

were the custodians of the heritage of art's noblest efforts in all ages we should be able to take up the brush, the compass, the chisel, as they fell from the nerveless grasp of our predecessors, and limn, build or hew out great works in steady upward progression. But this is to misunderstand the whole genius of art. In whatever age, what man has achieved in art has not been by the cumulative knowledge of academies and schools of design (although these have had their share and are noble helps), but rather have been the outcome and revelation of the individual's temper and quality of mind. Much may be done to raise the general standard of proficiency of art expression by means of museums, ateliers, etc.; but the creative faculty, the genius, the insight into what is true and beautiful and of good report, and the ability to give noble expression to it, is not hereditary, and cannot be stored like motive power to be switched on when required.

We cannot have a Michelangelo, a Titian or a Brunelleschi at will; but we can so prepare the way that when a greater than these arises we shall hail him with due appreciation and honour.

On the other hand, however, there is a law of compensation which reigns; if art cannot profit as much by past knowledge as science, neither do its past achievements become so profitless.

Every schoolboy knows more now than the great scientists of a past age dreamed of; much of their work is valueless comparatively—has become superseded, and has only an historic interest; not so with art. I suppose in no age has ancient art been more studied than in the present, and never have the masterpieces of the ages been more appreciated. Honest good art will always charm as long as it holds together, whatever be the fashion, and I do not despair of seeing art impregnate and dominate all grades of life, and rise to heights of attainment never hitherto reached.

Art is not a dress to throw on or off at pleasure; it is like duty, it should rise with us in the morning and go to rest with us at night; it should permeate our waking and our sleeping thoughts; it should be allied to our very nature, and is indeed a necessity of a full rich life. Were we but attuned to the Divine harmonies as expressed in art, we should taste of joys which to us are now unknown; our eyes would see deeper and fuller meanings in the spiritual as well as in the natural world; our ears would catch the strains of sweeter and loftier music than any we hear now; our whole senses would be enlarged, and we should receive the gift of a new sense—even that of using aright what we have got. If we have received this gift, let us use it for the highest good of our fellow men, obeying the apostolic injunction, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

*Montreal.*

ANDREW T. TAYLOR.