

portrait executed by Mr. Harris may, as you anticipate, do its part in affording stimulus and encouragement to future votaries of science who may pursue their studies under the auspices of this society. In entering, thirty-four years ago, on the educational work in this city, which has been the main business of my life, I reckoned on this society and on the Geological survey, then under my friend Sir William Logan, as guarantees for the elevation of the study of natural science in this country and in connection with our university. In this I have not been disappointed; and if, as you kindly say, I have been ready to further the aims of the society, I have only done what gratitude prompted, as well as the feeling that the popularization of science and the promotion of original work for which this society is constituted, must furnish the most potent aids to scientific education, as well as the best encouragement to those younger workers in natural science whose interests have always been near my heart. For myself, I have felt that the place given to me has been that of an humble student in the school of nature, and an expositor to others of what I have been able to learn respecting the works of the All-Wise, of whose mighty power only a faint whisper can be heard by us in this lower sphere. This society, the earliest established in Canada for the study of natural science, can take credit to itself for the first suggestion of our now great geological survey; for the first invitation to meet on Canadian soil, extended to the great scientific associations of America and of Great Britain; for a long and invaluable series of scientific memoirs published in its proceedings, which now constitute the most complete repertory of the progress of natural science in Canada, and for the aid and encouragement which it has afforded to many of our ablest workers in scientific education and original research. During the time in which I have had the privilege of being a member of this society, it has passed through some perilous crises, but its course has on the whole been onward; and as some of its old and tried friends have passed away, others have arisen in their room. It is now in a better and more secure position than ever be-