ART INTEREST IN WAR TIMES.

A national crisis brings all thought to a focus upon itself, that at first blush any interest not a part of the present moment seems irrelevant. In the face of immediate need for readjustment, things of permanent value seem for the moment to lose all value. But little reflection is needed to show that in a time of stress it is most necessary to remember, that which has permanent value, for war is a temporary condition. It may clear the ground for progress, but it is not in itself progress. So whatever may be done in the interest of civic or national progress, when surroundings are tended to create distraction rather than constructive progress, is of especial importance.

Who can say what would have been lost in the Dark Ages if, during that time of war and disorganizing forces, the Monasteries had not preserved the spirit of learning and many valuable works upon which a later time might build its civilization? The effort to conserve that which a time of peace will require, is quite as important an expression of patriotism as is anything else. So the efforts of an art organization at such a time is especially to be commended as a form of patriotic service.

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