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A wish having been expressed by a few friends, members of the Mechanics' Institute, that the following should appear in the pages of the Magazine, we submit to their judgement and insert it; knowing that papers read before the Institute, have a peculiar interest with the members of that body, and hoping that the article will not be found altogether uninteresting to the general reader.] Ed.

## HISTORY,

*Being a paper read by John S. Thompson, before the Halifax Mechanics' Institute, May 9, 1832.*

I STAND up to address this company with much timidity. It is my first attempt in such matters; and to add to my embarrassment, I have been called on through accident some weeks before the time originally allotted to this subject.

In coming forward I perform a duty, to which I did not volunteer; and altho' conscious that the matter and style of this paper will ill entitle it to the name of Lecture, I rest confidently on the indulgence of my hearers. An indulgence which I have found extended hitherto to others, and which I greatly stand in need of.

My Subject is a wide one, and I scarcely knew how to treat it; my previous reading was deficient, and Near my paper will be found too rambling and superficial. I might have re-cast it, had time allowed; but under present circumstances this was impossible. Again soliciting indulgence, I submit it with all its defects to my fellow members.

**HISTORY**, in the widest and most general signification of the term, is a methodical account of the principal transactions of the human race; of the divisions and subdivisions, and various revolutions of that race, from the earliest time to the present. It commences with Man, when the garden of Paradise contained the entire of the human inhabitants of our globe; traces his progress to the period when the flood cleansed the earth of a guilty generation; marks the origin of various Tribes from the sons of Noah, their growth into states, Kingdoms and Empires, and their very devious progress down the great and tumultuous stream of time.