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NEW-WORLD BEGINNINGS.*

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WE meet to-day to organize a fellowship for the study and encouragement of Science and Letters in our young Dominion; and I find the duty imposed on myself of delivering an opening address for this section of our newly constituted Canadian Royal Society, to which are apportioned the departments of English Literature, History, and Archæology. I should have preferred to deal with a less comprehensive range of subjects; and would indeed have been better pleased if our Canadian Society had approached, in this respect, more nearly to the practice of the parent Royal Society by omitting English Literature altogether from the objects of its fostering encouragement. But as neither Archæology nor History finds a place in the pro-

ceedings of the Royal Society; and Canada is hardly yet prepared to emulate older countries in the multiplication of its Academies and Institutes of Science and Letters: I accept the duty assigned to me; only regretting the absence of the distinguished scholar whose name is associated with my own as one of the presidents of this section, and who is so much better fitted to be the representative of History and of English Literature on such an occasion.†

The multifarious objects assigned to the section render it all the more difficult to select a theme for this occasion without seeming to give undue prominence to one or other of its distinct branches; but, looking on the organization of this Society as a new step in the development of our young country, it may not prove unsuitable if I revert to some archæ-

* The inaugural address of the Section of English Literature, History, and Archæology of the Royal Society of Canada.

† Professor Goldwin Smith D.C.L.