

at least to amalgamate with some new Society which might undertake to connect the science and learning of the whole Dominion in some common bond ; but to this there exist such serious obstacles, that to hope to overcome them requires more enthusiasm than many of us possess, and after all the field would be too wide for a single moderate sized publication to do justice to all its parts, and the difficulty of agreeing about a common centre of management, the distance of the parts and (for the present) the difficulty of communication, would interfere with the success of the experiment. Giving up as hopeless, and attended with certain serious evils this wider plan, it seems evident enough that we must not pretend to provide for any wants of the Province of Quebec, but must withdraw within the bounds of Ontario. Is it possible for us to extend our useful influences within these bounds, or does prudence counsel taking the opportunity of confining ourselves to providing for the wants of this city, and its immediate neighbourhood ? It seems to me that we have no right to confine ourselves within narrower limits than the Province of Ontario. So far as we are a publishing Society, the whole Province has an interest in knowing what we do, and studious men in all parts of it, have a claim on our pages, as being their proper access to the public for communications of a certain class, whilst it is obviously our object to make the journal express the highest thought and most original and important inquiry, carried on within our bounds, so far as their results can take a form suitable to our plans. The Province of Quebec has its own scientific journal, with which we cannot interfere ; but we should be sorry to see our own immediate citizens driven beyond our bounds to find means of making known their discoveries and opinions, and whilst the Province of Ontario ought to furnish abundance and variety of material—it may be safely affirmed that for a considerable time to come, the multiplication of periodical publications, devoted to science and the more abstruse forms of literature, could only occasion pecuniary loss and the disappointment of all concerned. It may still be said that we have never obtained a large number of country members, and that it is natural that towns which are now rapidly rising in magnitude and importance, should provide intellectual resources for themselves, and have societies of their own. I answer it is desirable that they should, and they have our hearty wishes for their success ; but since in union is strength, and since the attempt at separate publication could at present only result in evil, why should not all local literary and scientific societies, whether