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OUR SCIENTIFIC VISITORS.



DURING the last week of August the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold, in our midst, their thirty-first meeting. This will be the second occasion on which Montreal will have had the honor of receiving such important guests, the eleventh meeting of the Association having been held here in 1857. Since that remote period, a quarter of a century ago, both the American Association and Montreal have changed in

many respects—both have grown in extent and in importance. In 1857 the Association met in the Court House and listened to and discussed some fourteen papers, that being the number on the published list, which concluded with the announcement that “when this list is exhausted the Chairman will call for papers that may be found on the Register since yesterday, and it is hoped some gentlemen will come prepared to respond.” This year the nine sections will occupy rooms in the large group of buildings at the University of McGill College, and will have to dispose, somehow, of probably more than one hundred papers on all sorts of scientific subjects. These papers are the result of the work of the past year, in some cases of the work of many years, on the part of members of the Association, and the reading and publication of them serves as a most valuable record of scientific progress. The systematic discussion of such matter is extremely useful, too, as affording laborers in the fields of science opportunities to exchange ideas and to place on record their claims to valuable discoveries in the special departments of their work. While the Association will, this year, bring very much more work with it than it did last time, the arrangements for its reception and the conveniences at the disposal of science in Montreal are so much greater now than they were formerly that no

trouble whatever will be experienced in allotting to each section a sufficiently spacious hall with every necessary appliance at hand. Section C (Chemistry), for instance, will meet in the lecture room adjoining the laboratory of McGill College; Section G (Histology and Microscopy) in a hall in the Redpath Museum.

The number of visitors expected is very large—it may, perhaps, be larger than at any previous meeting of the Association. Canada, in August, has great attractions for Americans, and Montreal and Quebec, not to mention Ottawa, besides being favorite places of resort, offer a greater change to our American cousins than Cincinnati, Boston, or St. Louis. Then there is the powerful attraction sure to be exerted by the presence at the meeting of an unusually large number of distinguished scientific men from Europe. Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Austria, Hungary, Roumania, will all be represented by such men as HAUGHTON, of Trinity College, Dublin, Dr. WILLIAM CARPENTER, HERBERT SPENCER, and others, and there is the bare possibility of the presence of a real Prince of scientific tastes from Japan. All this will, probably, result in the presence among us of some fifteen hundred strangers from among the most intellectual and cultivated of our American and European neighbours. This large influx will, undoubtedly, tax to the utmost the resources of the city at a time when we are accustomed to see our streets full of visitors; but we do not think that we need fear the result. The committee of citizens is not only large, but it consists of the leading men of Montreal, and they have shown a willingness to work and a determination to make perfect the mechanical arrangements that have, already, placed the entire matter on a perfectly safe foundation. These gentlemen are ably led by Dr. DAWSON, President of the Association for the current year, and by Dr. HUNT, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee. No one, probably, has had more experience in meetings of this kind than Dr. HUNT, and all the details are carefully supervised by him. Dr. DAWSON's tact and ability as a Chairman and President are too well known in Montreal to need mention, and he possesses, besides, that happy faculty of making things go off well, which is so valuable on occasions of this kind.

The programme of proceedings, outside of the scientific discussions, has already been provisionally arranged for almost the entire week during which the Association