

1852-'3.

Engineering and Surveying	0
Geology and Physical Geography	3
Meteorology	1
Physical Science	1
Political Economy	2
Natural History	3
General Literature	3
Ethnography	1

It is very far from our intention to question the exertions of the professional gentlemen who first gave existence to the Canadian Institute, and from whose enlightened efforts in many directions it has hitherto drawn such a large measure of its influence and strength, but we would warmly urge the claims of the various Departments of Practical Science upon their numerous and accomplished representatives among the members of the Institute. Canada fills now so large a space in the world's eye, that the condition and progress of its means of internal communication,—its stupendous Railway system, its magnificent Canals,—its vast and navigable Rivers,—are become such prominent objects of interest abroad, as well as of vital importance to ourselves, that no reasonable means should be spared to afford the public authentic information respecting their construction, improvement and management. That a fair measure of support is given to the Institute through the pages of its Journal, we are glad to acknowledge, and we have every reason to believe that the extension of that support in the way of original contributions in all home matters relating to engineering and surveying operations, would be both interesting and advantageous to the public here and abroad. We have alluded thus pointedly to the absence of that general professional co-operation which was so liberally promised a year or so ago, in consequence of its having already attracted attention without the walls of the Institute, and led to the supposition that the Society, originally founded by the Engineers and Architects of the Province, is gradually being transformed into one of a purely Scientific character. Such, however, is very far from being the case. The Council, thoroughly impressed with the importance of sustaining in full vigour and efficiency, the practical character of the Society over which it presides, divided the sum set apart from the Government Grant of last year, for the purchase of books and Maps, into two equal portions, one half being placed at the disposal of the Committee representing the professions of the Engineer, the Architect, and the Surveyor, for the purchase of standard works on the subjects of these professions; the other half being disbursed by another Committee in procuring works of a more general description. We have every reason to believe that a similar distribution of the library funds will be made this year. The arrangements which have been already completed, or are yet in progress, will, most probably, secure to the present volume very comprehensive facilities for illustrating the magnificent public works of the Province, well known by their annually increasing revenue, but still without a place in the pages of any periodical or print.

Fourteen months ago, a document was issued by the Council of the Institute, soliciting promises of literary aid for the weekly

meetings during the Sessions, and for the pages of the then contemplated Journal. The signatures of many gentlemen, admirably qualified to render the required assistance, were received. The Lecture room of the Institute as well as the pages of the first volume of its Transactions, bear witness to the industry with which that promise was fulfilled by many who contributed their much valued exertions to promote the objects of the Society. We are, however, still enabled to recognize on the list which now lies before us, the names of several gentlemen upon whom the burthen rests of recording their zeal for the progress of Science and Art, by works in addition to words.

It has been our misfortune to listen to the complaints of members of the Institute that the profession, manufacture or trade, in which *they* are engaged, has not attracted the attention of the Society or been fairly represented in the pages of the Journal. We have recently had the opportunity of perusing the report of the Proceedings of the Second Annual Conference between the Representatives of the Institutions in Union, and the Council of the Society of Arts. We find in the speech of the Chairman, at the opening of proceedings, a few trite observations, which apply with the same force to Individuals as to Institutions. In transcribing and commending these remarks to the attention of members who think themselves aggrieved, we venture to remind them of the peculiar position of the Canadian Institute, and of the claims which it has in its youth to the active and generous co-operation of *all* its members.

"The Council has felt that in the whole management of this Union, the principle enunciated at the last Conference must be borne in mind; namely, that it is the duty of each Institution to do its own work, and for the Society of Arts to do that amount of work which the Institutes cannot do of themselves, and which can only be done by means of combined action; and therefore I shall ask you to bear in mind that if there is any thing you think ought to be done which has not been done, you will reflect for an instant and consider whether it does not come under that class of duties which Institutes ought to have done for themselves, and which, in fact, no central authority whatever could do for them. Another point I will thank you to bear in mind is, that any thing in this world that is to be done, cannot be done in an instant. Works worthy of being done, do not grow up like mushrooms; if you wish to have an oak tree, you must begin by planting an acorn, and wait patiently for some time for it to develop itself. A number of impossible discussions have been proposed to the Council during the year: for instance, gentlemen living far North, have suggested that we should send down first-rate lecturers—men like Faraday—some 300 or 400 miles, and that the whole expense should come within a pound. Now I confess that no central power which I can conceive would be able to accomplish that feat; and it will be for you to judge how far such a thing is possible. Another point of difficulty I would mention has been the question of the Journal. The Council thought the establishment of a Journal, for every Institute to pour its suggestions into, and to record its advice, its feelings, and its wishes, would be very useful. They accordingly established a Journal at a very considerable drag upon their funds; in fact it involved the expenditure of the funds of the Society to an extent nearly equivalent to the subscriptions of all the Institutes. If that Journal is not what I think it ought to be, and if the Institutes have not corresponded with it, to tell their grievances and their wants, of course it cannot be said to be the fault of the Council."