

for this work of Dr. Kingsford's that it shall be reckoned as the final history even of the period which it covers, it must at least be acknowledged that it contains an amount of carefully collected and sifted material which no future historian can properly or wisely neglect, and that the author conducted his researches and wrote his book in a truly historical spirit. It was a source of the greatest satisfaction to his numerous friends that Dr. Kingsford lived to see the publication of the last volume of his work. It has been truly said that history belongs almost equally to the sphere of science and to that of literature; and in some recent histories we have the predominance of the one or of the other. In Mr. Roberts' recent *History of Canada* we have literature, if not so largely science; and in Sir John Bourinot's we have a happy blending of both. And here, I trust, I shall not be thought guilty of a liberty if I refer briefly to the great obligations we are under to our Honorary Secretary. When one looks back on the immense work which he has done for the society, in addition to all his other labors, one remembers what was said of Chrysippus, not the founder, but an early teacher of the Stoics: "If Chrysippus were not, the Stoa were not." So might we say, "If Sir John Bourinot were not, the Royal Society were not."

In connection with the subject of history, mention should be made of one who has rendered important services to this department, although, through the accident of his residence outside the Dominion, he is not a member of this society. I refer to Mr. William Francis Ganong, Professor in Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, a native of New Brunswick, who has made most valuable contributions to the his-

tory of a province hitherto neglected. His essays on "Relics of the French Period in New Brunswick," and other cognate subjects, are conceived in the thorough critical spirit of modern scientific historical investigation. It will be seen that he contributes, this year, a paper to the department of English literature and history: "A Monograph of the Evolution of the Boundaries of the Province of New Brunswick." The mention of this province reminds us of another distinguished writer, who, however, is a member of our society, Dr. Matthew, of St. John, who has made valuable contributions to the transactions of our society on the subject of Geology.

Passing to literature, more properly and distinctively so called, it is possible for us, in the dreams of our youthful ambition, to raise our expectations so high that we must needs encounter disappointment; yet we may venture to say that no reasonable anticipations will be disappointed. In literature, let us remember, there are two things, matter and form—thought and expression; and neither of these will be satisfying apart from the other. We must have, on the one hand, elevation, freshness, richness of thought; and, on the other, purity, clearness, and force of expression. It cannot be said that the circumstances of a country like this are favorable either to depth and maturity of thought or to graceful and artistic language. Yet it cannot be said with truth that we are entirely destitute of qualities that may be called literary, or that we have produced nothing worthy to be called literature. It is true we are most of us mere working men without leisure for the cultivation of our tastes. Our work is too continuous, too unbroken. Meditation, by which above all things the intelligence and the imagination