

inct forms of life, that arrangement of the rocks of the country which is necessary to the understanding of its mineral resources, may be accomplished in much shorter time and with far greater certainty than without their aid; and thus years of labour to the survey, and of expense to the Province, may be saved.

In like manner Natural Science, in all its departments, connects itself with our higher spiritual relations, by refining and ennobling our minds, and by leading us from nature to its Divine Author. It is true that Natural History is in itself merely intellectual; it is not to be identified with either morality or religion, and is sometimes unhappily dissociated from them, yet it is akin to these higher interests. Like the sunlight, it shines on the evil and the good, and may sometimes light a bad man in the path of crime; but in its natural and its general consequences it is allied to good, and has no affinity with those social and moral evils which emphatically belong to the darkness.

Actuated by such views, and following out these paths of usefulness, I trust that our Society may steadily prosper; and as a favourable omen of our success in the ensuing year, it gives me much pleasure to state that our active and zealous Vice-President, Mr. Latour, has announced his intention of offering a gold medal for the best Essay on any Department of Canadian Natural History, to be read at the concluding meeting of next Session.

The Hon. JUDGE AYLWIN being called upon by the President, said:—

*Ladies and Gentlemen*,—I should not undertake to address this meeting, if I understood that any thing I was to say should be connected with any one of the natural sciences. I must confess my utter ignorance of all the *ologies*—I am sorry to be obliged to confess my entire ignorance of geology. But just because of this, I can better appreciate the efforts of others, in founding an institution like the present, and contributing, by the accumulation of facts, to our present stock of knowledge. Facts, Ladies and Gentlemen, are always important. There is knowledge in stones, as there is knowledge of a higher kind. But without the knowledge of the art of reasoning all would be unavailing. And a man's reasoning may be faulty in the extreme, and calculated to mislead others; but if in his study of nature, and the observations he makes in the course of that study, he chooses to state merely facts, and state them truly,—whatever efforts he may make to mislead, the result must be necessarily unavailing, for the Baconian Philosophy controls and overrides all *ologies*.

The infidel Voltaire, boldly assumed to be an encyclopedia to himself; and, in the pride of his supposed science, to put down religion and its Divine Founder; but his puny efforts have long since been scouted by genuine philosophers. Others have attempted to follow in the same career, and will have the like success; for notwithstanding all the apprehensions created in timorous minds, the votaries of science work on, and the more they work on, the result is found to be only to confirm us the more, if ever a doubt we had, of the existence of a Creator and Redeemer. As to the advantages to be derived from institutions such as the present, I cannot flatter myself that here any very brilliant results will be obtained. But we have the power to accumulate fact after