

discussed during the preceding session of the Athenæum, and such suggestions as may be considered conducive to the prosperity of the institution.

Dr. Brooke undertakes this duty in the Essay now before us, with his usual frankness and ability and furnishes his readers with an extended and luminous outline of the different papers which had been read by the members during the season, commenting upon their style, and reviewing and criticising their arguments.

"My predecessors in office" says he "have been gentlemen of such high attainments, and their closing Addresses have been received with such well merited applause, that, I assure you, I use the language of no affected humility when I express my fears, that you will miss in this Address of mine, many of those attractions of style and manner, which, on former occasions, have communicated such a charm to the annual *resumé* of the subjects brought before the Society, to draw up which is one of the duties that devolves upon your President. Permit me, however, to say that I bring to the work a hearty good will; and if, at the close of this Address, you feel disposed to say that I have not done all that you expected, you will at least, give me credit when I say, 'I have done what I could.'"

We shall therefore avail ourselves of Dr. Brooke's assistance in endeavouring to give our readers a passing notice of the business of the Fredericton Athenæum, as an institution well fitted to convey much useful instruction among the community in which it has been established.

"The subjects" we learn from the President's address "that have engaged our attention, during the past year, if not so varied, have certainly been not less important than on any former occasion. A most appropriate commencement was made by Dr. Robb in the month of March, by a paper on the Progress of Agriculture; and the same was continued, at our subsequent meeting, in April. A portion, if not the whole, of this most important Dissertation, (as it may well be called) to which we had the privilege of first listening in this place, has, in a printed form, been, for a considerable time, in the hands of all the members of this Society, as well as of many others throughout the Province; and it has been appreciated by all who have seen it, as a very valuable contribution to the practical farmer; and, being prepared with a view to the circumstances of this country, it is especially useful to the Agriculturist of New Brunswick.

"In the month of May," the President then intimates that "Dr. Jack read a very able paper on the Plurality of Worlds. At the time when you were listening to it, I was tossing upon the waves of the Bay of Fundy, being then on my way to Canada. I had not, therefore, the pleasure of hearing the Paper read by its learned author, nor did I enjoy the benefit of the remarks that were made upon it by the members, on the occasion of its delivery. It has since, however, been put into my hands, and I have perused it with great attention and unmingled delight.

"In the month of June" we are informed "Mr. Wilkinson read a very able and interesting Paper, which with characteristic modesty, he entitled Thoughts on Colonization. In reviewing this Paper, I am glad to feel that my task is a very easy one. The Society,

with one voice, have already pronounced their opinion upon its merits, by the expression of a very earnest wish that it should appear in a form such as to render it more accessible to the public at large. In this wish I fully concurred at the time; nor shall I yet, without much reluctance, abandon the hope that our expectations may be realized, calculated, as I think it is, to be most beneficial, not only to the inhabitants of our own Province, but to those of our father-land, and especially to such as are proposing to seek a home on this side of the Atlantic.

"Mr. Wilkinson's paper is calculated completely to silence the taunt that we have often heard respecting our Province, that while other countries are advancing rapidly in the march of improvement, she is standing still, if not retrograding. He has shown, by an array of facts,—which are stubborn things, and cannot be disputed,—that as regards the increase of population the extension of commerce, the growth of our cities, and all the elements that go to make up the prosperity of a country, New Brunswick has advanced, at a rate fully equal to the United States, in the first ages of their history. She possesses, as he has well shown, all the resources that are necessary to enable her to pursue a career of rapid improvement; a climate which a medical gentleman, who had resided in all quarters of the world, has repeatedly declared, in my hearing, to be (I use his own words) "the healthiest in the round globe;" a soil, at least not inferior in fertility to that of the adjoining States or of Eastern Canada; immense tracts of forest land covered with the most valuable timber; a sea-coast extending not less than 600 miles every creek and bay of which is swarming with fish; harbours where all the ships of the world might be moored in safety; rivers of ample breadth, some of them navigable hundreds of miles from their mouth; minerals, too, as we have lately had occasion not only to hear but to see, of every variety and of the most valuable description. She has also "ample room and verge enough," for the settlement of many thousands of immigrants, and for them all to cultivate, plenty of work for them all to do, and for which they would receive liberal remuneration. Surely a country that possesses such capabilities within herself for the support of a large population, ought not to be stigmatized as a poor country to which nobody would go who could avoid it, and where nobody would stay who could get out of it.

