

very modest bequest, which however, was very heartily welcomed by the lovers of art in Montreal. The Association has progressed until we now find ourselves in this very fine building, surrounded by all these paintings, both of which certainly do much credit to the Association as well as to Montreal. We have taken upon ourselves now to make the statement—which you may read in the report—that Montreal may now be classed among the art centres. Just now, in glancing over this statement, someone made the remark that it is well to have a good conceit of ourselves ; but I think that we have certainly nothing to be ashamed of in the collection we now possess or in anything connected with the Association, either in regard to the instruction and support given or the encouragement extended to those who are pursuing art as a profession. I believe that the classes for the past year have not only been well attended, but that the instruction given has been of a very high order. A continuance of this is not only to be hoped for, but I think we may count upon a very great and rapid progress in the direction of having paintings by Canadian artists which will do credit to themselves and to the country as well. Certainly these have been very creditable, but it could hardly be expected that in a new country like this, where the same advantages cannot be obtained as are afforded in the larger centres of Europe or America, that our artists, with all their intelligence and all their ability, could advance at once to the status of those who enjoy the advantages spoken of. During the past year, as you are aware, prizes to the amount of \$400 were given for pictures exhibited in this room by Canadian artists, and I am sure those who have seen the paintings will admit they were very deserving indeed of the mark of appreciation they obtained. It has been decided, through the generosity of certain gentlemen who take a great interest in the Association and in art, to offer a still larger amount in the ensuing year. Instead of \$400, as last year, prizes to the amount of \$1,425 will be offered, including a single prize of \$200. This, it is to be hoped, will prove a stimulus to our artists, and demonstrate what they are able to do. But it is impossible in this, as in anything else, to stand still. We must either progress or retrograde, and notwithstanding that we find ourselves in a position of which we may justly feel proud, we must not be