

But there is a certain class of people who would scorn to say that carelessness, or lack of time, had prevented them from visiting our museum. They have no desire to go there. For them the storehouse of the archaic holds no charms. The bones of long forgotten monsters, birds and animals of nearly every clime, apparently lacking only motion to be real; the habiliments and weapons of war and peace of famous Indian tribes; the sculptured thoughts of great masters; the faithful reproduction of scenes that should produce a glow of pleasure and of pride in every Canadian heart, of personages of world-wide veneration, and of places that are sacred for their association with people whom history and tradition have rendered dear to us: all these arouse no interest in the minds of the worldly wise. Such are not for those who find pleasure only in the things of "the living present."

But I was to tell of a visit to the museum, not give a dissertation on the lack of public appreciation of a great work. However, what has been said may, I hope, serve as a sort of introduction to what comes after. Although a little irrelevant to the subject in hand, it, at least, had its birth in a personal regret for the neglect which many visits to our great museum only too plainly revealed.

Those who have visited the Victoria Memorial Museum (and I consider myself fortunate for being one of that small number), so comfortably set on what was known as the Appin Place, at the foot of Metcalfe street, have, no doubt, found that the building and what it contained corresponded very closely to their idea of a museum—a place devoted to works of nature, art, curiosities, etc. In just a few hours, from the remarkably complete and almost priceless exhibits there, they will have obtained a better idea of the vastness of the field of Canadian resources than they would in other ways by years of toil. They will have impressed upon their minds just how great has been the work our zoologists, ornithologists, geologists and paleontologists have performed; how indefatigably men have labored to preserve a vast variety of the aboriginal curiosities illustrative of the manners and customs of the primitive, and the present fast disappearing Indian races of the Dominion. In the National Art Gallery they will find the works of our artists, who have sought so zealously to give Canada a respectable position in the world of painting and sculpture. They will find there, also, many of the famous works of art of the masters of other lands, which, although eagerly sought for by all nations, have been obtained by Canadian money and Canadian energy. And the masterpieces of far-famed geniuses, which neither gold nor energy