

*The following papers were then read ;*

1. By the Rev. Prof. YOUNG, M.A. :

"On Sir David Brewster's supposed law of visible direction in monocular vision, and the corresponding law of visible direction in binocular vision."

2. By Professor WILSON, LL.D. :

"Remarks on a specimen of Indian Corn having the male and female flower developed on the same stalk. The specimen was presented to the Institute.

3. By Col. BARON DE ROTTENBURG :

"Report of the Committee appointed to consider a proposition from Lieutenant Ashe, R.N., for the establishment of an Astronomical Observatory at Quebec.

The Report was adopted, and the following draft of a memorial was approved of, and ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency the Governor General, and to the Legislative Council, and the Legislative Assembly, the Council being requested to take the requisite steps for securing the fitting presentation thereof.

*The Memorial of the Canadian Institute Incorporated by Royal Charter,—*

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That Your Memorialists have been informed that application has been made to Your Excellency by Lieutenant Ashe, Royal Navy, for an extension of the Astronomical Observatory at Quebec, whereby the same may be rendered more efficient and useful.

Your Memorialists most respectfully beg of Your Excellency to take this application into consideration, and in support of the same they desire humbly to represent to Your Excellency, that Astronomy, while deservedly ranking as the first of sciences, both on account of the certainty of its processes, the brilliancy of its results, and the wide field it offers for investigation, is at the same time that above all others which is most closely connected in its practical bearings with the interests of civilized life and the progress of commercial intercourse ; that so fully has this truth been recognized that at the present day there does not exist a kingdom in Europe which has not established one or more National Observatories, while in the United States so strong an interest has been awakened on this point that such institutions are being founded in all parts of the country, of which the recently opened Observatory at Albany is a splendid and notable example.

Your Memorialists believe that even if the practical benefits that would result from the establishment of such an institution were not directly and immediately felt, Canada has now taken such rank among communities that it would not consist with her dignity to lag behind in the march of scientific research ; but the requirements of her rapidly increasing commerce render this establishment almost a necessity.

Your Memorialists need only refer to the important duties which would devolve on the Observatory in connection with Navigation, such as the determination of true time, the regulation of Chronometers, the correction of Ship-compasses ; and here also they might be permitted to recall the great services rendered by a similar institution at Washington, under the conduct of Lieutenant Maury, by his famous Charts and system of Navigation which are producing effects the value of which can hardly be over-rated.

Your Memorialists would also represent that Quebec is peculiarly and fortunately qualified for the site of an Observatory, both from its steady climate, the clearness of its atmosphere and its local advantages of position ; and also from its being at once an inland town and a seaport.