

life of the artist himself. Rebellling, perhaps unconsciously, against the dead formalities and moribund condition which marked the state of art in England not so many years ago, Constable broke away from the dry rot and planted the vigorous seed of his genius, which, later on, developed into the wonder and power of Barhizon, and later still into the great creations of Israels, the Maris brothers and one or two others in Holland. And now that the independent spirit has evidenced itself by this new movement here, it becomes its supporters to see that there is no backsliding, that the manufacture of shoddy has no place in their studios, and that only the best and most thoughtful work shall come from earnest and sympathetic minds seeking to express the result of a close communion between the heart of the artist and his subject.

The high character and great individuality of the works now on exhibition as the first expression of the spirit of independent action give ample promise of the future. The revolt against the machine in art is full of significance. It rests entirely with the handful of artists whose courage led them to rebel against the petty bickerings of mere trade unions, to show to the public that this is only the beginning of greater changes. That they, too, will suffer from a like revolt and pass into a decadent stage if they fail to live up to the high ideals which art imposes on its followers, must be a fact always present to their minds, and, failing to recognize this fact, they will return to the state of the mere producer of pictures, whose criterion is that of quantity and not quality.

#### **A REVIEW OF THE FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE CANADIAN ART CLUB.**

**By E. F. B. Johnston, K.C.**

Having considered a few days ago the general character of the new movement in art as evidenced by the formation of the Canadian Art Club in Toronto, it may be of interest to consider individually the work now on exhibition in the old historic Court House on Adelaide Street. The art of the lawyer in conducting