

favoured us with their presence, were, at the end of the year as at its commencement, obliged to separate without obtaining the object for which they had assembled.

It will be observed that in my remarks upon each paper, I have carefully abstained from eulogizing the author, however sensible I may have been of his merits. I have, in every case, been more concerned about the matter than the man; and wherever I thought I could introduce some additional food for reflection, I have attempted to do so.

I have no change to propose in the organization of the Society, as I can see none of any importance that could be made without entirely altering its constitution; and I am unwilling that this should be done.

The Secretary will furnish you with a statement of our financial resources, and connected therewith I shall probably, when the occasion offers, make some suggestions.

Gentlemen, allow me to employ the last brief moments of my authority among you in exhorting you to be more earnest in your endeavours to promote the welfare and success of this Society. I well remember the ardour of your zeal at our first meeting. Do not, I entreat you, allow it to cool, and bring upon us the common, and often, I fear, well deserved reproach of being too fond of following after novelties! As our monthly meetings cannot be considered a severe tax upon the time of any of us, attendance upon them ought to be regarded as a duty, with the performance of which we should allow nothing short of pressing necessity to interfere. Every one of you, I am sure, wishes the Society continued existence and prosperity. Let each, then, labour as if its maintenance depended upon his individual exertions; for, that this is pretty nearly the true state of the case, all of you will on reflection be ready to admit.

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