

any institution is living, it must be growing and stretching out in all directions, and needing all, and more than all the assistance it can get. We might compare it to a growing tree, spreading its branches on every side, its leaves catching the sun and air, that it may breath and live, and fulfill its purpose in the universal plan.

Our Association if it is to live, needs sun and air too, but these are represented chiefly by the gifts of its friends, and when they are not sufficient for its needs, it must borrow from the future, not of course for ordinary expenses, but for permanent and necessary improvements. When it commenced to grow, and put up the first building, it went into debt to do so, and when that debt was paid, it put up the second building and again incurred a debt, and in both cases, I think everyone will agree, that it was engaged in the very best work it could be doing, and that it was promoting the knowledge of Art and interesting many people in it.

But it follows of course, that the debt must be paid, before the usefulness of the Association can again be increased, and we are now at one of those periods when we must pay off the debt we have incurred. The Council wish to remind the members that when the new building was put up, no general canvas was made, and only about twelve people subscribed to the fund. They hope this matter will be carefully considered this year, and that this appeal will be liberally responded to. If the debt were paid off, a sum of \$1800 annually would be released, which could be used to advantage in many ways.

The Council record in this year's report, with very great regret, the death of Mr. R. W. Shepherd, one of the Governors. He was for a long time an active member of Council, a warm friend of the Association, and a willing worker for its success, and we all feel deeply the loss we have sustained.

Looking back over the history of the Association, we are impressed with the fact, that the Council has always kept a high aim in view and desired to make it a society well equipped to promote the cause of Art, and worthy of the chief city of our country. This was clearly the idea its first benefactor, Mr. Benaiah Gibb, had in view, when he gave the liberal bequests that are associated with his name, and it animated one of our recent Presidents, when