

of making ourselves acquainted by all means in our power with all that pertains to the culture and development of this Dominion. Undoubtedly, this Association is to be much valued for promoting education in this respect. I think, Sir Donald, many years ago there was a controversy between two distinguished gentlemen as to whether the existence of a democratic system in a country was favorable to the development of art. That is a topic on which a great deal might be said, but on which I shall not enter to-night. But whatever opinions may be held on that subject we may all say with satisfaction that so far as regards the Colonies of Great Britain—which may be said to be eminently democratic—in all these Colonies there is no want of appreciation of art in the fullest respect, and this is more particularly the case in regard to Canada. But we must not forget that this appreciation does not come to pass of itself; it is necessary that there should be some special incentive, some reminder and stimulus to ensure its existence, and this is admirably furnished by such an Association as this. And when we meet together on festive occasions like this, to celebrate any such event as that to be celebrated to-night, we will do well to remember that the real work is done by those who often in the most unostentatious manner carry on the work of the movement. And on this occasion I think we ought to refer gratefully to the services rendered by Sir Donald Smith and the Art Association of Montreal for the watchful care taken by them in the work of culture and art and which is so fully set forth in the annual reports of the Association.

In a young country especially there is need of such an organization as this, because the demands upon the energy and enterprise of the country make it difficult for the people to find time for the development of the other departments of national life. Indeed, we do not sufficiently record the wonderful enterprise being shown in this and other branches of the British Empire, possibly because we do not wish to allude too much to the difficulties to be overcome; but we may well admire the spirit, which is not to be deterred by any obstacles in carrying on the interests of the country in a manner worthy of the people of the country and of the country itself. Only the other day the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba told me a story illustrative of this spirit. A traveller coming to a small hotel, had a good sound sleep the first night, and, according to the custom of the country, on coming to breakfast next morning, was asked by his host what he would order for breakfast. "Well," said he, "in the first place, I should like a napkin." The host presently came back to say, "Well, we have no napkins this morning; but if you like napkins for breakfast I will undertake to say you will have one to-morrow if I have to go and shoot it myself." I think the hotel-keeper furnished an admirable