL, MILITARY, AND NAVAL CONSTRUCTION. Vol. I., January to December, 1861. Edited by George R. Burnell, C. E., F. G. S. London: Lockwood & Co., 1862, pp. 359, 8vo.

This publication contains notices of the improvements which have taken place in many departments of mechanical science during the past year. It also embraces some valuable articles on different engineering works now in progress or recently completed. The contents of the first volume are devoted to Railways and Roads; Harbours, Docks and Canals; Gas, Water Supply and Sewerage; Agricultural Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, &c., &c.; Architecture, Styles and Design and Practical Architecture. There is also a division devoted to Military and Naval Engineering, Steam Engines, Propellers, &c. As an interesting record, this retrospect will become valuable. The absence of a general index at the close of the volume is a great omission.

Proceedings of Societies.

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL TO THE TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

On Wednesday of the Provincial Exhibition week, Lord Monck made a very interesting visit to the Mechanics' Institute of this city.

His Excellency arrived at the Institute a little after six o'clock in the evening, and was met at the door by Mr. W. Edwards, 1st Vice-President, and Mr. Walter S. Lee, 2nd Vice President, to whom he was introduced by his Worship the Mayor, and was by them conducted to the Music Hall, where he was enthusiastically received by a large company of ladies and gentlemen who had assembled for the occasion. Upon the platform, besides His Excellency and suite, and His Worship the Mayor, were the Directors of the Institute. Mr. Edwards informed His Excellency that in the absence of the President, Mr. Rice Lewis, it devolved upon him to read the following

Address

To His Excellency the Right Hon Charles Stanley Viscount Monck, Governor General, &c., &c.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"We the Board of Directors of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute, on behalf of the members, anxious to do homage upon all proper occasions to our beloved Sovereign the Queen, desire to embrace this the first opportunity of doing so through

Your Excellency as Her Representative in this important part of the Empire.

"We hail with pleasure Your Excellency's visit to this our city, offering as it does to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects an opportunity of expressing their loyalty and fidelity to their gracious Queen, more particularly as Your Excellency has been so recently appointed to represent Her crown and person in this Province.

"The Toronto Mechanics' Institute cannot fail to perceive in Your Excellency the patron of Literature, the Arts and Sciences, and are confident that Your Excellency feels so great an interest in all that tends to elevate the mechanic and working man as to look upon this and all similar Institutions with encouragement.

"We are satisfied that Your Excellency will be pleased to learn that from an humble beginning made by a few progressive citizens in the year 1830, the Institute has gone on increasing and prospering until it has become possessed of this building, [in which we have now the honour of receiving you] together with a library numbering over 5,000 volumes, a Reading Room which is the resort of our citizens generally, and other advantages open to the enjoyment of about one thousand members.

"While supplying reading matter to a large number of our citizens at a nominal charge, the Institute also affords means of instruction in the various branches of knowledge, which, while informing the mind and expanding the intellect, tends to the development of that mental and moral vigor so conducive to the greatness and happiness of a nation.

"In conclusion, we ardently express our hope that your Excellency's administration may be as prosperous and happy as its advent has been acceptable, and that both yourself and Lady Monck may recur to it in after life with that satisfaction which can only be derived from the remembrance of a well fulfilled mission."

His Excellency replied as follows;—

"To the Board of Directors of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute:

"GENTLEMEN,—The expressions which I have just heard of loyalty to the Queen, and of courteous welcome to myself personally, demand my warm acknowledgments.

"I am, indeed, most anxious to do every thing which lies in my power to promote those praiseworthy objects that you have in view.

"The labouring classes in this country have every inducement to profit by the facilities of improvement that you offer them. They have but to look around and they can see many persons who began life with nothing to trust to but their own abilities, now holding distinguished positions in society, honoured and respected by all. Self culture is almost indispensable to the attainment of such a position, and therefore those who offer the means of it to persons desiring to profit by them, are engaged in a most useful work.

"I shall always have great pleasure in hearing that the Mechanics' Institute of Toronto is in a flourishing and satisfactory condition."

The following Directors of the Institute were then introduced to His Excellency by Mr. Edwards