

Of the difficulties and discouragements with which the first promoters of the Society had to contend, some idea may be formed from a sketch given in one of the early numbers of the Journal, of the history of the Association, in which the writer, after alluding to the various disheartening circumstances attending their first efforts, goes on to describe the attendance at the monthly meetings, as having at last "dwindled down to *two*," and "the prospects of the young Institute as being gloomy in the extreme."

How these prospects have brightened since that period of despondency, is, perhaps, best attested by the numerous assemblage we now see drawn together here at every weekly meeting, and amongst them I trust are still to be found the never-to-be-forgotten *Two*, whose names ought certainly to be had in honor by all who wish well to our Society.

The year 1851 may properly be looked upon as the period from which the Canadian Institute, as at present constituted, dates the commencement of its existence.

It was in that year that the first steps were taken to divest the Society of the strictly professional character it had assumed on its first establishment, and which, by giving a wider scope to its operations, and inviting the co-operation of all interested in scientific and literary pursuits, secured an amount of support and sympathy it could never otherwise have obtained.

In May, of the same year, the first *Conversazione* was held, and in the following November the Royal Charter of Incorporation was granted: and by it the gentleman whose scientific labors, more especially upon a very recent occasion, have contributed to make Canada most widely and favorably known—W. E. Logan, Esq.—was appointed first President of the incorporated body. But the Society, although thus regularly organized, was still, as it were, without a mouth-piece. It possessed no accredited organ to record its proceedings, or serve as the medium of publication for those papers which were read before the Society from time to time. In August, 1852, that want was supplied by the issue of the first number of the *Canadian Journal*, a publication which, it may be safely averred, has assisted most materially to keep alive an interest in the Society's proceedings, contributed to make it widely and favorably known throughout the Province, and attracted the support of many living at a distance, who, but for it, would in all probability never have become members of the Institute.

Indeed from the period of the re-establishment of the *Journal* may