

you. But, coming from the United States, where you believe or at least are wont to say we are in advance of you in natural science, it would be a great gratification to me, if, by appearing here on this occasion, I could give any encouragement to a society like this, having for its object the advancement of natural science—a study to which I have devoted 30 years of my life, with scarcely a thought of anything else. It is always very gratifying to me to meet an assembly of persons who are engaged in advancing, or who are doing anything to advance the cause of natural science. With us in the United States any organization of societies for the advancement of natural science reaches but a little way into the last century. A few years prior to the commencement of the present century, a few gentlemen, meeting in Philadelphia in the back office of a druggist's store, organized the Philadelphia Academy of natural science, which is now a most flourishing institution, possessing the largest natural history collection of any society in the United States. I believe about the same period the society which now bears the name of the Albany Institute was organized. At Albany we have three societies, having objects different but yet closely related the one to the other. We have one organized for the advancement of natural history, another for agriculture, another for arts and manufactures, and when we look to our records, we find that all kept equal pace in improvement. There the cast-iron ploughshare was invented, and improvements in that art on which we all depend for our subsistence went hand in hand with discoveries in natural science. The organization of our agricultural societies dates from almost the same period as the organization of our natural history societies, and the improvement of agricultural engines has kept pace with the progress of science. In other cities too of the United States, we have societies formed for the advancement of natural science in all its departments. Your society had a more recent origin, and you can give good account of the years of its existence by what it has already done. Your collections are already very important, and I am enabled to say so from a close personal examination, this not being the first occasion that I have seen them. You have already brought together very valuable materials to form the nucleus of that more extensive collection which would fully represent the natural history of entire Canada. And, as I have observed from the remarks of your president, you are fully alive to the advantages in this respect of