

rectly remunerative pursuits that little leisure is left, with which to indulge in experiments or venture largely on uncertain speculations. The failure then of such an Exhibition—even should it happen—may I think, amongst us, be taken rather as an evidence of energetic life, than of slothful inactivity, it would speak of continuous labour rather than of fitful effort, and although it is much to be desired that the monotony of our callings may be refreshed and invigorated by a healthful change; and the beaten tracks of our daily duties sometimes ploughed up, readjusted, and improved by emulation, it is not at all to be wished that steady industry should be unsettled and disturbed by too frequent a temptation to embark in an exciting though an honorable race. To be energetic it is not necessarily to be restless, any more than that to be enterprising it is not necessary to be vainly speculative; customs like constitutions may be no better than ancient errors, yet their sudden and violent disruption may involve much mischief—whilst then we endeavour to keep alive a spirit of emulation that thereby the ingenuous and the skilful may be prevented from slumbering; let us be careful that the interests of Industry be not embarrassed and endangered by that restlessness of purpose which constant excitement may induce. There may be times when to refrain from active efforts, would be to commit a positive breach of duty, and such I think will be the opportunity to be given us by the Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural Association, to be held in this City in September next.—I am enabled to state authoritatively that the parties engaged in that enterprise are determined to make the Toronto Exhibition eclipse in utility and excellence every previous efforts of the sort, made within the Province, and it is reasonable that we should assist them zealously in their undertaking. It is a matter of high importance that the character of Toronto should be well sustained on that occasion. And if we would secure to ourselves that position of advancement and priority which Capital Cities are always expected to hold—and which we ought not to forget, is actively competed for by a very ambitious and not very distant little City—we should apply ourselves diligently to the work of preparation. People are too apt in estimating the importance of such exhibitions as that to which I am alluding, to regard them as idle fetes rather than as the bases upon which future national success is to be raised; they are too prone to rate their value by the fashion of the assemblage, rather than by the bearing which its purpose exercises on the material interests of the Country;—such folk doubtless regret the absence of Punchinello, and miss the sweet attractions of a statute fair, but if to their criticism is harmless, “for contempt of fools carries no sting.” In advocating the claims of the Agricultural Association to your support I do not feel that I am straying from my duty as President of your Institute. It is a part, and a very obnoxious part of my faith that no jealousy ought to divide the Agriculturist and the Mechanic,—they are, or ought to be parallel pursuits; their interests are to a great extent mutual—if one languishes the other is far from safe, if one succeeds both are, or ought to be the gainers.—Patriotism is found common to both; the national good a bond of union. Let us then eschew petty differences and pull harmoniously together, and so far from entertaining a partial and envious spirit, let the Mechanic and the Farmer, travel side by side, rendering each to the other brotherly aid upon the way, that so the glorious path which our Country is pursuing may be one of pleasantness and peace, the pride and the hope of all good Citizens. Whilst, however, we gladly consent to journey with the Farmer, we must make a bargain with him to “keep up” we must tell him that we are delighted to have his company, and whilst we are together we will lend and shall expect a hand, but “let the swiftest of foot go a-head and clear the way.” Gentlemen, I have no fear of the result, and I ask you to join me next September in giving the Agricultural Association “a spice of our quality.” But you will begin to think that my address,

like a ladies letter, will have its chief purpose in its postscript; and I am afraid I am open to rebuke for having deferred the consideration of the Lectures of the past year; in truth the duty with which I am specially charged. I am divided between two opinions, whether I may presume to discuss the Lectures of such able men, or whether failing to do so I might not forfeit an opportunity for profiting by their essays. I shall run the risk of the charge of impertinence and pursue that course which although perhaps less acceptable to our guests, will at any rate be most profitable and gratifying to the majority of my hearers. I believe I am warranted in saying that the course of Lectures of the past session has been more successful than any by which it was preceded. It was opened by Captain Lefroy, in a lecture on “Terrestrial Magnetism,” a science with which probably few were very intimately acquainted, although one in which we all have a peculiar interest in consequence of our City being selected by the Royal Society as a station for observation. I was not so fortunate as to be present at that Lecture but I have had the advantage of reading it, and I am sure you will all concur in the expression of a high appreciation of its value. The interesting history of the science, its purpose and the manner of its promotion, as given in this essay, induce our warmest sympathy with the patient and persevering observer, and if unhappily that “modest rill from the great reservoir of national wealth which the Home Treasury has turned into this thirsty field of Science” should be checked, let us hope that the Province will itself and for its own honor maintain the efficiency of this station so long as the investigation is incomplete. The next upon the list of Lectures was one by Dr. Burns, to whom the Institute already owed a debt of obligation for previous services of a like nature. In treating of the dawn of English Literature “the Dr. proved that the Roman arts exercised a highly beneficial and enduring influence, and that afterward the Saxons and the Normans, each made those valuable and peculiar additions to the systems of their predecessors as by the blending of Norman Saxon and Roman elements has resulted in the production of a majestic national Literature. The value of such an essay is so apparent that I shall content myself by expressing my satisfaction that it was contributed by one who himself is a proof of the great resources of our noble language. The next subject which was treated upon was that of Agricultural “Associations, their Origin, Progress, Objects and Advantages.” These cannot be too highly rated, and I think I have already given proof that I pay willing fealty to the arguments advanced by Professor Buckland. Two Lectures upon “the History of Canada” followed that which we have last named, and undoubtedly if their value may be estimated by the importance of the subject, by the ignorance of it, which unhappily prevails, or by the excellence of its treatment; then Mr. Robertson is entitled to our warmest thanks. That truth is stranger than fiction, and that History in able hands is often times more interesting, *always* sounder, and ever more directly engages our sympathies than Romance is constantly urged and is yet blindly and obstinately rejected. To tempt the reader into a better path and into one so especially necessary to all who would pretend to common intelligence, and any patriotism is a high purpose worthy the efforts (as it has found them) of an able advocate. The consideration of “the microscope” was next essayed by Mr. Freeland, who on a subsequent occasion also lectured upon “the Barometer.” Setting aside the interest which attaches to these useful instruments and the admirable manner in which Mr. Freeland discussed them. I confess that I anticipate even higher results from his efforts than at first sight they might induce. It is refreshing to find a Lawyer condescending to Scientific investigation, but the peculiar branch which he has chosen, gives us bright prospects for the future—for if our worthy Lecturer will apply his Barometer to the Law and warn us of its clouds, or if he will submit its intricacies to the micro-

