

city fall before the mere rumours of his genius but a native Canadian, Mr. Edison, the inventor of the electric light? In another branch of art her success must also be conceded. In photography, it cannot be denied that our people challenge the most able competition. I have, to be sure, heard complaints with reference to the manner with which, by means of photographs, Canadians are depicted to the outside world. I have heard it stated that one of the many causes of the gross ignorance which prevails abroad with reference to our beautiful climate, is owing to the persistence with which our photographers love to represent chiefly our winter scenes. But this has been so much the case, and these photographs excite so much admiration, that I hear that in the old country the practice has been imitated, so that if there may have been harm at first, the very beauty of these productions has prevented its continuance, because they are no longer distinctively Canadian, and the ladies in what I maintain are the far more trying climates of Europe are also represented in furs by their photographer, so that this fashion is no longer a distinguishing characteristic of our photography; in proof of this I may mention that in a popular song which has obtained much vogue in London, the principal performer sings:—

“ I’ve been photographed like this,
I’ve been photographed like that,
I’ve been photographed in falling snow,
In a long furry hat.”

No doubt these winter photographs do give some of our friends in the old country the belief that it is the normal habit of young Canadian ladies to stand tranquilly in the deep snow, enjoying a temperature of 30° below zero, and it would certainly give a more correct idea of our weather were our Canadian ladies and gentlemen to be represented, not only in bright sunshine, in the spring greenery now so charming, when the woods are carpeted with fern and the lovely three-leaved white lily, but also amongst our beautiful forest-glades in summer, wearing large Panama hats, and protected by mosquito-veils; but I suppose there are obstacles in the way, and that even photographers, like other mortals, find it difficult properly to catch the mosquitoes. To pass to our present prospects, I think we can show we have good promise, not only of having an excellent local exhibition, but that we may in course of time look forward to the day when there may be a general art-union of the country, and when I or some more fortunate successor may be called upon to open the first exhibition of a Royal Canadian Academy to be held each year in one of the capitals of our several Provinces; an academy which may, like that of the old country, be able to insist that each of its members or associates