

life amongst pictures and objects of art. Their companionship is, I am convinced, useful and instructive as well as delightful to those who are fortunate enough to possess them, or to have frequent opportunities of studying them. Some of those to which I am most attached I have brought here with me; and I find that my Canadian home is not the less attractive from the fact that Landseer and Gainsborough and Reynolds have contributed to ornament its walls, and I am delighted to observe the manner in which many of my guests at Government House notice and appreciate these works. Perhaps it may not be out of place to tell you that my appointment to the office of Governor-General of Canada has conferred a very considerable advantage upon the art loving public at home, for it has enabled me to place the whole of my collection, excepting the few pictures which I brought here, at the disposal of the President of the Royal Academy for exhibition in London, and to this extent at all events I believe my appointment has been most popular in the old country. It was with much satisfaction that I accepted the office of Patron, which you were good enough to place within my reach. I am well aware of the interest taken in the affairs of the Association by my predecessors, and not least by the royal lady who is Lord Lorne's consort and who is herself an artist in the truest sense of the word. Lord Lorne's services to Canadian art are so well known to you that I need not remind you of them. Let me, however, say in passing how much I was struck by his wisdom in stipulating at the time of the foundation of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts that no attempt should be made to interfere with those local art associations which were already in existence, and which I am glad to believe are working usefully by the side of it. You have referred to the difficulties with which the study of the fine arts must be attended in a young country. Those difficulties are obvious and inevitable. Men are too busy, too much occupied with the pursuits of their daily life, to pay much attention to art. In a young country there can be no long established national art schools or collections. Again there will probably be at first a relatively much smaller number of persons in a position to extend to the arts that practical patronage, without which the profession of an artist cannot be expected to