

BUSINESS CORNER.

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SECRETARY COLLEGE OF MUSIC, 237 SIMCOE STREET, TORONTO.

To the Editor of The Arion.

DEAR SIR,—From my acquaintance with the artistic profession throughout the Dominion, I have no hesitation in saying, that the time has certainly come, when a periodical such as yours promises to be must prove of the greatest service to the cause, and furnish a means of concentrating to a certain extent art literature more into one channel, thereby increasing its effective power. Nine years ago there did not exist any art organization in Canada which aimed at the advancement of design and fine art proper. At that time a few of us met in Toronto and considered the melancholy intelligence just then received, of the collapse from deaths and other calamities, of the Society of Canadian Artists in Montreal. It was resolved to try and initiate a movement in Toronto on a similar plan to the late Montreal Society and to conduct an Art Union on the plan pursued in London and Glasgow. The scheme in operation was eminently successful, and has survived until the present day with a greatly increased list of working members. A school of art has, by the aid of the Ontario Government, been doing an excellent work for three years past, and is rapidly increasing both in effectiveness and in public appreciation as is shewn by the large annual increase of the number of pupils in attendance. The first session began with fifty pupils; last year the attendance was one hundred and fifty. This is a good sign, and it may well be hoped that it will continue to grow.

The management are paying much attention to industrial drawing and ornamental design, knowing that the requirements of the times demand it; also being conscious that it is the most practical way of leading the utilitarian mind of our country towards that which is more correctly fine art. This winter there will be classes in Anatomy, Perspective, Freehand, Drawing from natural objects, the Antique, and from life. This is the only way to build up taste in our young and vigorous nation, for it may be truly said there can be no taste while there exists nothing in the country upon which it could be exercised. There can be, no doubt, however, that in a few years the rising school of Canadian art will make itself felt, and we may cheerfully hope that the material for the future sustentation of the New Royal Canadian Academy will be chiefly drawn from native sources. Nursed and tended by the crown, aided by Royal taent, supported by a loyal and patriotic community

which is yearly growing in wealth and culture, our chances at present appear to be fair for doing a work not only very desirable but one which may be said to be absolutely essential to our progress as a part of that great empire which has given so many themes in the past to Poet, Painter and Composer.

I am, Sir,

Respectfully yours,

M. MATTHEWS,

Secretary Ontario Society of Artists and Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

MUSIC TRADE REVIEW.

R. S. WARREN & SON, CHURCH ORGAN BUILDERS.

The business of building church organs exclusively in Canada was first undertaken by the senior of the present firm (R. S. Warren & Son) in the City of Montreal, in the year 1836. At that time there were but about half a dozen pipe organs in the whole country, and they were mostly of inferior quality. The first instrument constructed by him after his settlement in Canada now stands in a Church in the town of Berthier (en haut), Province of Quebec, which, excepting that the action begins to show signs of wear, is said to be as good as ever. Taking into account the fact that the instrument has accomplished 44 years service in a Roman Catholic Church, Mr. Warren has reason to feel proud of this his first achievement.

Following the construction of this instrument, he supplied a number of churches in the City of Montreal and adjacent towns, establishing his reputation as an artist in the most satisfactory manner. The first two manual organ he built was placed in the American Church, Montreal, and was considered a marked advance in the art of organ building, as organs with two sets of keys were by no means common in those days,—but when in 1853 he erected the large organ of three manuals in St. James' Cathedral of this city, it was thought that the climax in the art was reached, and the newspapers of the time were loud in his praise.

Since that time, however, great improvements have been made in the construction of Church organs, and the present firm has built many larger ones, notably those in the Cathedral, Notre Dame, Montreal; American Presbyterian Church, Montreal; St. Andrew's Church, Montreal; St. George's Church, Montreal; Metropolitan Church, Toronto; Centenary Church, Hamilton, and lastly the organ for St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, while a multitude of smaller instruments all over the country, from Halifax to British Columbia, stand as records of their ability to produce first-class work.

In the matter of appliances and machinery for the proper prosecution of their business, the same rate of progress has been made. Commencing in 1836 (as before stated) in a little shop about 24x30, adjoining the English Hospital in Montreal,—with some six men all told, and no machinery, their business has now the most extensive premises on this continent. Comprised in two large buildings, respectively 30 x 110 and 80 x 100, 3 stories in height, with engine house and store-room in a separate building, they have the most improved machinery and other appliances obtainable for their business, and have now 30 men employed. These, with the aid of machinery, makes their establishment about ten times as large as when the business was founded.

The firm has just completed a fine new organ for St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto. The instrument, which is a large one, was temporarily erected at the Industrial Exhibition, and is another proof that Messrs. Warren & Son have lost none of that skill and enterprise which has made their name famous as builders of first-class organs.