

walls or indifferent decorations. The spirit, being once awakened, seems to have accomplished magical results. Not content with foreign pictures, the collectors turned to the native field, and by their support and discrimination have given a great impetus to our own artists. Finding that the public taste and appreciation are being educated and developed, Canadian artists realize that it is no longer of any avail to go on painting inanimate soulless work. They, too, feel that they must strive after higher aims and execution than satisfied the people of a quarter of a century ago, and the result is that a restless, but thoughtful effort is now being made to raise Canadian art from its past formal and lifeless condition to the plane of vitality.

As one of the chief consequences of this change in both the public patrons and the professional artist, the creation of the Canadian Art Club was inevitable. It came into existence in the necessary course of events. It depends on ten or twelve aggressive spirits, who have cut themselves adrift from local prejudices and opinions, and who feel that there is more in art than blind obedience to rules and regulations. These men have just given their second annual exhibition, and it has been a revelation to the public and a matter of great pleasure and pride to Canadian collectors and connoisseurs to see what can be done when the artist is untrammelled and free to do his own bidding. There is no unity of color or treatment, for each man has struggled to give expression to his individual thought and observation. There is not the slightest evidence of the conventional, and it would be difficult to trace the influence of any school or academic canon in any of the productions. They are spontaneous, vital, personal. The fact that they are so, and that each work strives for higher feeling and subtlety than one can find in the ordinary commonplaces of even well-known names, makes the harmony and unity which are so manifest. It is the unity of good work. Differing widely as they do in color, technique and treatment, the pictures appeal to the eye, not as isolated examples of different methods, but as a whole, the underlying connecting bond being vigor and a high degree of individual excellence.