

*A Welcome to the Canadian Association of  
Master Painters and Decorators.*

Montreal as a city is honored with the First Convention of the Canadian Association of Master Painters and Decorators, and the local Association whose duty and pleasure it is to act the host are sensible to the compliment. It is needless to describe its obvious beauties, all clearly set forth in fine literary garb in this "Souvenir"—its natural beauty, associated with the historic part it has occupied in early Canadian history, is sufficient to wake the artistic and poetic instinct that is a necessary complement to our craft. Its soil is sacred to our history; through its streets have marched the proud battalions of "La Belle France," the "ragged continentals" of the 13 revolting colonies and the historic regiments of Britain; within 20 miles was fought that memorable battle under De Salaberry and his Canadian Voltigeurs that rolled back the tide of American invasion and saved Lower Canada, and as a consequence the rest of British North America to become what is justly claimed by a statesman "the finest gem in Britain's crown." The Montreal Association in welcoming their guests collectively, and individually feel that their interest in our city and in our local Association would prompt some inquiry regarding a not unimportant branch of the larger Canadian Association, what manner of folk we are, and how we have progressed, how we have weathered the infantile complaints and diseases that carry off a proportion of the young struggling for life and place in this human habitation, both in human life as well as social organizations. Several attempts had been made in the long past to develop and form an organization, and the foremost figure in each attempt was our respected ex-President, Mr. John Murphy, each birth was doomed to be short-lived, the disease of youth was too strong for the infant and it succumbed. It is always a difficult matter to develop any social organism without the strong incentive of common danger to act as a stimulus, the social creature is prone to run to cover in danger, or flock to a rallying point in time of stress or peril. Abstract questions, relating to ultimate good, are not sufficiently conducive to bind in close unity, we are too much given to demand immediate results, forgetting the needful patient, industrious endeavor that must be performed quietly and without ostentation to produce those effects or results that are more spectacular; the grand "coup" is only attained and made possible by the self-sacrificing efforts of the few who are content to face adverse and often hostile criticism and patiently await the results of the work performed amid disappointment. Improved conditions, mutual consideration and their beneficent results must of necessity be of slow evolution, and possibly we may claim that former efforts were not altogether lost, for with each failure we gained the needful experience which produced the strength of our present Association. Its first stimulus was produced by Mr. Wall, of Cambridge, the Honorary Secretary of the "National Association of the United States," writing to several of our