

communicated such a charm to the annual *résumé* of the subjects brought before the Society, to draw up which is one of the duties that devolves upon your President. Permit me, however, to say that I bring to the work a hearty good will ; and if, at the close of this Address, you feel disposed to say that I have not done all that you expected, you will, at least, give me credit when I say, " I have done what I could."

Before I proceed to what is more peculiarly the business of this evening, allow me to seize on the present opportunity of thanking you, as I do most cordially, for the honor you have conferred upon me, in appointing me your President, and that too for the second time. I regard it as a very gratifying proof of the good will of those with whom I have been now so long associated, and to meet with whom, at this table, it has often given me so much pleasure. The duties which have devolved upon me, while holding the office to which your kindness called me, have been very light and pleasing. It is easy to rule when subjects are all obedient and orderly ; and the courtesy and kindness of feeling, which have characterized all our proceedings, have been so invariable, that the awful powers with which your President is invested, having had no room for exercise, have lain completely dormant. I cannot express a better wish for my successors in office, than that they may find their labours as light, and their duties as pleasant as mine have been.

I am gratified to observe what I think an improvement during the past year, in point of the attendance of members. By the Constitution of our Society, the number necessary to form a quorum for the transaction of business was fixed, as I think judiciously, somewhat high. It was felt that it would be unjust to ask a member who had devoted no small portion of time and labour to the preparation of a paper, to read it in the presence of but a few individuals. On some occasions, however, in former years, in consequence of the number requisite to form a quorum demanding so large a portion of the members, considerable inconvenience has been experienced ; inasmuch as so many of us, after having struggled through the storm, and

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