

infused life and energy into such an Institution, than at a fitting time to create a new one. Less competent, as I am, in other respects to form an opinion upon this point than many others who are present, I have the advantage of being able to judge perhaps more clearly, from actual observation, of the past condition of Upper Canada; and I do not believe that much time has really been lost, (if any has been,) in making this kind of effort for the advancement of science.

This is pretty well proved, I think, from the small success which was found to attend some exertions of a similar description, though less comprehensive in their character, which have, from time to time, been made in Upper Canada.

And here we may naturally ask ourselves whether it is, or is not, to the discredit of this country that up to this period more has not been done by voluntary efforts for the promotion of science, and more distinction gained in its pursuit? I should be glad to be able to prove, quite satisfactorily, that we lie under no peculiar reproach in that respect. At all events let the facts be fairly stated.

Two generations have passed away since a civilized people began to occupy Upper Canada;—our own Journal, in a late article full of interesting matter, informs us that for twenty years of that time we have had a population over 300,000—for ten years exceeding 500,000, and we may be certain that at present our numbers are beyond a million.—Upon the first impression it would seem, on a comparison with other countries, that, under such circumstances and in all this time, some native Canadian might have been expected to start from the canvas more distinctly than any has done;—that some one gifted with peculiar powers would have gained for himself a name likely to endure, and would have conferred celebrity upon the country of his birth, by some striking discovery in art or science, or at least by a proficiency in some liberal pursuit, that would have attracted general attention, and established even abroad a deference to his name as an authority.

We might refer to some other countries, particularly in the North of Europe, where, in communities not so populous, there have, from time to time, arisen men so distinguished by the