

an apparent unwillingness on their part to admit that such documents existed; the Council have reason, however, to hope that these difficulties may now be so far surmounted as to enable their successors to ascertain, whether the French Archives really contain anything relating to the early history of the Colony which would justify the Society in undertaking the publication of it; and for this purpose the Council have commenced correspondence with the gentleman from whom the proposal comes, in order to get fuller information as to the exact nature of the papers, to which his communication refers, and the probable expence of procuring in the first instance an analysis of them; should they be found of sufficient value to be published, the Society might reasonably hope that the Legislature would be again induced to grant an aid to so interesting a design.

In taking a general review of the proceedings of the Society during the past year, and of its present condition, although that condition is not so prosperous as in some former years of its existence, the Council nevertheless see no cause to despond for the future: they believe that the History of almost every similar Institution will be found to be marked with fluctuations of alternate activity and langour; indications that appear to threaten at one moment, approaching extinction have frequently been soon followed by a revival of energy and exertion;—And the Council have every hope that it will be so with this Institution. The adverse circumstances which have of late pressed on almost every class of the community in Quebec, furnish a ready and reasonable explanation of any discouraging symptoms in the condition of the Society;—the anxious duties of professional life, the distractions of politics, and the depression of commerce, have all no doubt had their share in diminishing if not the interest and good will, at least the active and availing support and co-operation of members which alone can place the affairs of a Society such as ours in a flourishing condition; but, even amidst discouragement, we have been able to discharge an arrear of debt, we have increased the numbers of our members, and the amount of our revenue, and we have prospects opening to us of further exertion which will extend our usefulness and our reputation.