

for some time beforehand extraordinarily wet or dry years with some approach to certainty. The great practical benefit of such a prediction to a country so much interested in agriculture as our own will be plain to everybody; and I call attention here to the fact of Mr. Elvins's right of priority, because it has not been properly acknowledged in all quarters. In one quarter only has such acknowledgment been made, viz.: in Prof. S. F. Baird's "Annual Record of Science and Industry" for 1871. That Miss Clerke, in her lately published "History of Astronomy," should have overlooked this matter is, perhaps, not altogether surprising; but that Prof. Norman Lockyer, whom Mr. Elvins kept constantly informed as to his investigations, should have entirely ignored his claims to priority, and have given all the honours to Mr. Meldrum, of Mauritius, is, to say the least, unpleasantly remarkable. The fact that, for some reason unknown to myself, Mr. Elvins's results were never published in the *Canadian Journal*, has no doubt been the principal cause of this want of acknowledgment. Ill-health has for many years suspended Mr. Elvins's labours, but I am glad to say that, this cause being for the present happily removed, we may look for further valuable results from their resumption.

II.—MEMORIALS.

The selections I have just presented from the subjects of Papers read before this Institute abundantly prove that the members have always been in the habit of doing a good deal of pretty hard thinking on subjects of the most practical kind, and so contributing to the solution of problems of the greatest interest to the public; and a consideration of the number and nature of Memorials presented to the Canadian and Provincial Governments by the Institute from time to time will show that they were men of action as well as of thought, who were wide enough awake to give effect to their ideas, since we find that, in every instance but one, the memorials were successful. In the decade from 1853 to 1863 alone I find no less than five of these successful memorials recorded in our "Proceedings," as follows:

1. Up to the year 1853 the magnetic observing station at Toronto had been carried on at the expense of the Imperial Government, and under the direction of officers of the Royal Artillery. In this year, however, the observatory was about to be discontinued. Capt. (now