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## \* BRAIN POWER, HOW TO PRESERVE IT.

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President Royal Society of Canada.

I AM CONFIDENT I am expressing the sympathies and feelings of this large audience, in the Capital of the Dominion of Canada, when I say that we, one and all, rejoice that His Most Gracious Majesty, King Edward, has been restored to health, and anointed King over a loyal and united Empire.

Twenty-one years ago, at a meeting held at Government House, Ottawa, this Society was determined upon by Lord Lorne, now Duke of Argyll, and shortly afterwards called into action with the late Sir William Dawson as first President. Since that date the meetings, with few exceptions, have been held at Ottawa, and the present records of the Society point to a widely diversified line of work, in its various departments, all of which gives undoubted evidence of intellectual development of which any colony in the empire might justly feel proud. The duty which, by the kindness of this Society, I am called upon to perform, I regret has not fallen into other hands. In accepting the task I feel confident of the sympathy of my audience. It is a matter of satisfaction to know that the success of such meetings does not depend on the occupant of the presidential chair, but is chiefly due to the eminent workers in the various sections of the Society.

The energy and marked ability of the late General Secretary, Sir John Bourinot, who, since the incipient stage of development of the Society, brought to light facts of the greatest moment, as to men and measures in all parts of our Dominion, redounding greatly to the credit of one, who by his painstaking research and scholarly attainments, has left an imperishable record on this continent. Edward Gibbon charmingly expressed the idea that diligence and accuracy are the only merits which an historical writer can ascribe to himself. So in scientific research, like qualifications are cardinal qualities. To decide on the true significance of data springing daily from the vast sources of scientific investigation, the result of observations and experiments, a well balanced mind and careful reflection are necessary to winnow out the practical and careful from the doubtful and uncertain. Investiga-

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\* Presidential Address before the Royal Society of Canada, 19th May, 1903.