THE CANADIAN JOURNAL.

NEW SERIES.

No. XCIV. - APRIL, 1877.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

BY JAMES LOUDON, MA,

Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, University College, Toronto

READ JANUARY 27TH, 1877.

In accepting the honour you have done me in electing me to preside over the meetings of the Canadian Institute, I have thought it would be in keeping with the present occasion that I should devote my remarks to some question which would serve to indicate the objects of our Association. For this purpose, the subject of the Advancement of Science, although perhaps the most difficult, seemed to me the most appropriate. I have accordingly endeavoured, though in a crude and imperfect manner, to treat this comprehensive question from such points of view as were calculated to indicate to us our true position with regard to Science.

It is a prominent feature of our modern civilization, and one indicative of its very advanced stage, that increasing efforts are being made to extend the boundaries of Science in every direction. Unsatisfied by the present range of knowledge, the human mind still strives after universal empire, and in divers ways we still see manifested that restless spirit which prompts men to new ventures, and revives the recollection of the mythical stories of the heroic age. With regard to Science, it is in many respects the beginning of a golden age, wherein the glory of advancing knowledge shall not only be the fond