

reached the place of meeting, have sometimes found that others, not so eager in "the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties," had preferred the comfort of their own firesides to what I acknowledge to be, not unfrequently, a rather fatiguing walk in a wintry night: and so it happened that, for want of, perhaps, a single individual to constitute a meeting, all the rest, who had endured the toil of coming up, were obliged to return home, unrefreshed by that mental repast, which, otherwise, they might have enjoyed. I am pleased to think, however, that, during the past year, we have never, in a single instance, when a meeting was called, come short of the number necessary for the transaction of business. I trust this is an indication of a deeper interest being felt in our Society by the members generally; and of a higher appreciation of the benefits to be derived from those literary and scientific papers that are here brought under our notice.

The subjects that have engaged our attention, during the past year, if not so varied, have certainly been not less important than on any former occasion. A most appropriate commencement was made by Dr. Robb in the month of March, by a paper on the Progress of Agriculture; and the same was continued, at our subsequent meeting, in April. A portion, if not the whole, of this most important Dissertation, (as it may well be called,) to which we had the privilege of first listening in this place, has, in a printed form, been, for a considerable time, in the hands of all the members of this Society, as well as of many others throughout the Province; and it has been appreciated by all who have seen it, as a very valuable contribution to the practical farmer; and, being prepared with a view to the circumstances of this country, it is especially useful to the Agriculturist of New Brunswick.

In this Essay, (for I shall consider the two parts as constituting one whole,) our able Secretary, following his usual practice of going to the foundation of every thing that he examines, has literally carried out the French maxim, which bids us "commencer au commencement." In pursuance of this plan, Dr. Robb gave us a rapid sketch of the primitive state of