

May I add that the very year would stand out as marked by the Great Exhibition of the industry of all nations to take place in May. Though bereft in the mysterious providence of God of its great promoter and originator, in the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, himself the noblest patron both of science and art, it will, when opened under painfully changed circumstances, serve to show to Britain, to Europe, and the world, that that which is for the benefit of mankind continues long after the mind which planned and designed it may be removed by death. Is it not then, I ask you, a singularly auspicious year for us to commence our humble effort to bring to a focus and centre what the bounteous hand of God has scattered over our land.

Nor have I, in the sacred office which I hold, any fear for the cause of religion from the onward progress of science. A little and superficial knowledge may, as has often been observed, tend to unsettle the mind and leave it a prey to doubt, but a deeper acquaintance with science will ever be found to bring it back again and to bow the soul in adoring wonder before God. We need only point to Newton and Bacon, and among the living, to Heschel and Whewell, to Brewster and Forbes, as examples that the highest attainments in science may be coupled with the reverence and humility of the Christian. A more beautiful prayer we cannot have than the Student's Prayer of Lord Bacon, very suitably quoted before students by one already referred to.* "To God the Father, God the Word, and God the Spirit, we pour forth our most humble and hearty supplications, that He, remembering the calamities of mankind, and the pilgrimage of this our life in which we wear out our days, few and evil, would please to open to us new refreshments out of the fountains of His goodness for the alleviating of our miseries. This also we humbly beg, that human things may not prejudice such as are divine; neither that, from the unlocking of the gates of sense, and the kindling of a greater natural light, anything of incredulity or intellectual night may arise in our minds towards Divine mysteries. But rather that by our mind, thoroughly cleansed and purged from fancy and vanities, as I yet subject and perfectly given up to the Divine Oracles, there may be given unto faith the things that are faith's. Amen." Thus would man's highest wisdom echo back the confession of the ancient Patriarch, "Lo, these are parts of His ways, but how little a portion is heard of Him"—or the declaration of the great Apostle, "If any

done on the Mackenzie River, and how pleasant is the retrospect of time so spent. Coming at a time when we are so much interested in the subject, Mr. Ross will, I hope, pardon me for venturing to give an extract from a private letter.

Mr. Ross says:—"As the time approaches for leaving this district, I feel rather sorry for my departure from a place where I have spent so many happy years, but I feel that my life has not been passed away uselessly even here. I have contributed in some small degree towards opening up the Natural History and Ethnology of these wild regions, by collection of specimens and by papers published in Scientific Journals. My diploma as member of the Natural History Society of Montreal, I pride above all things, as it evinces that I have not allowed my intellect or amusements to descend to the level of Arctic life in general.

"The Fauna of this district is far larger than any would suppose from its position: the Mammalia comprise about fifty species, all of which are of course residents: the Aves nearly two hundred, of which not above forty remain during the winter. Several rare and a few new species have been discovered."

May such a spirit be found in every post.

* Professor J. D. Forbes.

man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."*

In this spirit and with these feelings we launch our little scheme, with more than a trembling hope, with something even of a confidence of success. In the history of the past, adventure and enterprise have generally characterised our land; they are indeed essentially necessary, where the severities of climate interpose so many checks, and where all must for the most part depend on individual exertion. In the northern extremities of the continent, perils of no common kind have been encountered, and the boldest fortitude exhibited, in pursuit of one grand object of search; and in the annals of fame the names of Parry, Franklin and Ross occupy a deathless place. It may be, that as years roll on, and as our country grows in population and wealth and importance, some mead of praise may be accorded to those raised up to gain other triumphs, to increase the social happiness of the community, to add to its stores of intellectual knowledge, and to develop the natural resources of this vast and wide-spread territory.

Our mite towards such a consummation we gladly contribute to-day.

The following officers were then elected:

President.—The Right Reverend Lord Bishop of Rupert's Land.

Vice-Presidents.—Ven. Archdeacon Cochrane, Portage la Prairie; Ven. Archdeacon Hunter, M.A.; Rev. John Black; James Ross, Esq., M.A., Sheriff of Assiniboia.

Council.—Curtis J. Bird, Esq., M.R.C.S., Eng.; Francis Bruneau, Esq., Member of Council of Assiniboia; Thomas Bunn, Esq., Mapleton; Wm. Coldwell, Esq., Editor of the *Nor-Wester*; Rev. A. Cowley, St. Clement's; W. G. Fonseca, Esq., Point Douglas; Donald Gunn, Esq., Cor. Smithsonian Institution; John Harriott, Esq., Chief Factor, Mem. Council of Assiniboia; Hector Mackenzie, Esq., late Arctic Expedition; T. Sinclair, Esq., Mem. Council of Assiniboia; Rev. W. H. Taylor, St. James'; John Inkster, Esq., Member Council of Assiniboia.

Treasurer.—Andrew McDermott, Esq.

Librarian.—W. R. Smith, Esq., Clerk Council of Assiniboia.

Curators.—A. G. B. Bannatyne, Esq., late H. B. Company; Joseph Hargrave, Esq., C.E.; E. L. Barber, Esq., Point Douglas; F. L. Hunt, Esq., White Horse Plains.

Secretaries.—Wm. McTavish, Esq., F. B. S. C., Chief Factor, Governor of Assiniboia; J. Schültz, M.D., F.B.S.C., Fellow Medico Physical Society.

His Lordship, the President, then gave notice of the following Papers for next evening:—

On the grammatical construction of the Cree language, by Ven. Archdeacon Hunter, M. A.

* We add the following apposite quotation, which has since met our eye as a proof that scientific pursuit is compatible with the highest missionary zeal. "Missionaries ought to be the pioneers, and promoters of science, hand in hand with the Gospel throughout the world. In fact they have been so. And we believe it will be found on close inquiry, that the most efficient labourers in the purely spiritual field, have been on the whole, or on the average of numbers, those who also have done most to shed a brilliant lustre upon the Missionary character and name, in the fields of natural and scientific inquiries, and studies." Review of 'The Chinese classics by Dr. Legge. Evangelical Christendom, Jan. 7th, 1862.'