

be necessary to constitute a Ballot, and one third black balls of those balloting shall exclude the Candidate.

IX.—The laws and bye laws of this Society may be altered or amended at a regular meeting, previous notice having been given at a former meeting, of such intention in writing, signed at least by nine ordinary Members.

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

In calling the attention of the Public to the *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec*, we are relieved from the task of exordium on the general utility of such institutions. That is so universally established, that every civilised State, with which we are acquainted, has hastened to plant the Tree of Knowledge in its own soil, and has invited the enlightened portion of its people to co-operate in fostering its growth to maturity.

Endeavouring to give to Literature in this Province a corporate character and representation, by the formation of a literary and Historical Society at the seat of Government, it behoves us shortly to place before the Public the objects we seek to attain, the certainties which serve to encourage our perseverance, and the advantages which we ardently anticipate from the prosperity of this Institution.

The *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec* owes its origin to the patriotic feeling, and anxiety for the honor, welfare and interest of the Province, which characterise the present GOVERNOR IN CHIEF. The Committee, animated by a similar spirit, and anxious to accomplish the same patriotic views, have already proposed for the approbation of the Public at large, such means and regulations as appeared to them best calculated to carry into effect the purposes of the Society, and to guard the intentions of its Founder and Patron from misapprehension and abuse.

Although it is intended that this Society shall hereafter embrace every object of Literary interest and inquiry—it has been considered expedient at present and during its infancy, to confine our researches to the investigation of points of History, immediately connected with the CANADAS. To procure and furnish the complete annals of the country may never be in our power; but we are

persuaded it will soon be found within our reach, to illustrate the most remarkable epochs of our history, and to place in strong relief their most interesting and singular details. It is conceived that the early History of Canada abounds in materials, full of striking descriptions and romantic situations.—The very circumstance of a civilization transplanted from the old world, superseding the indigenous barbarism of the natives, and yet remaining long enough in contact with it to acquire even some degree of respect for the rude Tribes it subdued or converted, seems to present a strange and remarkable contrast, capable of exciting the utmost curiosity and interest.

The first and particular objects, therefore, of this Society will naturally be—To discover, and rescue from the unsparing hand of time the records which yet remain of the earliest History of CANADA—To preserve while in our power such documents as may be found amid the dust of yet unexplored depositories; and which may prove important to general history, and to the particular history of this Province—documents valuable as regards the present and the future, and perhaps, still more interesting to our Inhabitants, as respects the decaying Indian Tribes, than any other object of inquiry.

The next and more general objects of this Society will be—To promote every means of discovering collecting and procuring whatever information may throw light on the early Natural, Civil and Literary History of the BRITISH PROVINCES IN NORTH AMERICA. To further, by assistance from our funds when practicable, the translation, and in some cases the publication of valuable Manuscripts, or scarce books, relating thereto, which may be discovered in any private or public collection: and, to encourage and reward such discoveries by every means in our power.

The objects which remain to be stated, are—To read at the general meetings of the Society such papers on the subjects above mentioned, as shall have been communicated by Members, and previously approved by the Committee of management:—and to make from these papers such a selection, as it may hereafter become expedient to print in, "The Transactions of the Society."

We are greatly encouraged in our