

PROCEEDINGS.

The annual meeting of this Society was held in their rooms on the evening of May 18th, the President, Principal Dawson, in the chair. A large number of the members were present. Mr. J. F. Whiteaves, the Recording Secretary, read the minutes of the last annual meeting; after which the usual annual address of the President was read, as follows:—

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,—I labor on this occasion under the disadvantage of having had twice in succession to prepare the annual address of the President; a circumstance which should not ordinarily occur in a society of this character, in which, following the usage of our older sisters, we should endeavor to have a new mind brought to bear on this work in each successive year. I shall however take advantage of this circumstance to deviate somewhat from the course usual with us on such occasions, and, after merely glancing at the scientific work of the Society, to direct your attention to some speculations of my own on subjects now attracting the attention of naturalists.

The scientific papers laid before this Society in its session just concluded, if not quite so numerous as in some previous sessions, are not inferior in point of interest and importance. In geology, Sir William Logan has continued in our journal the discussion of the age and distribution of the Quebec Group of Rocks. Dr. Hunt has given further and important facts in chemical geology. Professor Bell has illustrated certain portions of the superficial deposits, and has described one of our most important quarries of roofing-slate. Mr. McFarlane has contributed an elaborate discussion of the interior condition of our planet and of the mode of formation of Metamorphic and Igneous Rocks. Professor Bailey has elucidated an obscure portion of the Geology of New Brunswick, indirectly of much interest to Canadian geologists. Mr. Billings has contributed a paper on a disputed genus of Bra-