

in the highest degree, creditable to Canada, and calculated to produce upon the minds of all who visited the gallery the impression that our culture was not that of a new country, but of one that had made very considerable advance in those pursuits which are generally associated with a well matured and advanced civilization.

In regard to this however, I prefer to shelter myself behind an opinion better entitled to respect than my own. It was suggested to me when I was in England that it would be very desirable to obtain, from some competent and entirely disinterested authority, a verdict as to the merits of the collection of pictures to which I have referred. The suggestion appeared to me to be a good one, and I applied to Sir Frederick Leighton, the President of the Royal Academy, and asked him whether he would be good enough to secure for us from the pen of some thoroughly qualified artist a report of the kind which I have indicated. Sir Frederick Leighton's response was of the most courteous and encouraging nature, he told me that there was no person better qualified to examine our pictures and to give to us, in their proper proportion, advice, encouragement and criticism than Mr. J. E. Hodgson, the Royal Academician. Mr. Hodgson, I should mention, is not only an Academician, but holds the important office of Librarian of the Royal Academy, and is himself a painter of excellent repute and a well-known exhibitor on the walls of the Academy. I accordingly addressed myself to Mr. Hodgson, who, with the utmost readiness, undertook this friendly task, which he subsequently discharged in the most conscientious and thorough-going manner. His report is likely to be published as an official paper. I may, however, say now that while his praise is given with discrimination, and while his report abounds in useful and friendly criticism, he speaks in terms of the highest commendation of the Canadian collection as a whole and of the work of several of our best known artists. I will not endeavor to reproduce his verdict in