

SECOND ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

THE Second Ordinary General Meeting was held at the "Pall Mall," on Monday evening, December 11th, 1876, His Grace the Duke of MANCHESTER President, in the chair. There was a large attendance of Fellows and their friends.

Mr. FREDK. YOUNG, Hon. Sec., having read the minutes of the First Ordinary General Meeting, which were confirmed, the PRESIDENT called upon the Rev. DONALD FRASER, D.D., the reader of the paper, who introduced his subject by saying: I am so much attached to many Canadians, and so much interested in the progress of Canada, that I could not refuse the request made to me to read a paper on Canada to this Institute; but I must ask your kind consideration for what I say on the ground that I have not any very recent personal acquaintance with the provinces that are now embraced in the Dominion of Canada. I have called my paper

CANADA: AS I REMEMBER IT, AND AS IT IS.

A little more than 300 years ago, Jacques Cartier, in command of two or three French vessels, sailed up the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and made known the vast region now called Canada to the nations of Western Europe. The exact date is 1534, a year in which Henry VIII. of England was breaking with the Pope, and on the Continent, Loyola was gathering his first society of Jesuits, and Copernicus was deciphering the true system of the universe. It was an incident of that turbulent century which attracted little notice at the time, that far to the north of the track across the Atlantic made by the Genoese Columbus, and more in the direction taken by his predecessor Sebastian Cabot the Venetian, the French had discovered new lands of unknown extent, and proceeded to establish trading ports on great inland waters. We do not at present mean to relate, or even to sketch, the history of Canada from what is held on the American Continent to be quite a hoary antiquity—the sixteenth century; but that history would be worth telling, marked as it is by heroic endurance, stirring adventures, and even desperate conflicts. At one time French, at another English, torn by the bloody strifes of the native tribes, assailed in the revolutionary struggle of the American Colonies 100 years ago,