After the usual Summer recess," we learn that "the business of the Society was again resumed in the month of October, by a Paper by the Rev. Mr. Ketchum, on Chronology. To make history interesting and instructive, we must call Chronology to our aid; and the Reverend gentleman who favoured us with this paper, has shown in a very able and interesting manner, the advantages to be derived from the study of that science, whose nature and uses he undertook to unfold. He showed clearly how necessary it is, in judging of the causes and consequences of events in secular history; but that it is greatly more requisite, when we carry our researches into the Records of the sacred penmen. Secular and Sacred History are like two rivers that run parallel, and that may thus sometimes even meet in the same channel; or, at least, some portion of the stream may occasionally pass reciprocally from the one to the other. Now, without a knowledge of Chronology, it would be impossible for us to show where and how they meet, harmonize and combine.

Dr. Brooke quotes in his address the following passage from Mr. Ketchum's Essay, as equally striking in thought and beautiful in expression.

It will at once be admitted as of vast importance, to establish a connexion, as exact as possible, between events recorded in the Sacred Scriptures, and those noticed by the authentic Heathen Historians. In this way additional proof is gained to the credibility of Revelation, and to the fulfilment of prophetic declarations. Heathens themselves thus unconsciously, bear witness to the truth, and may plainly see the finger of the Almighty.

Again, it is of deep moment to the study of History, and adds greatly in interest to the subject, to mark the synchronology of the most important events in the History of the World. As we read in the Sacred Records of the doings of the Almighty with His ancient people, who would not know something of events going on at the time, in that great world around, of which that people seemed to form so very insignificant a part? Who would not, if he could, know something of what was going on elsewhere, at that distant age when Abraham was called to pass over the Euphrates, and the life of a pilgrim on the land was given to his descendants? Who is not glad to find out the very significant fact that while Judges ruled in Israel, Egypt,—the then mighty Empire of the age,—was overrun by those Shepherd Kings, about whom there have been so much conjecture, and not the least probable that they were the remnant of those mighty warriors driven out of the land of promise, and that these exiles from Egypt were seen settling on distant shores to form the several dynasties of Greece?

Who does not feel it of great interest to know that, while David and his successors reigned in splendour and power at Jerusalem, in the East, Assyria was growing up to a mighty and dreaded Empire, the appointed scourge of an ungrateful people? That at the time when Ahab ruled in Samaria—on the plains of Troy were gathering those warlike hosts, whose deeds of valour have been so well preserved in classic story? That while Assyrian soldiers were driving Israel into irredeemable captivity—on the banks of the Tiber, for humble dwellings were being built, to form, a very few years, the Mistress of the world? That about the time the armies of Greece came at length wearied into peace, after the Peloponnesian war, the History of the Old Testament had ended: And when that era occurred, which will form a new era in Chronology—that event exceeding in importance all that has ever occurred on the earth,—we would not gladly enquire what then engaged the attention of Generals and Statesmen—whether the Temple of Janus was shut, when the angels came to announce the birth of the King of Kings, in the Manger of Bethlehem?

At the three successive meetings that met place, in the months of November, December, and January, our indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Dr. Brooke, gave us a very full account of the Mineralogy of this Province. He divided his subject into three parts each of which formed the ground-work of an address, at one of the meetings above specified. At the meeting of November, he described those minerals that have carbon for their basis: in December, he brought before us the minerals that have an earthy basis: and last time we met here, he were made acquainted with those minerals that possess a metallic basis. On these several occasions, the verbal description of our learned