

in addition to this, our museum, when properly arranged, and so far increased as to render it one of general interest, is also thrown open, we shall have effected an arrangement which will make the Institute essentially a *Provincial Institution*, and establish for it the strongest possible claims for the sympathy and support of every Canadian.

I may be thought, perhaps, by some, rather to overrate the importance of this matter, but we should recollect that Upper Canada at all events does not boast of a single *public* library, in the strict sense of the term, or of any thing that can be called a Provincial Museum. True it is that the universities of University and Trinity Colleges possess valuable libraries; and University College being a provincial institution, and having ample funds at its command, its library and museum will no doubt continue to receive important additions every year, which must ultimately render them very complete and valuable collections.

But, although these institutions are most liberal in affording every facility to strangers who may be desirous of visiting either their libraries or their museums, the practical benefits to be derived from either the one or the other must necessarily be almost entirely confined to those more immediately connected with the Universities themselves.

Under these circumstances, therefore, it cannot but be a matter of rejoicing, to all who are interested in the intellectual progress of the people of this country, that a most favorable opportunity is now afforded to us of supplying a great public want, and more especially have we, as Members of the Institute, reason to congratulate ourselves that this is likely to be effected through the instrumentality of this Society.

That the Institute, from its very nature and constitution, uniting as it does all parties in its pale, is peculiarly fitted for being the medium for carrying out this undertaking, cannot, I think, admit of question. For it is undoubtedly one of the unfortunate results consequent upon the divided state of public opinion on educational questions in this country, that our efforts in the cause of knowledge have in many cases been rendered less effective by the different views entertained as to the best mode of imparting it; and the means and energies of those most anxious for its advancement, which, if united, would produce the most splendid results, are by their division weakened and impaired.

Much as this is to be lamented, it was perhaps impossible that it could have been otherwise, and I only allude to this subject now, for the purpose of bringing more forcibly before you the immense advantages which the Institute possesses in presenting, as it does, a com-