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ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

before him the thought of the French Institute also, in which literature has its place; and there is much to be said for his decision.

Literature and Science.

If I may speak as a member of our scientific division and on its behalf, we may acknowledge that while we are all proud of the wonders science has done for mankind yet if we compare its effects for good or evil with the influence of literature, we find that while the amazing productions of science may bulk large before the eye at any one place or time yet a general view brings before us the transcendent powers of literature. The costly guns and equipment of a monster man-of-war dwarf the small and inexpensive flag that floats above it. But behind the guns are only the fighting men of the ship while behind the flag are the sentiment and strength of an empire. This conviction, no doubt, prevailed with the founder of our society, although there were some practical considerations in favour of the limitation of the scheme to science, at least at the beginning.

Sir William Dawson.

Sir William accepted the views of the Marquis, and heartily co-operated in laying the foundations of a society with which, as he says himself, he hoped his name would ever be associated, as I associate it to-day. In testimony to the appreciation of his work, he was twice appointed President, a unique honour in the society.

Objects of the Society.

It was intended to be the Parliament of Literature and Science for Canada, where the most eminent representatives from all the provinces could assemble for the promotion of both. It was to be a University for Universities where the teachers of teachers, and the investigators of truth, should themselves get new knowledge, while contributing the result of their researches and gaining fresh stimulus from the spirit of association. It was, in fine, to be the heart of knowledge and research, driving the life-blood through the extremities and making it circulate through the whole of the Dominion.

These were noble objects that the Duke of Argyll set before him. But more than this was evidently meant.

The Two Languages.

Such a Society would bring together the leaders of thought and culture in both languages and by mutual acquaintance tend to promote mutual respect and regard. How successful it has been in this, I suppose