

ONTARIO SOCIETY OF ARTISTS'
FOURTH EXHIBITION.

This body appears to have gained a sufficient foothold amongst us to entitle it to rank among our permanent institutions, and has opened its fourth exhibition this year with peculiar features, giving fair promise (and indeed in a measure fulfilment of former promise) of what may be hoped for by an organized effort to put our native and resident talent in a position to be recognized by the public. The improvement over former exhibitions is very marked, and when we remember the large draft that has been made upon the productions of the society this year by the collection which hangs in the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia it is really surprising. In Oil Painting, besides the old names, we find new ones, notably Mrs. Schreiber, who has contributed figure subjects perfect in drawing, refined in sentiment, and in many points exquisite in colour. "Goldilocks," which is perhaps the picture of the collection of Oil paintings, "In a Hop Garden," "The Withered Tree," and several others by the same artist, all do credit to the display. Besides these there are some attractive pictures by Martin, Verner, Perre, etc., but the limited space here allotted, forbids individual criticism. Among the paintings in water colors Mr. O'Brien, the Vice-President, is conspicuous in both the quality and quantity of his works.—Three small pictures by him called "Denizens of the Ottawa" are perhaps the gems of the collection. Mr. W. N. Cresswell is represented by some water colors, as fine as any he has painted, "Beaching the Boat" being perhaps his most important work. Mr. D. Fowler is powerful and brilliant, as usual, in dead game and flowers, notably the latter. Mr. Millard has sent out from England some choice bits of moorland scenery, taken on the Scotch and Welsh sketching grounds, so loved and haunted by David Cox and others. We are sorry to note the absence of Mr. Hoch from this year's gathering; it is we believe on account of illness and enforced absence in England. Mr. F. M. B. Smith shews two clever figure sketches. Mr. G. H. White has several charming bits of nature from Wales, the Thames, Scotland, etc., Mr. T. M. Martin's "Petunias" are very successful, and there are fine points in his "Pasture." Mr. Matthews, the secretary of the Society, shows some landscapes chiefly of quiet, pastoral scenes. Of course there are many other names, but want of space forbids us to mention more. The choice of works for the Government, which are purchased by the annual grant, has been, we think, very judiciously made; although the more pretentious and costly works are not chosen, there is every reason to be pleased with those which are; indeed this fact goes far towards convincing us of the great advantage of the mode of choice, which is affected by a vote of the whole society. The gallery is

spacious and well-lighted, and when finished will be very handsome and commodious.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

The feeling has no more passed away from Great Britain than the sentiment, which, many years ago, prompted the manufacture of thousands of interesting little medallions, representing the manacled and kneeling slave, appealing to the all-seeing eye, with the inscription:—"Am I not a man and a brother?" And although since then, great changes have taken place in the slave trade itself, inasmuch as it is now confined to comparatively very narrow limits, yet no revulsion of feeling has taken place in the mind of the British people. The problem of the Nile fountains is as interesting as its solution will be doubtless magnificent; and yet all our great African explorers place the discovery of the sources of the Nile infinitely below the entire and universal suppression of the slave trade, which is still carried on, more or less, in eastern and central Africa. In the course of the two centuries, during which the trade has existed, it is calculated that fifty millions of slaves have been exported from Africa, and five hundred millions of lives have been lost. Even at the present time the loss of life connected with the slave trade is estimated at a million a year. Slave kidnappers and robbers roam the continent from Egypt in the north to the Zambesi in the south, and from the east coast of Africa to the west. When the slaves are captured, they are dispatched to Egypt, Zanzibar, Arabia, Persia, and Madagascar. Four out of five of these slaves are expected to die on the coast; and the road from Lake Nyassa to the seaboard, a distance of 300 or 400 miles, is actually lined with skeletons. Several propositions have been made for remedying this state of things. It has been suggested that cruisers might be placed on the coast in order to intercept the exported slaves. Treaties might be made with Oriental Potentates, but the difficulty lies in enforcing them. Livingstone and Cameron have advocated the introduction of a system of legitimate trading in the country. In pursuit of this object, Mr. H. B. Cotterill stated, in a late meeting in Edinburgh, that he is going out immediately with a party to Lake Nyassa, which he hopes to reach in October. He will take a boat with him, for which a sum of £300 sterling was raised by the boys of Harrow School. It is to be a steel boat thirty feet long, and will contain a good deal of stores. He intends to inquire into the nature of the products in the neighbourhood of Lake Nyassa, and hopes to bring home such accounts of the district as will lead merchants to enter upon the discoveries on a much larger scale; and he has no doubt that if it could be shown that the scheme could be carried on with profit, it would be extensively taken up. It is generally known that Mr. Cotterill is an accomplished scholar,

and might have passed his life in comparative ease. But he like some others, has renounced ease and the high prospects before him in Europe, in order to devote himself to the noble purposes of philanthropy.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LATEST ARTICLE.

Mr. Gladstone's article in the *Contemporary Review*, on the "Courses of Religious Thought" appears to have attracted very considerable attention both in England and America. The subject is of far more general interest, and its selection bears the stamp of a more disinterested character than either of his pamphlets on "Vaticanism," or on "Ritualism." It is also generally believed to be treated more correctly, to be more philosophical, better reasoned, and better executed than they were. Its chief defects are supposed to arise from a necessity inevitable to the nature of the subject, and show an occasional want of scientific precision. The article attempts to classify the various channels in which the thought of the present age loves to expand itself; or the currents of thought which prevail, in our day, respecting religion. The writer describes the five principal systems, or schools, in this way:—1. Those who accept unreservedly the Papal Monarchy, or the *Ultramontane School*; 2. Those who, rejecting the Papal Monarchy, believe in the Visibility of the Church, that is, the *Historical School*; 3. Those, who rejecting the Papal Monarchy and also the Visibility of the Church, believe in the great central dogmas of the Christian system, as the Trinity and the Incarnation—these he very aptly terms the *Protestant Evangelical School*; 4. Those who believe in a Moral Governor of the Universe, and in a state of probation for mankind, without necessarily accepting the truth of Revelation, or the *Theistic School*; and 5, the absolutely *Negative School*, containing all who deny categorically, or decline to recognize or affirm the existence of a Moral Governor; namely, Sceptics, Atheists, Agnostics, Secularists, Revivers of Paganism, Materialists, Pantheists, Positivists. Each of these schools is described, by Mr. Gladstone, with great vigour, force, and brilliancy. Of course, as in every thing else, these schools touch one another at various points, sometimes running into each other, at other times diverging in various and differing degrees; so that very exact definition is sometimes impossible. To the *Historical School* would be referred the so-called High-Churchmen of the Anglican Church, and also the members of the Eastern Churches, not under Papal domination. High Churchmen also embrace many of the doctrines which Mr. Gladstone ascribes to the *Protestant Evangelical School*. Indeed, Evangelicalism, in its best aspects, and purified from a sour, crabbed Calvinism, is usually in the present day, most truly to be met with in the *Historical School*; although those