scope test and thus elucidate its principle and action, he will merit even to a fuller degree that gratitude which he has already so well earned. The next Lecture was one upon the properties of light by Professor Hind, who most kindly consented to supply an unattractive vacancy, and who on the spur of the moment delivered one of those interesting and useful discourses for which his name has now become a guarantee. “Respiration” by Dr. Melville, “the Metamorphosis of Animals” by Dr. Hodder, and, “Astronomy” by Mr. Hennings, were the subjects next submitted to the consideration of the Institute.—The structure of the human body so “fearfully and wonderfully made”—the habits and properties of those lower animals, attendant upon man and ministering to his wants,—and that all perfect system of which “the Earth and all that therein is,” is but a part, are subjects of enquiry which cannot be pursued without profit.—The more intimate our knowledge of the atoms of Creation, the fuller our appreciation of the Creator,—the gleaner in the field of Nature finds “looks in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in every thing,” and although with his imperfect vision he cannot discern the fullness of the power, the wisdom and mercy of those immutable laws by which the Earth is governed, he rests from his labours better, happier, and more grateful. The Rev. Mr. Lillie, an old and valuable friend of the Institute,—and one whom I am proud to be permitted to call my own—never weary of kindness, has during the past session delivered two most valuable Lectures on “Canada, its Growth and Prospect.” The temptation to indulge in a revision of his discourses is strong upon me, but as I am limited to time and as his essays have been published in a form accessible to all, I must refrain from doing more than most strongly recommending their perusal. I observe, however, that Mr. Lillie substituted his second lecture upon Canada for one which he had announced upon “Beauty.” Now I am not prepared to complain of a change which gave us so much and such valuable information but I venture to remind him that he owes us that lecture, and certainly if to pay the debt, he would clutch a favourable opportunity for inspiration, he had better come and take my place, for if under the fire of the Artillery centred on this spot he cannot tell us what Beauty is, I fear under less advantageous circumstances, he will fail in his explanation. Not, but what there is some difference of opinion as to the power of such Artillery, seeing that our next Lecturer, (Dr. Badgley) in discussing whether the eye or the ear most contributes to man's happiness, concludes that the latter is the more valuable. But his reasoning is based on a higher, a more enduring and more truthful principle, than that to which I have ventured for a moment to refer, for he argues, and correctly, that considering man, as desiring the largest amount of his happiness from the development and cultivation of his intellectual powers, and as a being looking forward for happiness from the things of sense to those of eternity, the possession of the sense of hearing is of paramount value. In referring to the next lecture, I find myself placed in an awkward dilemma. I am sure when Professor Richardson in his able essay on “M mesmerism” so mercilessly demolished its pretensions, he did not intend that I should use his arguments to the injury of private enterprise. I shall refrain then from entering upon a detail of his objections lest the unfortunate gentleman who is to lecture here to-morrow night may be left without an audience, well assured that protected by their memories, the curious who come here will resist the charmer—charm he ever so wisely. Not less important than those by which it had been preceded was the lecture on “Political Economy, as a Branch of Education, delivered by Dr. Ryerson. Avoiding everything which by ingenious construction could be tortured into the expression of an opinion upon party, the Dr. confined himself to the exposition of his subject as a Science, urging that inasmuch as the safety of the state and the well working of its institutions are so much dependent upon popular will, it is