

of art are always going to Europe and they buy by preference there. First-rate artists will not stay at any but a great centre. The President of the Canadian Academy himself is drawn away to London: there was nothing of his in the Exhibition at the Canadian Institute. It is even false kindness to encourage a good painter or sculptor to set up his studio where there will be few to appreciate and fewer still to buy. Toronto is not, as some homilies which have been read us on this subject seem to imply, behind other commercial cities of the same size in love of beauty. The marked improvement of her house architecture and the increasing display of objects of taste in her stores acquit her of the charge. But really good painting or sculpture is a tremendously expensive article: it is beyond the means of any but our richest men; and there can be no use in constraining people to buy anything which is not really good. A great deal not only of vulgar embellishment but of genuine beauty in the shape of decoration may be had for the cost of even a tolerable picture or statue. Besides very few even of those who have passed their lives in refined society are sufficiently good judges of art to buy it with confidence, whereas any man may feel sure of getting from a good furniture or decoration store something which is worth his money, and which even if it does not do the highest credit to his taste will not make him a laughing-stock to connoisseurs. The Canadian millionaire when he goes to Europe can buy under good advice as well as with an infinitely greater choice. In portrait painting the local man has an advantage, but even for portraits those who are willing to give a high price will go to Europe, while those who are not will take the photograph touched by the artist's hand. Nobody can pretend that the last Exhibition at the Canadian Institute was successful: it seemed to owe its escape from failure in drawing the public to the bastard attraction of a lottery. Music enjoys a happy exemption from the necessities which chain to certain centres her sister arts, and her progress in Toronto is enough to prove that we are not barbarians.