

punctually attend; or whether it should be retained as it is, in confident reliance upon an increased vitality of the Society through a more lively interest and earnestness in each individual member from henceforward, are alternatives worthy of our consideration. For my own part I am disposed to prefer the latter. If through apathy and indifference we should permit our Society to fail, it would, I am sure, be a cause of enduring regret, if not of self-reproach, to each of us. In the times in which we live, under what other auspices could we meet with equal unity and good understanding, for the free interchange of thought, opinions, and speculations, on subjects of interest, possibly, in the course of events, of great interest, both to ourselves and to others.

Of the Papers read before the Society during the year, the first in order was that entitled the "Chivalry of the middle ages," by Mr. Roberts. It will be remembered as a lucid and graphic epitome of the history of an institution surrounded with romantic interest, the influence of which on society and manners has no doubt descended to the present time. The chivalric era was that which marked the gradual but slow transition of European society from a semi-barbaric and exceedingly unsettled condition, to that of a more refined civilization, settled government, and general regard to the principles of virtue, truth and justice, amongst all classes. During such a transition the social atmosphere could not be otherwise than frequently blackened and rent by those stormy elements which entered into the process of purification. The most energetic and prevailing of those elements was, no doubt, under Providence, the spirit of chivalry. I apprehend that the general views and deductions of Mr. Roberts are in close accordance with those of accredited historians. My limited acquaintance with the subject does not qualify me to add any thing to what he has said so well; and I accept with deference the pleasure and instruction derived from the pains and research embodied in this paper.

In the succeeding month (April) a Paper on the subject of "Chess," was read by the Rev. Mr. Spurden. I should have