

EARLY PAINTERS IN QUEBEC AND THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

An exhibition of pictures by deceased Canadian painters, organized by the Toronto Art Museum, was opened to the public on the 24th of January, 1911. It was of great interest in showing the evolution of art in Canada, and in this connection a general review of the early Canadian painters may assist those who are interested.

In searching for data regarding these men, who lived such inconspicuous lives, and died, for the most part, "unwept, unhonored and unsung," it seemed to me that although we made an effort to collect and exhibit such examples of their work as were available, illustrating artistic development in Canada, and historically interesting, the lives and personalities of the men themselves are deserving of more extended notice than the limited space of an exhibition catalogue would permit. I admit the attempt is quite inadequate till some Parkham takes the matter up and invests it with the literary permanency which the subject deserves.

In Canada, early art work was commenced by French Jesuit priests, who painted decorations for their churches. The first native painter was De Beaucourt, son of the Chevalier de Beaucourt, military engineer under Frontenac, who was at one time Governor of Montreal. He was born about the year 1735, and studied art in France; returning to Canada, he painted for many years after the Conquest, but the unsettled state of the country induced him to go to Russia, where he continued his art for some years; he returned and died in Canada in the beginning of the last century.

Louis Delongpré, though not a native, had a large practice in Quebec province. He painted prior to 1793, and as late as 1830. His only rival in Montreal was William Von Moll Berczy, a native of Saxony, born about 1747, and educated at the University of Leipsic. Having been trained as a painter, he afterwards settled