

ADDRESS, &c.

GENTLEMEN,—

IN giving you a summary of the proceedings of this Society during the past year, I would premise that I do not bring to the work the inclinations of a severe critic, or the powers of an experienced reviewer. I take it, the object of the Address which it is the duty of your President to deliver at the close of his reign, is to refresh your memories as to the proceedings of the past year, to see what progress has been made in the objects of the Society, and, as much as he can, to keep alive and active that feeling of interest in those objects, without which little progress can be expected. There is one thing in which I most truly rejoice, as regards our proceedings from the first. In all that has been written, and in all that has been said on different subjects, no difference of opinion has, I believe, given rise to offence: all has been conducted in the spirit of free and fair and friendly discussion. We have, I think, one and all been actuated by a desire of mutual benefit,—by a feeling of self-respect, and respect for each other.

Every man may teach another something; and, to bring out that something, is one great object of a Society of this kind.

The first paper read before the Society in the past year, was one by our valuable SECRETARY on the Art of Pottery. It was admitted that the subject so chosen was one of interest to all, though, perhaps, from the ordinary and unobserved manner in which we constantly avail ourselves of the productions of this art, we might have thought but little of the means—the complicated and ingenious contrivances by which such common comforts are produced. For myself, I must confess I knew little more than this, that the cup from which I take my tea, the plate from which I eat my dinner, and various other articles which contribute to my daily comfort and convenience, were made from certain kinds of earth; but the precise mode in which the discoveries of mechanics and geology and chemistry have been brought to bear in simplify-