

I feel that I cannot close without acknowledging gratefully the services of the Officers and Executive Committee, as well as of the special Committee upon the amendments to the Constitution, many of whom were not members of our Society, but like the rest willingly gave their aid in perfecting the plan of reorganization.

It is with especial regret that I refer to the approaching severance of the official relations of His Excellency, the Governor-General, with the Dominion of Canada. It is but a little over four years since he assumed the high office of Her Majesty's representative in the northern half of this continent, but so heartily and earnestly have the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen entered into the spirit of their responsibilities, that they may be said to have identified themselves during this brief period with every movement for the religious, moral, educational, and industrial welfare of the Canadian people. By their arduous and continuous labors for the good of others they have established themselves in the hearts of the people on this as on the other side of the Atlantic. In the reorganization of The Ontario Historical Society, His Excellency's name is first on the list of members. He is unable to be with us to-day, but has sent the most cordial wishes for the success of the meeting. I would recommend that proper steps be taken before their departure for presenting an address expressing this Society's appreciation of their Excellencies' services to Canada, and regret at their severance of official relations with its people.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is also unable to be present, but like the Governor-General has sent a message of warm interest in the Society's work. Sir Oliver Mowat's name is a household word in every home in Canada, and especially in Ontario. After occupying the position of head of the Government for a longer period than any other Premier in the British Empire has done, he crowns a distinguished career of great public usefulness with the highest dignity to which in Ontario a subject can attain. Long may he continue to represent his Sovereign as Governor of the most important Province of the Empire.

We are indebted to the chiefs, warriors, and women of the Six Nations for the invitation to hold the present meeting at Ohsweken, and for the generous hospitality with which they have received us. I am sure that they have added most pleasurable and grateful recollections to our memory of the annual meeting of 1898, and that their delegates will always be welcome at future meetings of the Society.