

DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

(AN INAUGURAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. H. B. SMALL, PRESIDENT OF THE OTTAWA SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SOCIETY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1889.)

The above was the subject of a comprehensive paper showing the rapid strides development and progress have made in science and literature during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

After reviewing various matters in connection therewith, the lecturer based the existence of everything that caused development on the use of the solar power either directly or indirectly, and the existence of this he traced through the various channels conveying it.

The following extracts afford to our readers the main portions of the lecture :

Applied science is built upon the long and unrequited labor of students. The steamship, the railway, the telegraph, the telephone and nearly every invention of the age, are due to the patient observation and collection of facts which at one time appeared to have no practical bearing. It is perhaps difficult to get even a misty glimpse of the practical utility of some investigations, such as those in archæology and philology, but the fascinating interest of some of the conclusions arrived at, or to be reached, have at least a value in developing the human mind which money cannot measure. We are apparently on the eve of startling discoveries in astronomy which it is easily conceivable may have a bearing on material affairs. This is true in a far greater measure of meteorology, geology and chemistry, in all of which the data accumulated are great, and the problems awaiting solution are of an intensely practical nature. Physiology and its kindred sciences have not only in recent years added to the fairy tales of science, but have opened new fields of great promise and consequence. Intensely interesting, and suggestive of great results to the human race, are the recent discoveries in regard to cell-life. The anatomy and physiology of these cells, spores and bacilli have already received sufficient attention to warrant the hope that improved methods of prolonging life and warding off disease may yet be discovered. Great as have been the advances of late years, we are apparently waiting for discoveries and inventions quite as great,