

roduced at weekly meetings held in Toronto during the winter session; and fourthly.—The publication of a monthly journal, which has now been in successful operation for more than three years, and forms not only a report of the proceedings of the Institute and of other scientific bodies in the Province, but is designed to embody a record of the intellectual and economic progress of Canada, as well as to furnish an abstract of scientific proceedings throughout the world. In accomplishing these objects, the Institute has gratefully to acknowledge the liberal encouragement of the Governor, by means of an annual grant of money and free accommodation furnished in the Government House. The withdrawal of the latter, consequent on the transference of the Seat of Government to Toronto, added to the requisite increase of space rendered indispensable for completing the scheme of establishing a Provincial Scientific Library and Museum, have mainly contributed to force upon us the necessity of providing adequate and becoming accommodation in a building of our own. In furtherance of this, we have to acknowledge the gratifying recognition of the public benefits already resulting from the Institute in the important aid extended to us by the Provincial Government for this special object, in addition to the liberality of many of our own members; and especially the valuable gift of this site, presented to the Institute by George W. Allan, Esq., and now to be dedicated with your Excellency's gracious aid to the cause of Canadian science and scholarship. Animated by the assurance of your Excellency's cordial sympathy in such a cause, we hail your presence among us this day as an evidence of your approbation of the objects aimed at in our union as members of this Institute, and of your appreciation in the value of such institutions for promoting the diffusion of knowledge and the advancement of science and sound learning, on which the true glory of this great empire is founded, and by which the future greatness of this Province must be advanced. Permit us, then, to crave of your Excellency on this auspicious occasion, when we are assembled to found a building to be devoted exclusively to the peaceful objects of intellectual emulation, that you will be graciously pleased to commence the work for us by laying the first stone.

REPLY.

If my presence here to-day can benefit the institution to which you belong, I feel that you have a double claim upon me. Indirectly, I have been the means of turning you out of house and home; the least I can do is to help in inaugurating you in your new dwelling. But the intrinsic usefulness of a society such as yours, is the strongest reason why I would do my best to promote its interests. The means which you have adopted for diffusing a taste for science and literature seem well calculated for attaining their end. Your museum, your lectures and your journal, all tend to produce those feelings which are essential to progress in knowledge of all kinds. They encourage the conviction that every fragment of information, and every scrap of knowledge is valuable, without reference to its immediate practical utility. A fact established is so much gained towards the sum total of human knowledge, and no man can say in what train of reasoning that fact may hereafter form a stepping-stone. The stores of your library will serve to supply the refinement of taste and the cultivation of the intellect, which enable one man to impart knowledge to another in its most attractive form—which make the act itself of learning a relaxation and a pleasure. I receive with the utmost satisfaction the assurance of your loyalty to our gracious Queen. As regards myself personally, your address is far too flattering in every way; but I thank you for your welcome to Toronto, and I trust that my readiness to lay the first stone of this building will be likewise a mark of my desire to promote on all occasions the interests of the Canadian Institute.

G. W. Allan, Esq., the Vice-President of the Institute, then handed a document to the President and said—I have much pleasure in presenting you with a deed of this ground, as the site of a building for the Institute. In doing so, permit me to express my great satisfaction at having it in my power in any way to promote an institution in whose welfare I take so deep an interest, having been connected with it from its earliest commencement. Having watched its progress to its present state of prosperity, I look forward with no small degree of pride as a Canadian, to the time when this society shall be entitled to take rank among similar institutions of name and standing. I trust this day's proceedings will give a fresh impetus to the society. When I recollect the very different scene this very site presented not many years ago, when this ground was covered with a dense forest, and now about to be adorned with a building dedicated to Science and Literature, I am cheered at having been in any way instrumental in aiding an institution whose fame, I trust, will extend far beyond the limits of Canada.

