

INTRODUCTION.

THE advantages of a Society such as that of which the following pages detail the Constitution, are fitted to commend it to the approbation of every lover of his country and of his countrymen. Its principal object is to supply the necessities of Scottish emigrants or settlers, in and about Quebec, whose circumstances call for assistance. Cases are incessantly occurring in which an appeal is made to the sympathy and liberality of the community, by those whom sickness or some other visitation of Providence has reduced to destitution. It must be soothing to a Scotchman in such circumstances, if he has retained any degree of the feeling of independence for which Scotchmen have been represented as remarkable, to find, in a land far removed from the home of his fathers, an Association of his countrymen, whose benevolent design is to afford relief without lessening that feeling, to furnish information and to administer counsel, which, on the one hand, may lead to the means of gaining an honest livelihood, and, on the other, warn him of the dangers to which, from his peculiar circumstances, he may be exposed.

Such an institution, when properly supported and under judicious management, is furnished with the means not only of dispensing aid in the most unexceptionable way and of detecting imposition, but of rendering itself useful in other and higher respects. Besides, while it is the minister of good to others, it both avows and strengthens the attachment of its members to "the soil that gave them birth, recalls the scenes of former days, with the affecting recollections which nature delights to retain and reluctantly quits." This there need be no hesitation in seeking to avow and strengthen; for that "philanthropy which affects to feel alike for every part of mankind is false and spurious—that alone is genuine which glows with a warmth proportioned to the nearness of its objects."