

and it remains for us of this generation, to raise the intellectual standard of the people, to aid in the diffusion of knowledge, and to encourage, foster, and cultivate, tastes for Art and Literature.

And is there not much to give encouragement to the hope that this is being fast accomplished, when we see that our public men are recognizing the advantages of all the educational and literary movements of the day? Is it not also a fact of some significance that we have found men of high social position, and large influence, laying aside their graver duties to grace the chair at the public meetings of a society of literary pretensions like ours? And it is a proof that even our small efforts are not unnoticed, but are marked as stepping stones to a great result, when the chair is filled to-night by one, who has long had a voice in the councils of the nation, and who is ready to come down from the high judicial position to which his talents have raised him, in order to encourage us, by his presence, in the prosecution of our work.

And let us hope that that work may go bravely on; and that when ages shall have rolled over this continent, and some future Hallam shall be born to chronicle the Literature of Canada, he may hand down to posterity the names of some, who began their career in the Ontario Literary Society.