

already taken advantage of the offer, so that the member of the committee on duty has had his time fully occupied showing the visitors over the place.

The annual meeting of the Club was held at the rooms on Tuesday evening, May 7th, and the usual reports were handed in, which made a very good showing for the past year. The election of officers and committee for the coming year then took place, and resulted as follows: President, E. Stanger; Vice-President, A. J. Ferguson; Hon. Secretary, Alfred W. Cole, 28 Victoria Street; Hon. Treasurer, A. C. Lyman. Executive Committee: C. Lester, George Sumner, Howard T. Barnes, George McDougall, Frank R. Redpath and Nevill Norton Evans.

Montreal, May 8th, 1895.

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Editor CANADIAN PHOTO. JOURNAL:

SIR,—At an informal meeting held by a number of representative photographers of this city, March 14, 1895, it was unanimously decided to issue the following prospectus to the prominent members of our profession, submitting the plan proposed therein to their earliest consideration, and requesting their immediate reply to same—address, Committee of the proposed Photographers' Copyright League, 13-15 West Twenty-fourth Street, New York.

Art in photography is at last a generally acknowledged factor, and the productions of photographers have become the chief source of supply for the illustrations which fill newspapers and periodicals. Even the courts now recognize that fact and extend the protection of the copyright law to all such photographers as are "artistic."

During the past ten years a vigorous battle has been waging between a few

determined photographers on the one hand, and an indiscriminate host of lithographers and other pirates, on the other. The latter had become so used to appropriating without leave whatever they saw was good and original in photographic publications, giving in return neither remuneration nor even credit, and the results to them were so profitable, that the effort to break them of the pernicious habit was no easy matter. On the contrary it developed rapidly into a serious and bitterly contested struggle.

Thus far each photographer has done his fighting single-handed, and generally against large and powerful corporations. In spite of this, however, the result has been almost uniformly a complete victory for the photographer, decision after decision being rendered in his favor by the courts, though often only after years of burdensome and expensive litigation.

In view of these facts and other reasons which follow, we deem it wise and expedient, at this time, to band our best men together, so that in future a united front will be opposed to infringers of all kinds. There have been many demands within the past few years for such a union, and we know of no question now rife in the fraternity in which a community of interests would be more desirable, mutual and in every way advantageous to us all.

Our proposition is that an organization (to be known as the Photographers' Copyright League of America) be formed at once, and take upon itself, by means of an advisory committee to be elected annually, the prosecution of all infringers of the copyright works of any of its members, whenever a proper case for such prosecution is presented by him; that it defray all expenses of same; and that in return, so as to make it self-supporting, a fair percentage of all recoveries so obtained, be turned into the treasury of the

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