

from the last resting places of Indian braves, nor is it the knowledge of where the largest number of specimens may be found. To do and to know these things is little more than stepping upon the verge of the study, and to prosecute work of this kind it is only necessary to possess a mania for bric-a-brac, some persistence, and a little money.

Persons who so conduct the work are collectors, and collectors only, and it is extremely doubtful whether their services are always of unmixed good. In so far as they further the preservation of specimens which otherwise might be lost, they answer a useful purpose, but when these people (forgetful of "ne sutor ultra crepidam,") undertake to ransack, to spoliata, to desecrate the graves of the Indians, for the purpose of satisfying a craving for curiosities, then their labors are not to be commended.

It is true that archæology includes the collection of illustrative specimens—without these the study would be somewhat devoid of interest, and the Canadian Institute aims at the formation of as large and as choice a collection as it is possible to make.

But archæology can only be said to possess any genuine public interest in so far as it is a handmaid to its elder sister, history, and it is the purpose of the Institute so to prosecute its researches in this line that its records and specimens may be mutually instructive.

If we take the whole Dominion as a field, the magnitude of the undertaking is too great either for our Society or for any similar organization to entertain for a single moment, and when it is clearly understood how much is involved in the prosecution of the task, it may be doubted whether even our own Province is not more than we can hope to work to the best advantage. I have no hesitation in saying, for my own part, that I think it is, and as it is not improbable that every other member of the Institute is of the same opinion, the question naturally arises, Why, then, undertake so much? The reply is twofold, but brief: First, because hitherto absolutely nothing has been done methodically or scientifically; and second, because the opportunities for doing anything are rapidly passing away, thousands having already gone for ever.

As I have already stated, it is not enough that we collect specimens. It is required in the first place that we make as full and complete a record as possible of every spot in the Province that gives or has given any indication of having been in any way identified with the life-history of our aborigines, and that with these should be collated