

riched the Cabinet of the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia would form a valuable addition to the museum of the Canadian Institute, and many facilities exist for its attainment. Every year agricultural operations are extending into new districts, and breaking up virgin soil. In the progress of clearing the ancient forests, and bringing the land into cultivation, places of sepulture must frequently be invaded, where the remains of the long-buried chief lie undisturbed, alongside of specimens of the rude arts which furnish proofs of the condition of society to which he belonged. Railway and other operations are in like manner leading to extensive excavations in regions hitherto untouched by the spade or plough; and these also frequently expose to view similar relics of the ancient or more recently displaced aborigines; though it is just cause of regret that they have, hitherto, in so very few cases, been rescued from destruction. When, however, we remember the apathy with which many educated men have witnessed, and even countenanced the destruction of interesting memorials of the past, in the old world, it is scarcely to be hoped that the rude railway navy, or the first agricultural explorers of the wild lands of the North and West, will greatly interest themselves in objects of scientific curiosity; but now that the members of the Canadian Institute are scattered over nearly every district of the Province, it may be hoped they will be found prepared for hearty co-operation in the accumulation of facts, and in the preservation of the material evidences whereby the ancient history of this continent and its people may be elucidated.

In many cases the condition in which the skulls and other remains of the former occupants of our Canadian clearings are found, is such as to present no obstacle to their preservation. It is to be noted, however, that the more ancient such remains are, the greater is the interest and value they are likely to possess. No indications have yet been noticed of a race in Canada corresponding to the Brachycephalic or square-headed mound-builders of the Mississippi, although such an approximation to that type undoubtedly prevails throughout this continent as, to a considerable extent, to bear out the conclusions of Dr. Morton, that a conformity of organisation is obvious in the osteological structure of the whole American population, extending from the southern Fuegians, to the Indians skirting the Arctic Esquimaux. But such an approximation—and it is unquestionably no more—still leaves open many important questions relative to the area and race of the ancient mound-builders. On our northern shores of the great chain of lakes, crania of the more recent brachycephalic type have unquestionably been repeatedly found in comparatively modern native graves. Such however are the exception, and not the rule. The pre-