

subjects and portraits. These indicated a steady advance on the part of Canadian artists. It may be safely said that, viewing the exhibition as a whole, it was the best representation of native talent, which the Association has been enabled to introduce to the public. The attendance during the exhibition was, as already remarked, larger than that of the previous year. The number of visits made by members was 2618, while those of non-members amounted to 569. The Council have nevertheless to report with regret, that fewer sales were effected than at former exhibitions. This fact may be attributed to the stagnation in business, and possibly also to the larger size and consequently higher price of some of the leading works. Considerable sums are known to have been expended on foreign works, brought to this city for sale, and the question naturally arises, as to whether this preference was the result of fancy, or of distinctly superior merit. Such a question cannot be decided offhand, but is open to discussion. It is however manifestly to be desired that, where merit is anything like equal, the efforts of those resident artists who are endeavouring to build up a Canadian School of Art should be appreciated and encouraged.

An interesting exhibition of some of the work done by the students of the Art Classes, during the session of 1884 and 1885, was opened on May 16th, and remained open for one week. It consisted of crayon and charcoal drawings and studies in oil, numbering 300 in all. The work which was exhibited reflected great credit upon both teacher and pupils.

During the past summer, the Council have been prosecuting enquiries with the view of holding during the Autumn an exhibition of portraits of persons prominent in the history of Canada from its early infancy to the year 1840. Portraits of representatives from the French, United-Empire Loyalist, and British families, either original oil paintings, miniatures, or authentic copies, have in the first instance been sought for. In the absence of any of the above mentioned specimens, the Council would be content with engravings from originals. It is deemed expedient to state thus