

This is the first opportunity which I have had as your presiding officer to thank you for the honour you have done me in placing me in the chair. I make this statement being fully aware of my incompetency and mistakes, but depending upon you all for co-operation and good-will in carrying on in our midst the good work of my predecessors. Coming after such a series of illustrious men as Dr. James Fletcher, Dr. R. W. Ells, Dr. G. M. Dawson, Mr. F. T. Shutt, and Prof. E. E. Prince, not to go back any farther, I feel that the task assigned to me as well as the honour bestowed upon me, might have fallen upon much worthier shoulders. It shall be my utmost endeavour during the remainder of my term of office to promote the interests of this Club in all its branches.

We are not allowed to know very much in this world. Life is intensely short. The world of Nature around us contains myriads of attractive objects from which the highest lessons can be learned and our minds improved. Let us try, then, in some measure, to acquire some accurate idea of something in our vicinity.

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