

tage of the cause in which we are interested. I venture to suggest the propriety of this meeting placing on record a formal expression of our appreciation of Sir John Thompson's services to the cause of religion, and our sorrow at his sudden and untimely death.

In surveying our operations for the past twelve months we have, I think, just cause for encouragement. If our membership is not so large as it ought to be, and the interest we arouse in Catholic circles less than we have a right to expect, we have held our own fairly well. So much appears on the surface, but we should remember that we are engaged in a work the ultimate results of which are not at once apparent. The bread cast upon the waters is found only after many days. Who can presume to gauge the good indirectly effected by the dissemination of our excellent literature, in respect of which let me say the Society is largely indebted to Mr. W. L. Scott, whose earnestness and zeal in this branch of our work I cannot sufficiently commend. r, to view the position negatively no one can fail to have noticed that since our Society has been under way, Ottawa has enjoyed comparative immunity from mountebanks, styling themselves ex-priests and escaped nuns, who were wont periodically to defile the imaginations and exploit the pockets of our more credulous fellow-citizens. The Catholic Truth Society modestly claims some share in effecting this desirable result, and we feel that had we done nothing else we should not have existed in vain.

Turning from the past and looking forward, we have, I think, every reason to believe in our continued usefulness. If I read the signs of the times aright, a great Catholic re-action is in the future. The prestige and moral influence of the Pope in the high politics of Europe are greater to-day than for years and are steadily growing. In Italy the present condition of affairs cannot much longer continue. The brigands who twenty-five years ago despoiled the Holy City have almost reached the end of their tether. The Italian Government is overwhelmed with debt and undermined by secret societies. Sooner or later the crash must come, and, in the new order of things, I cannot doubt that the Pope will recover possession of that temporal sovereignty which is his by the prescription of a thousand years.