

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—

My first duty on this occasion is to address myself to the Members of the ONTARIO LITERARY SOCIETY, and to acknowledge the high honor they have conferred upon me, in having unanimously chosen me for their President.

To be the presiding officer in a Society, so large and so influential as yours, is a distinction which any one might highly prize ; but I feel that the names of several gentlemen who have preceded me in this office, lend additional distinction to your chair. I only hope that I shall prove myself in some degree worthy of your choice. But this much I can assure you, that if my *ability* is all equal to my *desire* to serve you, your confidence has not been misplaced.

This Society is now in the seventh year of its existence. During that period it has risen from very small beginnings to a position that may fairly entitle it to be called one of *our Institutions*. It is not Toronto alone that has a claim to this institution, for there is not a city