

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.



MR. PRESIDENT.—Now that we are again assembled, after a recess of about six months duration, the first point to be observed is,—to congratulate each other, on our being in good health and spirits; and that we are again enabled to join in the business of the Literary Association of Three Rivers, now met, for the purpose of entering upon its second winter of literary labours. And who among us does not feel, that the bracing cold of a Canadian winter is far more favourable to the prosecution of any intellectual pursuit, than the languor and listlessness induced by the stifling heats of our almost tropical summer? In this respect, the season is to our advantage.

My present purpose, however, is to draw your attention to the condition of this Society, in as far as its literary character is concerned, as well as to the general usefulness of literary institutions of a like nature with our own.

And first, from what has already been accomplished, I am led to argue favourably of the literary aspect of the Association. For, certainly, hardly any of us, about two years ago, could have easily supposed, that this secluded town could afford an audience, sufficiently imbued with a taste for literature, so as to pass an evening, once in each week, in attentively listening to Lectures on scientific subjects, as well as to debates on serious topics of history and morals. But, now that the attempt has been made,—now that we have passed through a season of literary exercises, well considered, and attentively listened to, we need be under no apprehension that our efforts