

whilst the neglect on the part of any government to bestow such aid as it can afford in this direction is a sure indication of the existence of a rude and stationary form of civilization. The growth of Science in Canada, though progressive, is still in a rudimentary state, and stands in want of increased stimulus, both from public and private sources. We have yet to see developed the large and liberal spirit that prompts private citizens to devote their fortunes to the endowment of seats of learning and the foundation of museums, observatories, and free public libraries. When such munificence shall be displayed in Canada, it is to be hoped that the bountiful donors will bear in mind that bequests, whether public or private, should be for the general good, and that in the intellectual as in the social world, an indiscriminate liberality may, whilst relieving poverty, beget indolence, and fail to promote progress. The applause attendant on such acts largely depends on the profit that accrues to posterity, in whose interest the broadest liberality will be displayed in creating new forms of energy, favourable to a more abundant husbandry and the cultivation of fresh fields of labour. It is therefore to be hoped that no misplaced liberality will perpetuate the miserable system, so common on this continent, of multiplying seats of learning and increasing the university family by scores of feeble and needy children to whom time can bring neither strength nor prosperity. Such a plan not only fritters away material and intellectual wealth, but is calculated to produce a barren and mediocre uniformity. In this connection the experience of the United States is particularly suggestive, and clearly indicates that our future efforts should be directed to improving the efficiency of existing institutions, and rendering them genuine seats of learning, the home alike of the student and the teacher, of the scholar and the investigator. Whilst thus avoiding the errors into which our neighbours have fallen, we should not be slow to imitate them in such matters as the foundation of great public libraries and the establishment of museums. It is also to be hoped that their efforts on behalf of Astronomy will not be lost on us, and that the time is not far distant when the immortal science shall be enriched by the labours of a Canadian Observatory. How near that time is, how far we are still from the most fruitful sources of modern civilization, is to a large extent indicated by the present condition of this Institute. Its position is the surest index of the extent to which the intellectual resources of the country have been developed.