

Ottawa. Such a paper seems necessary at this juncture, but I will postpone this to a later date, and if you will bear with me for a few moments I desire to introduce a subject which long before this ought to have received attention at our hands. I refer to the life and works of the late Elkanah Billings, the great Canadian palæontologist, who founded the Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, was elected Fellow of the Geological Society of London and of numerous other societies, and assisted Sir William Logan in laying the foundation of our knowledge of the geology of the older provinces of Canada. Billings was a citizen of this city, and in a suitable manner such a society as ours ought to do something towards perpetuating his memory.

As one who for the last twenty years has come in almost daily contact with the works and writings of the late Mr. Billings, I cannot refrain from giving utterance to the statement that it is impossible not to see in him one of the greatest men that Canada has produced. It is further owing to Billings that some one should undertake to give to the world a complete and systematic list of the various genera and species of fossil organic remains which he described, in a compact form, and likewise to place together in their chronological order his numerous and important writings. These various lists, which comprise some fifty-eight new genera and as many as 1,051 new species of fossil organisms, besides a list of his writings, I have undertaken to prepare, and now beg to submit to you for publication. I shall not trouble you by reading these over, but would supplement these remarks by throwing out a suggestion which I humbly ask you to consider. Is it not our duty as well as our privilege, as a Club organized to look after the interests of science and scientific research, to see that a suitable memorial or tribute to the memory of such an illustrious Canadian as Billings ought to be erected in our midst? Two suggestions have occurred to my mind, and both appear feasible and appropriate. These are:—1. By means of a portrait or oil painting of the late E. Billings; 2, the erection of a memorial tablet to be placed in some conspicuous locality on the strata of our Capital.

With regard to the former, I may say that when the subject was first mooted, some months ago, a number of gentlemen in-