

A Visit to the Museum.



F the many interesting places in our Capital worthy of being visited, the Victoria Memorial Museum is the one that is, perhaps, most neglected. It is rather hard to understand why this should be, for certainly its exterior has a very inviting appearance, and should not this promise something attractive within? As a rule, people are not satisfied with the contemplation of mere external beauty. The spacious and beautiful grounds, and the noble pile, should I think, immediately bring to them the thought that such care had been taken for no ordinary reasons; that those great grey walls so carefully chiselled into lines of grace must treasure something of national, if not of world-wide importance.

Perhaps carelessness, or the lack of opportunity, led to the neglect, or it may be the word "museum," so prominently placed on the front, discouraged many, for in our practical age people are prone to cast aside what is not of the age.

There are many people who fully appreciate the value of the museum in our national life, and who know well the education that even a single visit to it would impart, yet, through carelessness, never show their appreciation by act, or seek to increase their store of knowledge by spending a few hours in the halls of our museum. Such indifference is to be found in people on every side of us, and its existence is to be deeply deplored. Even in our limited sphere of college life, there are many who have never set foot in our museum, in fact, so deep-rooted is this spirit that some—a very few, however, we gladly note—with a heedlessness that is scarcely comprehensible, have never taken the trouble to cross the portals of our far-famed Parliament buildings to examine what was in the interior.

Many people may advance—and very often quite legitimately, too—the lack of opportunity as a sufficient reason for their apparent neglect. Some, we feel sure, who are prevented by no such poverty of time, have sought to hide their indifference with this plausible excuse. There are, though, many who can reasonably give this as a justification for their neglect, and there can be no doubt but that quite a large percentage of those who have taken advantage of the law that left the museum open to the public on Sundays, are people who had little time to spare for such pastime on the other days of the week.