

be dated the rapid progress in the numbers of the Society, which have since that year increased from 112 to 420.

The Journal established, the number of its members steadily increasing, and the weekly meetings during the session fully attended: the Society has continued to progress without any very marked or interesting occurrence until the past year, during which two events have taken place, both of much importance, and both likely to exercise considerable influence upon the future prospects of the Institute. I allude to the completion of the union with the Toronto Athenæum, and the commencement of the new building destined to become the future permanent home of the amalgamated body. The union with the Athenæum cannot fail to be productive of the most beneficial results, by securing the combined support of so many persons interested in the pursuits of literature and science, instead of that support being divided, as heretofore, between two bodies, both having kindred objects in view.

Nor need we fear that by this arrangement we have narrowed the field of usefulness, or circumscribed the bounds within which all may find full employment who are able and willing to make their talents or acquirements subservient to the advancement of knowledge in any of its departments.

The Institute has been well described as "an attempt to unite under one roof, and in one organization, a full representation of the active mind of the community." And there is surely ample scope afforded by the wide range of subjects embraced within the sphere of the Society's objects, for "*the active mind*" to find full employment. Whether its "*representation*" be "*full*" and complete, must ever depend upon the readiness of each individual member to communicate the results of his observations or researches, in that department of literature or science which he may have made the object of his more special study or pursuit.

But through our union with the Athenæum we have also gained a most valuable addition to our library and museum, and if the condition attached to this acquisition be faithfully carried out, the beneficial effects of the arrangement upon the future welfare and prosperity of the Institute can hardly be overrated.

It is stated in the report which was laid before you the other evening, "that 850 volumes, including the transactions of the leading scientific and literary societies of Great Britain, as well as other works of a strictly literary and scientific character," have been added to our library. By the terms of our amalgamation, the joint library is to be thrown open to the public, under certain restrictions; and if