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HORATIO WALKER AND HIS ART

By M. L. Fairbairn

CANADA has not produced many great artists, but there are some worthy of better recognition than they have yet received. A short time ago, a New York connoisseur remarked: "You will wake some morning, you Canadians, to find what a great man you have to be proud of in Horatio Walker." Perhaps the same might be said of us in connection with several other artists; but it is certain that the work of Horatio Walker is more talked about in the United States and England than it is in Canada.

Outside of Montreal Mr. Walker's work is little known, for the simple reason that it has not been shown. Urged by his friends he held an exhibition of his work in the Art Gallery of that city in 1900, there being at the same time a loan exhibit of the work of the three Maris brothers in the Gallery. However odious comparisons are, they will be made, voluntarily or involuntarily, and this instance proved no exception. But our artist suffered nothing by juxtaposition with the world-famous Dutchmen. The intense individuality of his

work was no echo or imitation; it was the utterance of one who had seen and felt and learned; who had known "the artist's hunger and thirst, and the things that give him peace."

Because Mr. Walker's pictures have been little exhibited here, the lack of appreciation of, or rather better ac-



WOOD CUTTER—FROM THE PAINTING BY HORATIO WALKER,
BY PERMISSION N. E. MONTROSS, NEW YORK