

I must, also, congratulate the Society on the very prosperous state in which it is at the present time. From the very beginning of the present session, the attendance at the ordinary meetings has been larger than it has probably ever been in former years; and there is now no reason to believe that the attendance will at all decrease. The interest also taken by the members in the proceedings of the Society has largely increased. Another thing indicating the prosperity of the Society, and on which it is to be congratulated, is, the present satisfactory condition of its Constitution. In the year 1869 the Constitution was printed, so that all the members of the Society might be thoroughly acquainted with the laws by which its proceedings should be regulated. From time to time certain members heartily interested in the welfare of the Society saw defects in that Constitution; and others saw places in it where they thought there was room for improvement. A few others again—not reform, but conservative in their principles—could see neither defect nor room for improvement in the good old Constitution. The reformers brought forward their measures and the conservatives opposed. The consequence was, that, after several hard and yet no doubt profitable struggles, several important amendments to the Constitution were, from time to time, successfully made. One important measure, for example, was, the insertion of an article providing for voluntary Readings and open Debates once every month. Any member may now speak and read before the Society as often as he may desire. Another improvement is the appointment of a permanent critic, whose duty it is to criticise the elocution of the readings and speeches at the ordinary meetings of the Society. Such were the improvements made, that, at the beginning of the present session, it was found absolutely necessary to have the

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