

to record this substantial and gratifying manifestation of approval on the part of the Provincial Government and Parliament of the work we have undertaken. For the initiative in recommending this grant we have to thank the Hon. Dr. Ross, Minister of Education, who has in various ways shown a warm interest in our Society.

THE FUTURE.

Your new Executive will have the task of setting the new Constitution in practical operation. We should advertize the existence of the Society and its objects. The Province should be covered with local historical societies. Individuals should be urged to become life or annual members. The reminiscences of pioneers should be written down and preserved to posterity. Historical records should be collected, arranged and preserved. The available funds should be devoted as far as possible to popularizing our work by the publication and distribution of original historical papers, or by reprinting rare or costly books. Too much must not be expected at once. Progress to be lasting should not be too hasty. But we may reasonably hope that the annual meeting for 1899 will be able to show "something accomplished, something done."

It has been deemed expedient to wait for the amendments to the Constitution before expending the Government grant.

A systematic plan will have to be framed by the Executive, and certain important questions of principle as to the disbursement of the Society's moneys in research and printing, etc., settled before beginning operations, if the best results are to be attained. A provisional scheme of work has been printed, which may be of assistance to the new Executive in settling upon a plan.

CONCLUSION.

We rejoice that the founder of our Society, and its first President the Rev. Dr. Scadding, is still spared to us. It is the earnest prayer of all that he may long continue amongst us, crowned, as now, with

"That which should accompany old age,
As honor, love, obedience, troops of friends."

Dr. Scadding may be called the father of historical research in Ontario. To him and my immediate predecessor, Rev. Canon Bull, M.A., the Society is under great obligations for their most valuable services in launching the organization and guiding it safely through the shoals and reefs of its first nine years of existence.