

haps not more than two—Mr. Reid and Mr. Harris. The success of both of these artists is a feather in the cap of Canadian art. Mr. Reid's new picture, like that with which he so successfully dealt last year, is a homely theme—akin somewhat to Wilkie's rustic subjects—and having the charm of appealing not only to the imagination but to the simple pleasures associated with boyhood's days and home life. The picture tells readily its own tale—a group of boys in a hayloft surrounding the figure of one of their number who is telling them a story. Like all Mr. Reid's work, it is strong and realistic. The posing is easy and natural, the drawing accurate, the colour good, and the lights and shades well managed. The faces of the boys bear the marks of his skilled and unhesitating brush. That of the narrator is full of character, earnestness, grit, as if he had done a heroic deed or grappled with some grim power of evil. In the faces of his comrades is depicted the horror, or the eerier feeling, excited by the story. Here the artist most shows his power, and the result is a picture that impresses as well as interests us. We are glad to learn that the painting is to return to Toronto, Mr. E. B. Osler being so fortunate as to become its purchaser.

Of artists who can do good portrait-work we have happily no lack in Canada. There may not be anything daringly or strikingly original in the execution; but if the work is sober and lacking in the higher artistic qualities, it is usually faithful and pleasing. On the easel of two Toronto artists there may have been seen in the past month two excellent examples of this branch of work—Mr. Cutts' portrait of the late Mr. W. A. Foster, Q. C., and Mr. Forbes' portrait of the Attorney-General of Ontario. Both are good likenesses. Mr. Cutts had the disadvantage of having to work from a photograph and without having personally known his subject. Mr. Forbes, though he has been differently situated, had a confessedly difficult subject to treat. Each has succeeded well, and the result in both cases is not only a likeness but a faithful representation.