

He said :—The motion which I have presented to this House is one which I am sure will be regarded by the Senate as presented at a very opportune moment. It is quite unnecessary for me to dwell upon the responsibility which rests upon the Parliament of this Dominion, the responsibility of fostering every interest which affects not only the material prosperity of our people, but which can also secure to them the happiness and enjoyment of a higher civilization. It cannot be questioned that this Parliament has been striving to do its duty as far as ordinary material interests are concerned, and the proposition which I now respectfully submit to the House is in the direction of raising the public mind to the ennobling enjoyment of art.

HON. MR. POWER—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—The hon. gentleman says "hear, hear," I hope he appreciates the higher enjoyments of art! Sculpture is the noblest of all the arts. The works of Phidias and Praxiteles present to us the gods of ancient mythology and the heroes of ancient Greece. Who could behold the Appollo of Belvedere in the Vatican, the statuary in the Ducal Gallery of Florence, in the Glyptothek at Munich or in the Louvre without feeling that sculpture is the most ennobling of arts. Some of us who have seen the torsos which were dug by the orders of Lord Elgin, well known as the Elgin marbles, have been astounded when we have examined portions of the human frame mutilated, denuded of heads and portions of limbs, but presenting to mankind the most exquisite and most beautiful forms of the human body. The people of this Dominion will be proud to know that a young sculptor of promise has sprung up in our midst. Guelph claims to be his place of birth; but feeling the inspiration of genius he has labored manfully to make his skill and genius manifest to the world. He has already executed busts which have called forth the admiration of those who have seen them. One of these, namely that of the Hon. William B. Lawrence, American Minister to London in 1828, and Governor of Rhode Island in 1851, was a great success, and it has since been presented to the Historical Society of New York as a work of great merit. Since then their Excellencies,

representing her Majesty here, with their usual munificence, sent our young Canadian sculptor, at their own expense, to Florence and Rome to prosecute his studies in those schools of art, and his last bust of the First Minister which is now shown in the Library of Parliament, commands general admiration. As citizens of the Dominion we may well be proud of our native-born Canadian sculptor, and I am sure that the Government and the House of Commons will in their wisdom deem it a wise expenditure of public money, and order the marble busts respectfully suggested by this motion. *Monumentum exigimus aere perennius.* It is known to all that His Excellency the Governor General has ever since his advent to us, manifested an increasing interest in everything that concerns the welfare of the Dominion. He has laid this country under deep obligation to him by the way in which he has used his exalted position for the advancement of this Dominion. This devotion to our best interests was equally shared by his illustrious consort until by a sad accident Canada was deprived, for a time at least, of her kindly presence amongst us, and of the encouragement afforded by her example. How could we then spend public money more beneficially and in a manner to do greater honor to ourselves than by contributing to encourage native artists, and thereby fostering a higher taste which adorns and beautifies our civilization. With the permission of the House I will now move the resolution of which I have given notice, seconded by Hon. Mr. Haythorne.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—While congratulating the hon. gentleman upon the eloquent terms in which he has introduced this motion, I regret to say that I cannot concur in the views he has expressed, that it is right or proper that the Senate should pass that resolution and express the opinion which the hon. member has set forth in his notice of motion. Even the observations which the hon. gentleman made in introducing this motion show that the Senate is not the place in which such a resolution should originate. He admits that it will call for the expenditure of public money. I think that in itself is a fatal objection to the motion which the hon. gentleman has made. This resolution is

HON. MR. ALEXANDER.