

stand, to a great extent, isolated in relation to each other, and look mainly for the appreciation of their labors to their scientific brethren in Europe. If Mr. Logan meets with copper or coal in the course of his geological survey, he communicates it to Canada, and all her journals give welcome circulation to the fact; but if his palæontological researches among our Canadian strata disclose novel truths in relation to the structure of the *Graptolite*, he goes to Paris or to London with the discovery, and communicates it to his scientific brethren—as Mr. Dawson originally published his Acadian geological observations,—through the medium of English Societies' Transactions. Thus the science of Canada has, as yet, no recognised or independent existence, and its students, if they would place themselves in *rapport* with those of other lands, can only do so by a sacrifice analogous to the naturalization by which a foreign emigrant attains to the privileges of American citizenship.

Subjects requiring such a medium of communication cannot be profitably treated of in a popular form. An enquiry into the action of the solar rays on nitrate of silver would doubtless appear sufficiently “caviare to the general,” and yet its direct daguerrean photographic results are among the most popular of modern technological processes. The world hails with grateful plaudits the completion of an electric telegraph, forgetful of the indifference and incredulity awarded to such preliminary labours as those of Galvani, of which it is the product. If, therefore, we are to acquire such honors and rewards for ourselves, we must be contented to pursue the process through all its preliminary stages; and if we would have an economic and utilitarian science, the first step must be to afford facilities and encouragement for those who devote themselves to science, not for such utilitarian results, but for its own sake, for its abstract truths, and without a thought of the economic rewards to which they lead.

For such students of science, few as they must of necessity be in a new country like Canada, a medium of communication is required, to furnish a means of intercourse among themselves, as well as of interchange of thought and discovery with the scientific world at large. Such a medium this Journal is designed to afford. It is impossible to speak too modestly of its immediate operations. Science cannot be called into being by a wave of the editorial goose-quill, nor will a provincial literature rise up to meet the first demands consequent on the discovery of its absence. Yet here, perhaps, we may not unfitly apply the trite proverb: “*c'est le premier pas qui coûte.*” In some of these first steps we must claim the forbearance of the