

# SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

## Niagara Historical Society.

Address of the President, read Oct. 13th, 1897.

We have assembled this evening to hold our annual meeting, on the glorious anniversary of the battle of Queenston Heights, and feel that we may fairly congratulate ourselves on the year's work. In the report of last year, a plan was laid down of what we hoped to do, and if we have not accomplished all of our self-appointed tasks, we rejoice that in most of them we have succeeded. Our application to the County of Lincoln for a grant for printing expenses was successful, as was also that to the Ontario Government. A step has been gained, too, as regards the monument to commemorate the landing of the United Empire Loyalists on our shores over a century ago, as a grant has been given by the Provincial Historical Association, as a nucleus.

During the winter, two very successful open meetings were held, and valuable papers were read by Major Cruikshank and Hon. J. G. Currie. On the 24th of May, an Historical Pilgrimage party, under the charge of Mr. Frank Yeigh, visited the points of interest here, among them our room, showing much interest in the collection. On the 2d of June, the Provincial Association met here; with them a deputation of Indians from the Indian Reserve near Brantford, some of whose names are recorded in our Visitors' book, and we feel that these meetings have given quite an impetus to our Society. At the annual meeting, addresses were given by our Patron, Mr. Kirby; Mr. Coyne, the President of the Provincial Association; Mr. Boyle, the Provincial Archæologist; Mr. Brant-Sero, of Hamilton; and Mr. McKenzie read part of a fine drama on the capture of Fort Niagara by Sir Wm. Johnson. The graves of some of those who fell in battle on the 27th of May, 1813, were again decorated with flowers.

Since November, the Historical Room has been open to the public for two hours every Saturday, and over three hundred visitors have recorded their names, many from distant cities, as Chicago, Ottawa, Winnipeg, New York, and one even from Wellington, New Zealand. It is found that this has been of great benefit to the Society, affording an opportunity for the sale of our pamphlets, and has led to numerous contributions and increased interest. There are now over six hundred articles; our collection has been enriched through the kindness of Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, several interesting articles having been loaned from the museum, Toronto. Special thanks are also due to Mr. David Boyle, Archæologist, for the interest taken, and advice and assistance given. We must still mention with gratitude the names of Mr. C. F. Ball, Mr. Alf. Ball, Mr. Alex. Servos, Miss Green, Miss Crouch, Mrs. Secord and many others as contributors, our collection being peculiarly rich in pictures of the neighborhood, and papers and books printed in the town.

You have heard, no doubt, with gratification, the satisfactory reports of our Secretary, Treasurer and Curator, who have so faithfully and earnestly helped on the good work.

Our second pamphlet has been printed and sent out; while a third, by Major Cruikshank, will soon be in the hands of the public. An historical article has appeared each week in the NIAGARA TIMES, and we desire to thank Pickwell Bros. for space given to reports of meetings, etc. Our next attempt must be to publish a catalogue of the contents of our Historical room, and to do all in our power for the carrying out of the idea of the monument in commemoration of the landing of the U. E. Loyalists on our shores.