

ENGINEERING SOCIETY
OF
THE SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE
TORONTO.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen :—

In reading over, some three weeks ago, the inaugural address of the president of the British Association, on "The Civil Engineer and what he has done for the Advancement of Science," I hesitated whether it would not be the best thing to read that instead of my own. I decided not to, because I thought it would be a bad precedent to establish, and, besides, you can all read it for yourselves.

I must ask your pardon, gentlemen, for the disconnected way in which mine is written. I feel greatly the lack of experience, and the poorness and weakness of many of my ideas and arguments. I have not spent sufficient time and thought on the subject. I only wish I had some six months more in which to improve the crude ideas I have now, and to connect them in some more intelligible way. I believe it is customary in an inaugural address to sketch the advances made during the past year in those subjects to which the Society devotes itself. This is highly interesting and instructive to those who are in actual practice and know the condition of affairs at the beginning of the year, but to us, who are still at the theory and know very little of the actual practice of engineering, I think it would be more interesting to devote ourselves to the subject of our own Society. To those who are coming here for the first time, I think some explanation of the objects of the Society is due.

To begin, then, with the history of the Society. The Society was founded some three years ago—in the Spring of 1885. It was called "The Engineering Society of the School of Practical Science." It is