

idea, in many respects well carried out, but it lacks that judicious balancing of the force of shadows, that incisive marking, that—shall we say it?—snap which would make it a really good picture, such as one would long to possess. It may be the lighting and various accommodations of Mrs. Schreiber's painting room are defective; if so, would it be presumptuous to suggest that they be altered, for it can not be economy for a lady of Mrs. Schreiber's ability (and it is not small) to enter the lists weighted down by mere mechanical disadvantages.

One of the student's of the Ontario School of Art, Mr. J. C. Pinkey, contributed a study of a lady, which he calls "The Leisure Hour." The title role is well acted out, and the drawing and *chiaroscuro* are good, squarely treated, firmly painted and full of promise for this young gentleman's future career as an artist, as well as doing much credit to the teaching he has received in the school.

Two bust portraits of ladies by Mr. Perre, give unmistakable proof of his power in other paths than his chosen one of landscape.

One more picture brings us to the end of the figure paintings. It is "Nearly through," by T. M. Martin. Of this it is only necessary to say that the still-life portion of the picture is admirably executed, and in this gentleman's well known style, but the subject is repulsive, the proportion bad, and we turn from it with regret, all the more keenly felt, that so much skill should be worse than wasted in so mistaken a channel.

The limits of this periodical necessarily forbids us to conclude our notice of the Exhibition in this number, so we will hold over our criticism of the landscapes and still-life, etc., both in oil and water colours until next month; while in closing this article, we would touch upon a matter which has been brought to our notice in respect to our remarks in last month's issue upon Picturesque Canada. The management of the illustration of this work informs us that they are doing everything which can be done to use the work of Canadians as far as can be made compatible, with the production of a work which shall be of first-class quality, and, that this, of course, includes technical excellence, such as shall make it at least equal to, if not better than any work of the kind previously published. They have, too, been lately looking up afresh the material within their reach, and which comprises many scenes by several of our well known names. Let us here say, too, that we never intended to insinuate that the publishers were not acting in good faith, but simply to urge upon them the desirability of making it as "truly natural" as possible, and also to warn them of the use which would surely be made by enemies of their enterprise, of any seeming omission which could possibly be twisted to its discredit. We are also informed that the printing is to be done in Toronto, on two expensive presses, imported for the purpose and specially manufactured for fine wood cut printing, and these will be available for the printing of other illustrated works, which could not previously be done in Canada for want of such facilities.

Much of the engraving is being done here, several engravers of high reputation having been induced by this work to make Toronto their residence, though, of course, this need not prevent artists having their drawings cut by any

of the best engravers in England or the United States, whom they may themselves select. Should this be fully carried out, and we have every faith that it will, the gain to the art interests here must be great and lasting, and the Art Publishing Company will deservedly win the gratitude of the profession.

The Second Annual Meeting of the Royal Canadian Academy, is to be signalized by its being the first occasion on which Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise will appear in public on her return to this country, and is expected to be a very interesting affair. There will be just time to gather up the fragments here and put things in order before shipping the contributions of the Artists of Ontario to the Ancient Capital of Nova Scotia. This will be important, as by far the largest and most important will go from Toronto.

### COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of THE ARION.

SIR,—To your editorial remarks on my letter in this month's number of THE ARION, allow me to make the following reply: You state "that I occupy the seemingly nominal position of a Professor's Chair at the University of Trinity College." I was appointed to the position by the same authorities and in the same manner as the other professors received their appointments. The fact of not having more actual duty to perform is no fault of mine. I can do nothing more than express my readiness to give lectures, or examine for degrees when required. I may state that I have received communications from parties in town and out of it, saying that they would wish to take a degree, but when I informed them of the examination required, there the matter ended. Since you are now aware that a degree can be obtained, I hope you will soon inform me of your desire to go through the ordeal necessary to attain it. You say also "that I have not been slow to utilize in my outside professional work, to its utmost value, the position that the said chair of Music in the University has given me." This does not seem to agree very well with what you say at the beginning of your remarks, viz.: that you never heard of the said Chair of Music, or the power of conferring degrees in music, existing in the University. If I had utilized my position to such an extent as you say in my professional work, surely you would have heard of it. Again, you say "you find that unless the dollars are forthcoming, there is nothing in return for this position." I am not ashamed to confess that I had to earn the sustenance necessary for myself and family by my profession, and that (at the yielding to no one my desire for its advancement) I required remuneration for services granted, and in this respect follow the example of those who have done most for the art. If you have reached the point of giving your services gratuitously for the love of the cause, I think all will admit that you are indeed a *rara avis*, but I must confess (in conclusion of my further correspondence) that I am always suspicious of such services granted, as they are generally either worth nothing, or else there is some sinister motive lurking behind.

Yours, &c.,

GEO. W. STRATHY, Music Doctor.

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TORONTO, 30th May, 1881.