

zette de Québec, par autorité, avec M. W. Kemble. Si l'on en croit l'Hon. M. Sheppard, il aurait suggéré à Lord Dalhousie de fonder à Québec notre institution sur le même genre que la *Société Littéraire et Historique de New-York*, dont il avait été membre.*

Quoiqu'il en soit, de 1824 à 1846, il fut un des membres les plus zélés de notre société, remplissant souvent la charge de secrétaire, celle de président du comité de littérature, et en 1846, celle de président actif. Il mourut en 1849.

Tels sont les savants qui ont dirigé le mouvement scientifique et littéraire de 1825 à 1850, et dont les travaux se trouvent dans les trois premiers volumes des *Transactions*. Nous devons ajouter que le 2e volume contient un essai français de M. Joseph Perrault, intitulé : "*Plan raisonné d'éducation du Bas-Canada*," et un autre de M. Berthelot, "*Dissertation sur un canon de bronze découvert à l'entrée de la Rivière Jacques-Cartier*."

*Le Professeur Douglass s'exprime ainsi dans une conférence publiée dans le No. 4 des *Transactions* N.S :—

"The origin of our society was explained last year, (1864), by one of the original members, the Hon. W. Sheppard, in an address at a conversazione of the Natural History Society, of Montreal. "Strange to say, he remarks, its formation was "brought about indirectly by a political movement, in this wise : It is no doubt "known to many of you that the late John Neilson was the owner of the *Quebec Gazette*, established in 1764. In virtue of an act of Parliament, it possessed the privilege of publishing all official documents as they occurred. Neilson was a great "politician, and was opposed to Lord Dalhousie in some point of government. This "opposition Lord Dalhousie could not tolerate, and he came to the determination of "establishing a paper which he could control, calling it the *Quebec Gazette*, by "authority ; and he caused Dr. Fisher, co-editor of the *New York Albion*, to come "to take charge of it. Dr. Fisher had been a member of the Literary and Historical "Society of New York. He persuaded Lord Dalhousie to get up a society with "similar title and objects in Quebec. This was done ; Chief Justice Sewell, (a slight "error, as we shall see hereafter), became the first President, and Mr. Green, the "Secretary. The society was in the first instance composed of high officials and "courtiers, and the fee was fixed at a high rate, for some end which can only be "guessed at."

"For the reasons Mr. Sheppard stated, the *Gazette* is silent as to the young association, but the *Mercury* even then commenced to yield it that firm support from which it has never wavered. Though Dr Fisher may have given a name and form to the society, the idea seemed to have originated with Lord Dalhousie himself ; for as A. Stuart, Esq., the President for 1838, states in his obituary notice of the noble founder, &c."