

vine promises, and stimulating to our earnest and humble endeavours to spread the knowledge of salvation beyond the boundaries of our own nationalities, as the liberality of the Church and the openings of Providence may indicate our obligations and duty." He said:—It is nine years since this Society held its anniversary in Brockville; do not be impatient, therefore, should this meeting be a little longer than an ordinary meeting; bear in mind it only comes once in nine years; there is much work to do to-night, and I am persuaded you will do it well. It may be expected that I may have a few words to say about the Red River, being one of the deputation to that distant part of our work. Time was when a visit to that land, the Red River of the North, meant a long and fatiguing journey. To reach it from Toronto it was necessary first to go to Montreal, to follow the old canoe route of the Hudson Bay Company, by water and portage, to be bitten and tortured by mosquitoes, as our good President was, to reach that land maimed and wounded, and then to be shut out from civilization for years, perhaps for many of them. The journey itself was one which could be undertaken only by those of rugged constitution, those having great powers of endurance, and these would be abundantly called into exercise before he reached the end of his journey. The land itself was a sealed land, apart from the traders of the Hudson Bay Company; none but some hardy adventurer undertook that journey, and he, when he ventured, became as much an object of wonder as he would have been had he been an Arctic explorer; and should he furnish a paper on that country less important than it is in the power of the members of this deputation to furnish, he was as certain as he was a living man to be made a member of the *Royal Geographical Society*. All this is now changed. We came back not to find that we are objects of wonder—not to be feted or made members of the Senate, for contributions which we have made to the existing knowledge of that country, but to find that we are only ordinary mortals; that we have done only what you may do, and do so quickly that your friends will scarcely no-

tice your absence. The land is no longer a sealed land; you can now reach it by lake and railroad in a few days; and although our visit has been so recent, yet since then railroad communication has been extended within seventy miles of Fort Garry; so that now even an invalid can go there and not only be none the worse, but much the better for the journey. Sir George Simpson, in a work which he published of a "Voyage Round the World," spoke of that district as amazingly fertile, very salubrious, and large enough to receive the millions from the overcrowded cities of the old world. When examined before a select committee of the British House of Commons, he withdrew any statement of the kind, and represented it as unfit for settlement, and the climate so uncertain as to render the growing of grain very precarious. The Hudson Bay Company, I have no doubt discovered, ere this, that their interest lies in diffusing information about the country, not withholding it, and that in proportion as the land is opened up will their own interests be promoted. Well, I will not detain you with the journey down the river, beautiful as it is, of the tortuous windings of the river, so many, that a distance of 250 miles by land is extended to about 700 miles by river, where all the bends in the river are so alike that you cannot tell one from the other, and all so beautiful, that despite the unvarying sameness you can look at them day after day without tiring, and feel that

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever."

Nor am I going to speak to you about the boundless prairie, stretching away for a thousand miles, and I cannot tell how much further—and fertile as boundless. Nor am I going to speak of the climate, charming as that was when I was there, and pleasant and healthful as I was told the winters were. Nor am I going to speak of the political opinions which prevail, for I hold that a society like this should have nothing to do with political parties. Their work is to do good to the bodies as well as to the souls of men; without reference to their politics, nationality, or creed. My remarks must have reference only to our work there.