

means peculiarly propitious for the gathering of money, to give a home to this collection in the Gallery in which we are assembled, and to have erected a building large enough to exhibit to advantage many other pictures besides those belonging to the bequest. It is, perhaps, too customary that the speeches of anyone in my position should express an over-sanguine view of the hopes and aspirations which find a place amongst the various communities in the country, and I believe the utterances of a Governor-General may often be compared to the works of the great English painter, Turner, who, at all events in his latter years, painted his pictures so that the whole of the canvas was illuminated and lost in a haze of azure and gold, which, if it could be called truthful to nature, had at all events the effect of hiding much of what, if looked at too closely, and too accurately represented, might have been considered detrimental to the beauty of the scene. If I were disposed to accept the criticisms of some artists, I should be inclined to indorse the opinion I have heard expressed amongst them, that one of the few wants of this country is a proper appreciation and countenance of art, but the meeting here to-day to inaugurate what I hope will be the reign of art in Montreal, enables me to disprove such an assertion, and to gild over with a golden hue more true than that of many of Turner's pictures, this supposed blot upon the beauty of our Canadian atmosphere. Certainly in Toronto, here, and elsewhere, gentlemen have already employed their brush to good effect, and I shall not more particularly mention their names because they will readily occur to many here. We may look forward to the time when the influence of such associations as yours may be expected to spread until we have here, what they formerly had in Italy, namely, such a love of art that, as was the case with the great painter Correggio, our Canadian artists may be allowed to wander over the land scot-free of expense, because the hotel-keepers will only be too happy to allow them to pay their bills by the painting of some small portrait or of some sign for "mine host." Why should we not soon be able to point to a Canadian school of painting, for in the appreciation of many branches of art, and in proficiency in science, Canada may favorably compare with any country. It was only the other day that Mrs. Scott-Siddons told me that in her readings and recitations of poetry, and especially of Shakespear's plays, she found her Canadian audiences more enthusiastic and intelligent than any she had met. Our Dominion may claim that the voices of her daughters are as clear as her own serene skies, and who can deny that in music, nature has been most ably assisted by art, when from one of the noble educational establishments in the neighbourhood of this city Mademoiselle Albani was sent forth to charm the critical audiences of Europe and America? Canada may hold her head high in the kindred fields of science, for who is it who has been making the shares of every Gas Company in every