

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, the Council desire to recapitulate briefly the grounds for congratulation in the prospects of the Association.

1. The number of members is somewhat larger than was shown last year.
2. There has been an increase in the number of visits paid by non-members, who pay for admission.
3. The art classes have a larger list of pupils in attendance than was the case last year.
4. The visits to the reading room have steadily increased.

Nevertheless, the affairs of the Association are not in so prosperous a condition as the Council and the friends of the Association would desire, and when the wealth and intelligence of the city of Montreal are taken into account, the membership appears to be exceedingly small. The efforts of the Council to diffuse an interest in art are, in consequence, seriously crippled and curtailed, and they are unable to improve the collection of pictures by purchasing additional works of excellence. Fresh works should be perpetually added if the Association is to be of any real and abiding benefit to the community. From the same lack of means the Council are unable to obtain the loan of any celebrated pictures by living artists of high mark. Such loans are of inestimable importance in view of the educational influence of works of art and genius towards the cultivation of the artistic faculty in any country. Without accession of revenue, any attempts towards this end must prove futile, owing to the necessary outlay which they would entail. Until the current income of the Association is considerably increased, the only alternative would be the establishment of a separate guarantee fund, which would cover not only the loan of pictures by eminent painters, but other incidental expenses.

The Council entertain the hope that the efforts which they have made in the furtherance of art culture will meet with the approbation of the members of the Association, and stimulate the public at large to more active sympathy with the objects of the Society.

On behalf of the Council,

R. MACKAY, *President.*

MONTREAL, Dec. 18th, 1884.