

Would that I could improve upon the remarks which I felt it my duty to make in my last "Report" upon the efficiency of our "Committees," but I regret to say that the same causes of complaint have existed up to the present hour, as hampered the proceedings of the Society during the year 1844. Again suffer me to impress upon the Association the extreme necessity for exercising its votes most cautiously for Committeemen to serve during the next twelve months; useless, without a vigorous executive, must ever be the exertions of the Officers, and vain the hopes of future influence in which we all indulge.

Since the commencement of the year our Chamber has been enriched with a portrait of the distinguished nobleman, who, whilst resident in Canada vouchsafed to us his countenance and protection, the revered Lord Metcalfe, the late Governor-General of these Colonies. Discarding all allusions to the many causes for respect and veneration so universally cherished for that honoured individual, need I carry back the recollection of the "Shakspeare Club" farther than the 18th day of last September, when at our Festival Commemoration we were assured by a Reverend Gentleman, then seated at our Table, that our Patron had that day expressed to him the sentiment that "*he only wished that some one would suggest to him how best he could benefit the Shakspeare Club.*" Here was legitimate cause for pride and exultation, and the knowledge that we had gained the approval, thus flatteringly implied, of a Nobleman whose praise "*is praise indeed,*" I doubt not caused many like myself to vow internally, that henceforth all labour for the advancement of the Club—should be considered *pastime*, and self-denial as a welcome test by which to determine our sincerity in the good cause of Literature and Refinement. Our intercourse with our Patron during the past year has presented amidst some things that were pleasurable much that has been painful. In the former category we may place the interview which was had on the 19th March, by a deputation from the Society, for the purpose of presenting a congratulatory address upon his elevation to the Peerage, and in the latter the mournful duty which we were called upon to perform in tendering our respectful sympathy for the distressing circumstances under which His Lordship was constrained to relinquish the Government of Canada. Who can forget the morning which beheld