

think, fully attained. If we are charged with having done nothing for the public, we might fairly ask, How are we bound to the public service? would the public appreciate our services if rendered? and have we not done as much towards imparting useful information, as could reasonably be expected, up to this time? It is a problem, yet to be solved, whether the vehicle of that information, prepared at no moderate expenditure of time and labour by some of the members of this Society, will be so appreciated and encouraged by those for whose good it is intended, as to render it a safe speculation for its public-spirited and liberal publishers.

I am sure we should all of us rejoice in the ability and opportunity of imparting to others any useful knowledge we may have among us. But we may fairly assume to ourselves the privilege of determining when and how it is to be done. We have made one step on this hitherto untried path; and I think it will be only the part of prudent travellers to ascertain if we have a firm footing before we advance another. There is but one thing to which, as regards the past year, I can allude with regret,—I mean the small attendance of members which I have occasionally observed at our meetings. Some who at our beginning were constant in their attendance, and appeared to take much interest in our proceedings, have all but deserted us. Their vacant places only greet us. Such a course must be prejudicial to the Society; it is one very likely to become infectious, and in the end prove fatal. None, I presume, would join us who did not feel an interest in the maintenance and success of the Society; and nothing is so likely to secure that as a constant attendance of all the members. Good listeners are as necessary as good writers; and we should not be deterred from attending because the proposed subject may seem not likely to interest our particular fancy. I can safely say that I have never been here on any occasion without hearing something I did not know before, or something which started a new train of thought in my mind. This might happen to others as well as to me; and as my parting observation, *ex cathedra*, I would earnestly urge a constant attendance on all my fellow members—undeterred by the atmosphere outside or the subject inside, and even though such attendance may occasionally be at the risk of some slight personal inconvenience.

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