

INAUGURAL MEETING.

The following is the address that was presented to His Excellency the Governor-General and to Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, at the formal opening of the Gallery on the 26th of May, 1879 :—

To His Excellency the Right Hon. Sir John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, Marquis of Lorne, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, and Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor-General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., and to Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise.

On behalf of the Art Association of Montreal, we desire to thank your Excellency and your Royal Highness for the honor and advantage conferred upon our Association by the patronage to which you have graciously consented, and also for the favor of your Excellency's and your Royal Highness' presence this evening, on the occasion of the opening of our Gallery.

We not only believe that the love of the beautiful in nature and art is a source of some of the purest pleasures of life, but that it stimulates and supports our highest aspirations, and we think that the influence of the Fine Arts is especially important in refining and ennobling those practical aims which necessarily tend to absorb the energies of a people actively engaged in developing the material resources of our young and rapidly growing country. We therefore acknowledge with gratitude the interest which your Excellency and your Royal Highness have taken in our efforts, and we feel that the promotion of Art could receive no higher or more efficient countenance than in the patronage extended by those who represent here the Crown of England, and in their persons unite illustrious lineage and station with a love of intellectual and æsthetic culture.

In your Royal Highness we recognize a worthy successor of your noble father, the great and good Prince Albert, encourager, in his life-time, of all that