

Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise was formally present at the opening of our gallery and, to use the late Governor-General's own words, was "with us heart and soul in our work from the very outset." Your own well-known love for the fine arts, a characteristic also of some of your ancestors, as well as the fact of your being the possessor of one of the world's famous private collections of paintings and statuary, assure us that you will bestow on us the same warm and active sympathy generously afforded by your predecessors, and that under your patronage this Association will extend its aims, and gain a firmer and higher position in the estimation of the public.

Our building and our collection of works of art owe their existence in a great measure to a munificent citizen of Montreal, who bequeathed money, pictures, bronzes, and the ground on which the building stands. The only condition which he exacted was that the sum which he bequeathed should be increased by contributions from the citizens of Montreal, and that the building should be erected within a given time. His name will ever be deservedly held in grateful esteem. The collection of works of art thus bequeathed forms no unworthy nucleus of a public picture gallery, and was mainly the result of his own personal research in different schools of painting. Our Gallery was formally opened on May 26th, 1879, by His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne. At that time the Association was burdened with a debt which was the inevitable result of the erection of the building within the time specified by the founder's will, and of the general financial depression then prevailing throughout the country. We are happy to announce that the Association is now free from the incubus of debt, that its membership has increased, and that year by year fresh works of art are being added to its collection.

Material progress and the amassing of wealth are ever the aim, at times even unconsciously, of a youthful community. We therefore feel that the *auri fames* needs supplementing, and in part correcting, by a refining interest in what is beautiful and artistic, and that, in labouring to promote in our country a love for