

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

ANNUAL MEETING, HAMILTON, June 6th, 1900.

Four years have passed since, in this good city of Hamilton, the Pioneer and Historical Association of the Province of Ontario held its ninth annual meeting. Under its then constitution the membership consisted of but nine or ten delegates, chosen by affiliated societies. In the process of evolution the association has changed its name, widened its basis, enlarged its aims, and become an incorporated body, with a large and rapidly increasing membership. But although so greatly transformed, the Ontario Historical Society retained its memory of the kindly hospitality experienced in 1896, and when invited, a year ago, to hold its next annual meeting in this city, accepted with grateful alacrity.

With five or more flourishing societies devoting their energies, either wholly or in part, to the promotion of the study of history, Hamilton may well rank in this respect among the foremost communities in Ontario. The Wentworth Historical Society and the Women's Wentworth Historical Society are formally affiliated with the central organization, and their work is known to our members through the annual reports. The Hamilton Association, the Canadian Club, the Alumnae Association, are also doing their share in promoting a more intimate acquaintance with the annals of our country. The fact that such societies exist is itself an index of the interest taken by the community in the objects we have in view. It is very gratifying to learn that the two closing years of the century have witnessed the purchase of two important historic sites, the one by the corporation of the city, with the hearty approval of public sentiment, the other by the Women's Wentworth Historical Society, through the action of its energetic president, aided by private liberality. The formal taking over of the Gage homestead at Stoney Creek by the latter society occurred last autumn; the opening of Dundurn Park was celebrated on the eighty-first birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, the 24th of May, 1900.