

not to mention earlier and more famous examples, won recognition precisely after this fashion. Whether or not recognition will follow in this particular case time will tell; meanwhile the exhibition is of sufficient distinction to challenge sympathetic attention.

The place of honor is occupied by "Ploughing—the First Gleam," by Mr. Horatio Walker. Mr. Walker has exhibited little in Toronto for many years, and it is well to have an opportunity of seeing one of his most important pictures. This large canvas abounds in energy of expression. The straining oxen, drawn with intimate knowledge, and the finely posed figure of the boy leave nothing to be desired in point of composition. The management of the sunlight coming up behind them, giving notes of vivid color on their backs, and throwing the foreground into obscurity, gives ample opportunity for studies in luminous shadows.

Apart from its high artistic interest, "Ploughing" has great value as a permanent record of a fast-passing phase of French-Canadian agriculture. In spite of the conservatism of the French peasant, his traditional methods are passing away, the ox is being replaced by the horse, and the plough is being improved out of the picturesque. The very garments of the people are changing, and soon there may be little to see or to paint of the unspoiled habitant. Mr. Walker has earned the gratitude of future generations in his laborious studies of rural life in the Province of Quebec—so full of fidelity alike to art and to nature.

Mr. J. W. Morrice, a Parisianized Scotch-Canadian, exhibits eleven canvases which present beneath much variety a uniform distinction of style. Perhaps the most attractive is "The Public Gardens, Venice," lent by Mr. Greenshields, of Montreal. In this picture Mr. Morrice expresses most fully his characteristic rendering of atmosphere, and at the same time exhibits his indebtedness to Japanese methods of composition. It is impossible to translate into words the subtlety of vibrating light which lies in this and in the "Quai des Grandes Augustins, Paris" (the property of the Dominion Government). In all of