

our proceedings, for the first time for many years, published regularly and in such a shape as to bring the Society most favorably before the public.

We think, therefore, we have much reason to congratulate the Society on the manner in which it has struggled through the past year. In truth those trials and reverses should not be regarded as subjects of unmingled regret, for doubtless to them is due, in a great degree, the unusual spirit and energy which has characterized the Society during the last twelve months.

"Duris ut illex tonsa bipennibus
Nigræ feraci frondis in Algido,
Per damna, per cædes, ab ipso
Ducit opes, annunquæ ferro."

E. A. MEREDITH, L. L. B.
1st Vice President.

Quebec, January 10, 1855.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR THE YEAR 1855

President :
E. A. MEREDITH, L. L. B.
Vice-Presidents—G. T. KINGSTON, A. M.; REV. A. W. MOUNTAIN, B. A.; W. D. CAMPBELL; LIEUT. H. G. SAVAGE, R. E.
Recording Secretary—HENRY E. STEELE.
Corresponding Secretary—A. R. ROCHE.
Council Secretary—N. K. BOWEN.
Treasurer—GEO. T. CARY.
Librarian—E. T. FLETCHER.
Curator of Museum—ROBT. H. RUSSELL, M.D.
Curator of Apparatus—LIEUT. E. ASHE, R.N., F.R.A.S.
Lieut. T. C. Malony, R.A., and T. B. Harvey, Esq., were elected Associate Members of the Society.

LITERARY AND STATED MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JANUARY.

A Paper was read by Lieut. H. G. Savage, R. E., on the History of Quebec from the Earliest times.

HENRY E. STEELE,
Recording Secretary.

Address to the Governor-General.

On Friday, January 19th, the President and Members of the Literary and Historical Society, waited upon His Excellency the Governor General, at Government House Quebec, and presented the following

ADDRESS.

To His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Baronet, Governor General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We the President, Vice Presidents, and Members of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, desire respectfully to approach your Excellency to tender our sincere congratulations on your assumption of the Government of this important portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

We cannot but feel that, we, in common with the other inhabitants of this Province, have much reason to rejoice that Her Majesty should have selected for the Government of this Colony, one whose recent administration of the Government of a neighbouring and sister Colony has been marked with such distinguished success.

It is however as a Society separated from the strife of politics and devoted to the peaceful pursuits of History and Literature and to the advancement of the interests of Art and Science in the Province, that we conceive we have peculiar reason to hail your Excellency's elevation to the high position of Governor of British North America.

Your Excellency's well known devotion to and high attainments in the walks of literature and science, afford our Society an earnest that, while labouring to advance the physical interests of this great and growing country you will study equally to develop its moral and intellectual resources.

By the calamitous fire which destroyed the Parliament Buildings in this city, in the month of February last, the Society sustained a heavy blow in the loss of a large portion of its Library and nearly the whole of its extensive and well selected Museum of Natural History and Geology.

The efforts which the society is now making, to re-construct its Museum, and to repair the other losses then sustained, will, we feel assured, meet with your Excellency's sympathy and good wishes.

We venture to express the hope that, following the example of your Excellency's predecessors, since the foundation of the Society under the auspices of the Earl of Dalhousie, you will do the Society the honour of allowing yourself to be named its Patron.

In conclusion we beg to express our best wishes for the health and happiness of your Excellency, Lady Head, and family.

Quebec, January, 1855.

To which His Excellency was pleased to return the following

REPLY.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec.

I esteem it an honour that you ask me to assume the position of Patron of your Society. But that honour is greatly enhanced by the flattering terms in which you address me on the present occasion. You overrate my literary attainments, but you do not overrate my wish to promote in every way the pursuits of literature and science. According to my firm conviction it is of the highest importance that these peaceful studies should hold their rightful place in the progress of a great and growing country. That they should mitigate the constant pressure of material interests, and soften down those harder tendencies which must always more or less characterize the outposts of advancing civilization. All institutions that tend to promote such objects in Canada are of the highest value, and among them your incorporated Society maintains a distinguished place. I thank you much for the congratulations, and your good wishes for the health and happiness of myself and my family.

The Temperature of the Cold Days of February 1855, at St. Martin's, Isle Jesus, Canada East.

(Communicated by Dr. Smallwood.)

The Thermometer at 10 p.m. on Saturday, 3rd February, stood 9°-0 Fahrenheit. On the

4th at 6,	a.m.	at	—14°-8	(or below zero)
2,	p.m.	...	—10°-3	do.
10,	p.m.	...	—22°-3	do.
5th at 6,	a.m.	...	—26°-1	do.
2,	p.m.	...	—5°-5	do.
10,	p.m.	...	—20°-0	do.
6th at 6,	a.m.	...	—32°-6	do.
2,	p.m.	...	—18°-6	do.
10,	p.m.	...	—24°-5	do.
7th at 6,	a.m.	...	—33°-9	do.
2,	p.m.	...	—6°-2	do.
10,	p.m.	...	—11°-0	do.
8th at 6,	a.m.	...	—5°-1	do.
2,	p.m.	...	+ 5°-5	(above zero.)

On Charcoal as a Disinfectant.*

By MR. J. G. BARFORD,—St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Dr. Stenhouse lately called attention to his very ingenious ori-nasal respirator, which depends on charcoal for its efficacy, the action of which is given in the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, for February, 1854. The respirator having been noticed in the *Lancet* of November 25, I need only mention it as an instance of the powerful disinfecting power of charcoal, but at once call attention to the plan I have adopted in the application of this agent as a disinfectant, bearing in mind the results of Dr. Stenhouse's experiments, which prove that charcoal not only

From the *Lancet*, Dec. 16.