

BUSINESS CORNER.

TORONTO, ONT., NOV., 1880.

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SECRETARY COLLEGE OF MUSIC, 237 SIMCOE STREET, TORONTO.

STUDIO GOSSIP.

THE Autumn season for out-door sketching has been remarkably fine, both as regards tint and temperature. In fact, October this year, has not been at all of that "chill" character so usually described by poets, but, on the whole, was more balmy and bright than September. The artists have remained out unusually late, and some are still studying the Autumn tints, for which Canada is so famous.

THE public will, before long, be presented with the first number of a fine serial work, magnificently illustrated by Canadian Artists, and entitled "Picturesque Canada." It is being published by the Art Publishing Company, of Toronto, and the illustration portion of the work is under the direct supervision of Mr. O'Brien, the President of the New Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. No expense is being spared to make this a truly national work, and as many years have now elapsed since any attempt has been made to pictorially describe British America, we may look for a rich treat both with respect to novelty and beauty.

THE Toronto Industrial Exhibition was less successful in the Fine Arts display than in any other department, but we understand that efforts are being made to place the arrangements for another year upon a more satisfactory footing, by putting the control of the department more into professional hands and effecting a radical change in the plan by doing away with money prizes, so far as the professional list is concerned, thereby relieving the exhibitors from the anxiety as to the uncertain decisions arrived at by the judges, (generally incompetent) thus bringing the work of the artist, at least all such work as will pass the ordeal of selection by a professional committee, directly, fairly and uncompromised before the general public. The artists have presented a memorial to the management having this end in view, and we have good reason to hope that that body will show a sufficient intelligent grasp of the situation to act upon it. Should they take this wise course, there is no doubt that an exhibition can be made which will serve a higher purpose than to form a laughing stock for visitors who have

any pretensions to art culture. This unfortunately, has been the main result of the Autumn Exhibition of Fine Arts in the Crystal Palace so far.

THE Art Union of Canada is just now entering on its active campaign for the winter, this being its ninth year of existence, during which time it has accomplished much which has served to educate both our artists and their patrons, thus becoming a useful, as well as delightful source of refined enjoyment. This must ever prove a great boon to the people of Canada; cut of as they are for so many months from out-door life and amusements, a state of things which naturally must enhance the value to them of this precious means, not only of pleasurable and intellectually employing the dreary season of house life, but also of vividly recalling the bright summer hours so doubly valued, if but for their briefness. There seems to be excellent reasons why our friends should do all in their power to foster and encourage an institution so bound up with the well-being and happiness of this community. The usual plan of this society has been continued this year, which gives an original sketch by one of the artist members to every subscriber of five dollars, this being instead of an engraving or chromo, is a plan which must forcibly commend itself to such as prefer to possess something unique, in preference to a reproduction, however fine, which by its frequent repetition can hardly avoid a certain amount of monotony. When, too, as for instance in Toronto, some hundreds of subscribers reside in the same city, it deteriorates from the value each one places on his treasure to find the charming little bit, exquisite, though it be, hanging over every friends' mantle-piece. The sketch plan avoids this, but another idea, which works well, is to bring out a finely illustrated book of national interest, to which a number of our artists might contribute in various styles and by different methods of reproduction in back and white. This would not be open to the same objections.

MR. THOMAS MARTIN is back from his somewhat protracted summer sketching tour, and at work carrying out in detail, in water color and oil, some of the many charming subjects which he has stolen from the rocky glens and reedy lakes of picturesque Muskoka. His portfolio is plethoric with sketches, numbering some thirty principal subjects, besides a host of lesser gems. Hidden within its folds, (to vulgar eyes denied,) lie many a glorious burst of sunlight lighting up the brilliant foliage of some lone isle, on placid lake reclining, and many a cool green shade by purling brook. Wantonly these lovely "gleams" of nature, danced and laughed through summer days and summer eves; boldly they issued forth, secure in their vernal retreat, nor dreamed they of the artist's watchful eye, and cunning hand that should seize and bear them captive away.

MUSIC TRADE REVIEW.

THE firm of Suckling & Sons, importers of Sheet and Book Music, and Musical Instruments, are busy filling orders to all parts of Canada, with an occasional order for the United States. This speaks well for the increasing interest in music in Canada as well as the enterprise of the firm in being equal to the demand.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We solicit correspondence on all subjects of interest to the trade and profession of Music and Art, and shall always be happy to answer any enquiries our subscribers or readers may put to us in reference to such matters. In all cases, the full Name and Address of the sender must be given, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. We must not be held in anyway answerable for the opinions of correspondents, nor the return of rejected MSS. Correspondence for insertion should be sent in not later than the 25th of each month.