

PERCY WOODCOCK, R.C.A.,  
ARTIST.

The subject of this sketch, whose drawing appears opposite, was born in 1855 at Athens, Ontario. His father is a Methodist minister, and owing to the system of itinerancy, his education was obtained in various places, finishing in Albert College, Belleville.

When quite young he was apprenticed to the drug business, at Brockville, in which it is needless to say he did not achieve a brilliant success, as his fondness for drawing was not conducive to the skilful compounding of prescriptions and retailing of patent medicines. Though he had received no instructions in any branch of art, while still a mere youth some of his pictures were exhibited in Brockville, and attracted considerable attention.

Giving up the drug business, the young artist gravitated around until in 1877 he brought up in Montreal, where he opened a studio as a portrait painter. One of his first portraits was such a distinguished success that the artist decided to keep it in his possession, and this he finally accomplished by wedding the original, Miss Alsysis Pratt, of Montreal.

They were married in the spring of 1878, and immediately left for Paris, where Mr. Woodcock lived off and on for the next ten years.

On arriving in Paris, he called on Gerome, to whom he showed a study of a child's head, and was accepted by this master as a pupil, after remaining with Gerome about four years, during which time he was first placed as draughtsman in the *Ecole des Beaux Arts*. He became a pupil of Benjamin Constant. He remained in Constant's studio till 1887.

The young Canadian's first picture was exhibited in the Paris Salon in 1883, and was entitled *Pifferaria*, now in the possession of Mr. R. B. Angus, of Montreal. The following year he was represented in the Salon by two pictures *Revenant du Puits* and *Le Nid Abandonné*. Both of these pictures were reproduced in the illustrated magazines of Europe.

In 1886 Mr. Woodcock exhibited in the Salon a portrait of a young girl, which was hung on the line. In 1887 he exhibited his largest and most important picture, *Fin du Jour*. On this picture he had the satisfaction of receiving 18 out of the 21 votes necessary to obtain a medal. In 1887 Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock left Paris and arrived in Brockville, where they have since resided. No more artistic or beautiful spot can be imagined than "Water-niche." Mr. Woodcock's picturesque residence is situated at the foot of the Thousand Islands. It is in perfect keeping with the occupation of its owner. It is here that the artist with his charming wife and three interesting children is seen at his best and in his happiest mood, and it is here he has done some of his best work, as those who saw his picture of Mount Stephen at the Academy Exhibition last spring are aware.

The house itself is very handsome and filled with artistic bric-a-brac gathered from the four quarters of the globe. Some of the collection is very rare and costly, notably so a set of dining room chairs of the time of Henry II. of massive oak and leather. To the writer's mind this furniture is clumsy and not by any means handsome, but it is certainly antique and comfortable. His collection of weapons is extensive and curious from the Zulu assegais and Indian war clubs to elegantly chased and silver mounted Poignards and duelling pistols.

In 1886 Mr. Woodcock was elected a member of the Royal Canadian Academy, and in 1888 and 1889 he consented to take charge of the Brockville Art School, with the result that in 1888 both the Gold and Bronze Medals at the Ontario Exhibition in Toronto were won by one of his pupils, and in 1889 the medal for the best painting from life, went also to a pupil of his, competing against all the schools of the province. During the past summer and winter Mr. Woodcock has been working hard, and has found a ready market for his pictures, both in Montreal and New York. Still a young man, he has a bright future before him, and bids fair to make a name in the world of art of which Canadians may well be proud.

THOS. SOUTHWORTH.

It is with pleasure that we introduce to our young readers Miss E. Pauline Johnson, the author of the beautiful poem, "Star Lake," in this issue. Miss Johnson is a real young Canadian, a lover of Canada, and one of whom we ought to be proud. A descendant of great Iroquois and Mohawk ancestors, she is still fired with their tastes for out-door life and sports. In her canoe she is quite at home, and our young sportsmen might well envy her steady aim and skilful paddle on our lovely rivers, or her fame as a tobogganner on the bright snow. Her father is head chief of the Mohawks, his name, Onwanonsyshon, meaning He-who-has-the-great-mansion. Her ancestors are noted for their loyalty to our Queen, the Great White Mother, and fought for Her through the wars of 1812. The sur-name Johnson was given by Sir Wm. Johnson at a family christening party.

Miss Johnson is an Indian in heart as well as by birth, and an enthusiastic Canadian. Her home and social duties leave but too little time for the cultivation of the talent that nature has given her so pre-eminently, and the most of her poetry is written when others are asleep. But all day long she is a poetess. Rain or shine you will see her out with nature, walking, driving, snowshoeing, paddling, and in such harmony with her surroundings, that eleven o'clock at night finds her com-



MISS JOHNSON AND HER FAVOURITE RECREATION.