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OPENING ADDRESS.

BY PROFESSOR J. G. MACGREGOR, PRESIDENT.

MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUT. OF NATURAL SCIENCE :

I TAKE this, the earliest opportunity which has presented itself, of thanking you for the honour you have shown me, in electing me to the Presidency of the Institute. To be asked to preside over the work of a number of earnest men, however few, must always be a source of gratification. The invitation to preside over your work at the present time is especially so, because of the critical point which the activity of the Institute seems to have reached. We have recently had the misfortune to lose some of our most active members, and so far as we can see there are few young men who are ready to take their places. For this reason the Presidency of the Institute at present should involve much more onerous duties than ever before, and I undertake to discharge them, only because I know that, though there are few active scientific workers left among us, those few are willing and ready to exert themselves to the utmost.

I have looked recently somewhat fully into our history, and find that, since its first meeting in 1863, this Institute has published about 304 papers, dealing for the most part with the Natural History and Geology of the Province of Nova Scotia, and averaging about 9 pages each. It is interesting to know how these papers have been distributed in time, and I have therefore plotted two curves, shewing, one, how the number of papers, and the other, how the number of pages, in our Trans-