

Smith), is reported in our proceedings, and is worthy of note for its terseness and characteristic metaphorical expression. In oratory the red man has succeeded in maintaining the traditions of his race. In strong contrast with the painted and feathered warriors who presented themselves in their aboriginal finery upon the occasion were observed two excellent Indian rifle companies, wearing the Queen's uniform, officered by chiefs of their race, and the Sergeant-Major of the county battalion of volunteers, himself a stalwart Iroquois. Overhead floated the Union Jack, to which impressive reference was made by aboriginal orators, whose ancestors had fought its battles on many a bloody field.

To-day we meet in the newer capital of the province amid more modern surroundings. The splendid park, the noble parliament buildings, the stately universities and colleges, the many comfortable homes of Toronto, are reminders that we are at the seat of the wealth, commerce, learning, legislation and government of the province. And I will now say that our heartiest thanks are due, and I take the liberty of tendering them on behalf of the Society and the exhibition committee, to the authorities of Victoria University, for so generously placing at our disposal for this meeting and the exhibition in connection with which it is held, these beautiful halls, than which it would be hard indeed to find any in any city better adapted for the purpose.

During the past year an important step has been taken by the Ontario Historical Society. At the last session of the Legislature the organization was incorporated with powers similar in all respects to those possessed by the Royal Society of Canada.* The Act also contains provisions for incorporating local historical societies in the simplest possible manner. Societies already affiliated may become incorporated by merely passing a resolution to that effect, and forwarding copies to the Secretary and to the Education Department. The Elgin Historical and Scientific Institute and the Wentworth Historical Society have been the first to take advantage of this provision. Societies not affiliated at the time of the passage of the Act become incorporated by the mere act of affiliation, which is granted by the council of the provincial society on application. Advantage should be taken of these provisions by historical associations throughout the province. Although corporations are sometimes said to have no souls, yet they possess a kind of immortality; and the existence

* The Bill for the incorporation of the Society was introduced and carried through its various stages by Andrew Pattullo, Esq., M.P.P.