



A GROUP OF SEALERS IN VICTORIA, B.C., HARBOUR.



TORONTO, 5th December 1891.

ART in the form of picture sales is rather to the front this week; indeed the picture sale in Toronto has come to be the immediate forerunner of our city Christmases. This afternoon Mr. Lydon sold an excellent collection by members of the Royal Canadian Academy; among others were pictures by O. R. Jacobi, President R. C. A. A.; Paul Peel, G. A. Reid, W. A. Sherwood, T. M. Martin, M. Matthews and F. A. Verner. There were also several by the late Mr. Perré.

Mr. Matthews has also placed a number of paintings on exhibition with our well-known art dealers, Messrs. Roberts & Son.

Most of the canvases are Rocky Mountain subjects, recently painted from sketches taken in 1887 and 1889, when the artist travelled through the mountainous region of the west. Rogers Pass in the Selkirks, or, as Mr. Matthews has picturesquely named it, "The Conquered Portal of the West," attracts much attention for

its bold and telling effects of light and shade, the rugged grandeur of the scenery in the foreground, and the solemn beauty of the snow-capped peaks in the distance. The line of the C. P. R., which winds through the deep valley, gives the picture the verisimilitude of life and energy which should mark all landscape.

The collection will be sent on view to Ottawa and Montreal in a few days.

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The special exhibition at Messrs. Matthews Bros. of recent work by the Reids, husband and wife, was very excellent. The large picture, "Lullaby," by Mr. Reid, painted for the Paris salon of next year, was first in point of importance, both for its size, excellence and distinction. A mother in a loose, simple garment, that well displays her beautiful neck and arms, leans over a carved wooden cradle to soothe or caress an infant, of whom we see nothing except a little of the top of the head. The expression of love and solicitude that characterizes the expression of the whole figure, not less than the countenance, is very charming, and the entire absence of colour in the picture is more remarkable, since it is not missed,—high and low tones foiling each other very beautifully.

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Of the other pictures the larger number are landscapes, and among them may be mentioned "Ploughing," "A Glimpse of the Catskills," "A Sheep Pasture," "Near the Edge of the Wood," and "A Velvety Pasture." There is a restfulness and softness in Mr. Reid's landscapes that becomes characteristic.

Two "Bits of Colour," one by each painter, are most attractive little pictures.

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Mrs. Reid's flower pieces are always beautiful. "Chrysanthemum," No. 31, "Daisies and Wild Carrot," No. 38, and "Lady Slippers," No. 39, deserve particular mention. A landscape by this lady—"In the Pine Woods"—is only one of several that fairly rank by the side of her husband's work; indeed had they been uncatalogued it would have been hard to distinguish the work of these two gifted artists apart. Quite a number of the pictures were marked "sold."

Mr. Reid is strong in his boy pictures, and one not in the catalogue—"A Deputation"—is worthy of his reputation. Three lads have been deputed by their comrades, who are watching them in the distance, to make some request to a schoolmaster or other superior. They have reached the entrance, but there they stand shamefaced and undecided; one of them is so evidently on the point of backing out that one wonders he does not run off under our very eyes.

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I hear that a new paper, to be named *Canada*, is about to be launched, and that Mr. Cockin, the writer of "Gentleman Dick of the Greys," and much other verse, is to be the editor, but at present I know no more of the venture. Another name for the new-comer would, perhaps, be wiser, since Matthew Richey Knight has already made *Canada* familiar through his excellent monthly of that name.

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An "appeal" from some quarter in England, that is not given, has reached my hand through a friend, asking a very pertinent question: "Why should it cost six times as much to send a few shillings to Canada or Australia as what it does to send the same amount to Malta, Gibraltar or Constantinople?" It appears that emigrants and others anxious to help, or receive help from, their friends in Australia or Canada have to pay sixpence for sending ten shillings to those two places, but to Malta or Gibraltar the same sum can be sent at a cost of one penny.

The extension of the Postal order system for small sums is asked for, and should certainly be granted in the interests of the thrifty and industrious who come to make a home in the colonies.

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A further excellent movement for the encouragement of thrift among school children is again being pressed by the House of Lords upon the attention of school managers. In Ontario we should say "trustees."

It is the establishment of school savings' banks upon lines leading up to the Post Office Savings Bank system, but making it both easy and desirable to the children to deposit their small savings in the School Savings Bank.