The President replied as follows:—

Mr. ALLAN.—The Canadian Institute accepts with grateful acknowledgments your very liberal gift; and I feel that I could scarcely express too strongly the sense entertained by the Council and Members of the Institute for the obligation which you have conferred upon them. They are well aware of the pecuniary value of the donation, for they

are not ignorant of the large price which in this prosperous city can be readily obtained for land less eligibly situated. And I need not tell you how materially the value has been enhanced by the grant coming so opportunely, at the moment when the patronage of the Legislature has enabled the Institute to proceed in the erection of a building, and when they only wanted a proper site on which to place it. This they now possess, through your kindness. And the Canadian Institute, and its friends, will seldom look upon the handsome and commodious structure by which they intend this ground shall be adorned, without recalling how much they are indebted for it to your respect for science and to your known disposition to co-operate heartily and generously in every measure by which the character of your countrymen may be elevated and their rational enjoyment promoted.

The Rev. Mr. Grasett then offered up the following very appropriate and impressive Prayer:—

O Almighty God, Father and Creator of all; thou who by wisdom didst make the heavens and lay out the strong foundations of the earth, we bow before thee and humbly offer up our prayers and supplications for a blessing on our present undertaking.

In all our works we depend on thy protection and power. Enable us to begin, continue and end them all in thee; for, O Lord, there is no wisdom like thy wisdom, no power like thy power, and therefore no dependence secure from disappointment, but that of making thee our trust.

Make us always mindful that in the important purposes for which we are here associated, we have constant need of that illumination to guide us, which cometh down from above. And do thou so bless our endeavours that those who shall here pursue the study of thy laws and of thy works, may be impressed with a due sense of the motives from which they should act, and the ends which they ought to seek in the whole course of their life. Thus may they pass their days and pursue their investigations with comfort and satisfaction to themselves, and, through thy mercy in Christ Jesus, enter into thy eternal rest when the hour of their departure shall arrive.

We pray thee to sanctify the pursuits of this Institute and of every kindred Society, and cause them to redound to thy glory and to the good of mankind. O let not infidelity be suffered to extend its deadly influence among men. And do thou not only preserve the profession of Christianity in the world, but pour forth the Grace of thy Holy Spirit on all who believe in its truth, that they may shew forth a greater zeal in its cause and adorn it by a more holy example.

Grant that the days of peace may return, and with them abundance of grace. Let the light of thy Holy Word and the blessings of civilization resulting therefrom spread abroad in all lands. O hasten on and delay not the day, when all, from the least to the greatest, shall have a true knowledge of thee and of thy ways—when men shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor learn war any more. But if it be not yet thy will to put an end to the distress of nations, we earnestly pray thee to shew mercy to afflicted individuals, by making the sufferings which they have to endure in this life the means of their looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Make us all sensible of what we owe to thee, for our quietness at home; for the uninterrupted administration of the means of grace; and for the blessings of civil and religious liberty which we so abundantly enjoy. Give us grace to make such a diligent use of these blessings, as to be daily improving in faith, holiness, charity, and all other christian virtues; that whatever be the events which, in thy righteous providence, thou mayest permit to take place in the world, or however they may affect us in our temporal circumstances, our souls may hereafter be received into thy heavenly kingdom.

These mercies we ask in the name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; through whose mediation we hope for them, and to whom, with thyself, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The stone having been adjusted, the President then addressed His Excellency as follows:—

Though the Society, whose home is to be on this spot through many years, as we hope, of increasing usefulness, is but of recent origin, its members form already a numerous body, and are widely dispersed over the Province. It will give great pleasure to those of them who are absent, to learn, as it has to those who on this occasion are present to witness, the auspicious commencement of our projected building, and they will be grateful to your Excellency for the part which you have condescended to take in this proceeding. The efforts of the Canadian Institute to accomplish the objects for which it was organized, must for a time be feeble; and in speaking of the benefits which we trust it may be the means of conferring, it becomes us to express our hopes rather than our convictions. Yet the country which is to be the field of its operations, is said by your Excellency to be one of great promise; and, if it shall please the same good Providence, which has given to us in such abundant measure the elements of material progress, to bless us with the continuance of peace, and to maintain among our