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*The greatest homage you can pay to Music, is silence.*

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IN every city on the European continent, the musical traveller will invariably find some locality consecrated to the intellectuality of Art, where the performance of the best order of *Instrumental Music* brings together the practical, theoretical, and literary members of the various professions, and the amateurs of cultivated and refined taste in Music; affording the mutual advantages of social intercourse between men of genius and education, from the various schools of Music, as well as the noble, wealthy, and accomplished *virtuosi*. Such a desideratum the Montreal Literary Club desires to supply by its efforts in this city.

The Fine Arts are not merely a luxury,—an elegant enjoyment,—but a necessity in the mental culture of mankind; they are as necessary to the full enjoyment of our mental endowments as food, raiment, and light are to our physical condition. Viewed in this sense, anything tending to spread the influence of these arts amongst the general community, must confer a benefit on society, by enlarging the field of enjoyment and elevating the character of our kind.

By these means—and this in itself is a great consideration—we establish a common field open to all—high and low, rich and poor, when the cares of the world, and the dross of worldly pursuits are forgotten, amid aspirations of beauty, tending to communion with the Creator of all beauty and all good.

And this position, we venture to advance, is no new one: it has been recognized long since, in the remote ages of antiquity.

Plato spoke of “the beautiful, the good,” if not identical and the same, at least as being inseparably allied; and he described the love of them which is implanted in the human soul, as “the unextinguishable desire which like has for like, which the divinity within us feels for the divinity revealed to us in beauty.”

This being recognized as a principle in nature, should it not be held as common to all, of universal influence through all possible forms of manipulation?

Goethe said, “One ought every day at least to learn a little song, and read a good poem, and see a fine picture; and if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words,” implying that, that which is intended to elevate and purify the mind through the influence of images of beauty, improved the capacity for rational discourse.