

should, on their election, paint for it a diploma-picture ; an academy which shall be strong and wealthy enough to offer as a prize to the most successful students of the year money sufficient to enable them to pass some time in those European capitals where the master-pieces of ancient art can be seen and studied. Even now in the principal centres of population you have shown that it is perfectly possible to have a beautiful and instructive Exhibition, for besides the pictures bequeathed to any city, it may always be attainable that an Exhibition of pictures be had on loan, and that these be shown besides the productions, in both oil and water-colour, of the artists of the year. It may be said that in a country whose population is as yet incommensurate with its extent, people are too busy to toy with art, but without alluding to the influence of art on the mind, which has been so ably expressed in your address, in regard to its elevating and refining power, it would surely be a folly to ignore the value of beauty and design in manufactures, and in other countries blessed with fewer resources than ours, and in times which, comparatively, certainly were barbarous, the works of artists have not only gained for them a livelihood, but have pleased and occupied some of the busiest men of the time, the artists finding in such men the encouragement and support that is necessary. Long ago in Ireland the beautiful arts of illumination and painting were carried on with such signal success that Celtic decoration, as shown in the beautiful knotted and foliated patterns that still grace so many of the tombstones of Ireland and of the west of Scotland, passed into England, and, more strangely, even into France. The great monarch, Charlemagne, was so enchanted with the designs and miniatures of an Irish monk that he persuaded him to go to work at Paris, and for nearly two centuries afterwards the brilliant pages of French Bibles, Missals, and Books of Hours showed the influence of the culture, the talent, and the taste of Erin. Surely here there should be opportunity and scope enough for the production of the works of the painter's hand. The ancient states of Italy, her cities and communities of the Middle Ages, were those who cherished most their native painters, and the names of many of those who covered the glowing canvasses of Italy with immortal work are known often from the designation of some obscure town where they were born, and where they found their first generous recognition and support. Here, in this great Province, full of the institutions and churches founded and built by the piety of past centuries, as well as by the men now living, there should be far more encouragement, than in the poorer countries of old, for the decoration of our buildings, whether sacred or educational. The sacred subjects which moved the souls of the Italian, German, Flemish and Spanish masters are eternal, and certainly have no less influence upon the minds and characters of our people. And if legendary and sacred art be not attempted, what a wealth of subjects is still left you,—if you leave