

## THE WORK AND PLANS OF

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## THE ART SECTION OF THE CIVIC LEAGUE

THE Art Section was one of the first creations of the Civic League after its organization about a year ago.

The plan of action at once decided upon by the Art Section was to foster the art work in the city by lending all



art interests the heartiest support of the League.

There was to be given to all school art work definite encouragement.

Mural decorations of public buildings will be considered in the work.

The definite work to be accomplished is the purchase of a building in which to establish an Art School and found an Art Museum.

It should be understood that the sketches here reproduced were not drawn for this purpose, and do not give fair showings. They were drawn by Mr. Cowan's pupils—some of on'y short experience.

The school, it is hoped, will some day give assistance to all artistic children not now having means to develop their talent. The school is also to furnish the best instruction to those able to pay for the work.

That the work undertaken is one of years, the League fully understands, but it is willing to work and to wait.

Last fall it was determined to start the school in a small way. The League by courtesy of the School Board and





Superintendent Wiley obtained the use of a room in the High School.

An able teacher was discovered in Mr. Cowan, who was persuaded to remain in Terre Haute and take charge of the class. About forty of our most ambitious young people availed themselves of the opportunity to join it (the class). Mr. Cowan came here about a year ago to engage in one phase of his art, and the League felt that it was indeed fortunate to secure at once an experienced art teacher. Mr. Cowan has done the work at the Chicago Institute and has also taught in that school for two years. His work in the classes so far has been sketching from life in the Thursday evening class and still life on Saturday mornings. The mediums used have been charcoal, pencil, water-color, crayons or oil, as the pupils preferred. Mr. Cowan

handles each of these mediums with equal facility.

At the end of the first term of ten lessons, the Y. W. C. A. kindly permitted the League to exhibit some of Mr. Cowan's own work and the work of his class. The purpose of this exhibit was to give the pupils an opportunity to complete their work, to give them the benefit of Mr. Cowan's criticism and to give the public a chance to enjoy the sketches. The many people who visited the exhibit were surprised at the rapid development of the class and praised Mr. Cowan's own work very highly.

It is the desire of the League to have these exhibits frequently, that the public may be kept in touch with the work.

Those desiring to join the class may do so at any time, but must finish the ten lessons in ten weeks.

The price per term is \$2.75. Any one is privileged to take one or two lessons a week. This gives opportunity to take both kinds of work.

The League feels sure that this enterprise is right because there is such need of art training and so many who want it. The town is ready for it



"THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP."

The Old Bank Building, Built 1834.

Like the first signs of spring, so faint yet so potent, are the throbbings of new art interest in our midst and given the least chance to rise above the chilling frosts of indifference and disapproval, they grow and bear fruit of good taste, love of beauty and more intimate knowledge of nature. Beauty should be as necessary as food and shelter, not as a luxury, but as the realization of beauty as a truth, as one of God's laws of being and one of His most gracious gifts. Drawing can be made commercial, but its great purpose is to teach the principles of beauty, the power to see and appreciate beauty, and to open the eyes to the beauty of the commonplace in nature when idealized by nature's moods and man's spirit.

The purpose of the League is not to make art a means of livelihood, but to enrich life, and to foster the genius of the child of talent by giving him a public trained to appreciate the worth and beauty of his work.

Browning says it best:

"If you get simple beauty and naught else,  
You get about the best thing God invents:  
That's somewhat: and you will find the  
soul you have missed.

Within yourself, when you return Him  
thanks." \* \* \*

"His works are here already, nature is complete;

Suppose you reproduce her (which you can't),

There's no advantage! You must beat her, then,

For, don't you hark? We're made so that we love

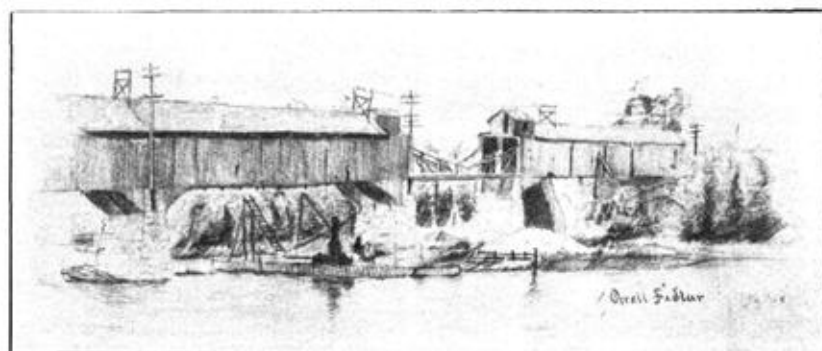
First when we see them painted, things we have passed

Perhaps a hundred times, nor cared to see;

And so they are better painted, better to us,  
Which is the same thing. Art was given  
for that:

God uses us to help each other, so  
Lending our minds out."

REBECCA TORNER.



THE OLD WAGON BRIDGE.