

the Marquis of Lorne in the literary and artistic progress of Canada. A provisional council was chosen by the Marquis; at his invitation the members met at Government House and made preliminary arrangements; and the Society was publicly inaugurated in the Senate Chamber of the Parliament Buildings, at Ottawa, on the 25th of May, 1882. "Fifty-six papers, embracing nearly all the departments of research, were either read or presented at the first meeting, and of these thirty-three were published in the Transactions".

By permission of Her Majesty the Society styled itself the Royal Society of Canada. In 1883 it was incorporated by Act of the Canadian Parliament. The Queen gave her assent to the Bill on the 25th of May of that year.

The Society consists of four sections: French History and Literature; English Literature, including History, Archæology, etc; Mathematical, Chemical and Physical Sciences; and Geological and Biological Sciences. The number of members of each Section is in general limited to twenty, and under any circumstances may not exceed twenty-five.

Copies of the Transactions of the Society, published annually, are sent to members, to Associated Societies, the Lieutenant-Governors in Canada and Newfoundland, the members of the Privy Council of Canada, the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons, the Chief Justice of each Province, the Premier of each Province, the Speakers of the Legislatures of each Province, the Minister or Superintendent of Education in each Province, the Universities, the Library of Parliament and the Libraries of the Provincial Legislatures.

Provision was made for the affiliation of local literary and scientific societies throughout the Dominion, and this is helping very much to concentrate and develop intellectual effort and research in our country. Twenty-four of these local societies are now affiliated with the Royal Society of Canada. Three of them belong to the Maritime Provinces: The Nova Scotia Institute of Natural Science, the Nova Scotia Historical Society, and the New Brunswick Natural History Society.

The circulation of the Transactions has done much, the Handbook assures us, to make Canada better known abroad, especially in the seats of enlightenment in the Old World. "Not a week passes", says the report of the Council for 1887, "without some evidence being furnished of the attention that the papers are receiving in cultivated circles abroad, and requests for the volumes are constantly at hand from various centres of intelligence to which they have not hitherto been sent".

Sir J. W. Dawson was the first President of the Society. The President for 1890-91 is the Very Rev. Dr. G. M. Grant. The Maritime Provinces are represented in Sections 2, 3 and 4. Rev. Dr. George Paterson and Professor Charles G. D. Roberts are members of the English Literature

Section; Dr. J. G. MacGregor is a member of Section 3; while five Maritime *savants* belong to Section 4

To show how comprehensive and important is the work which the Society has been doing, we give the titles of some of the principal papers read in Section 2 since the inauguration:—

The Literature of French Canada, by John Lesperance.

The Making of Canada, by John Reade.

The Literary Faculty of the Native Races of America, by John Reade.

The Poets of Canada, by John Lesperance.

Sources of Early Canadian History, by George Stewart, Jr.

First Siege and Capture of Louisburg, by Sir Adams G. Archibald.

The Romance of the History of Canada, by John Lesperance.

The Last Decade of French Rule in America, 1749-1759 by J. M. Lemoine.

It is a pity that a much wider circulation should not be given to such papers as these than the Transactions of the Society can afford. If the Society could see its way clear to publish the most interesting of the literary and historical papers in pamphlet form for sale to the public, it would very much enhance the usefulness of its work.

Long may the Royal Society of Canada flourish and fulfil with increasing efficiency the high and noble aims which it has in view!

HE WHOM WE WAIT.

BY MATTHEW RICHEY KNIGHT.

HE whom we wait will bring,
Not flowers, to blow and die,
But the seed from which will spring
Roses eternally.

No map of the finished life
Will be spread before our eyes;
But his every song will be rife
With the swing of high emprise.

Not beauty that time will blast,
Not glories of gold and red,
But truth and life that will last
When the sun and stars are dead.

Not form but spirit he brings;
Not deed, but power to do;
The weak forget, as he sings,
Their weakness, the sad their rue.

"He brings", have I said? and yet
My wistful ear hears no song;
The eyes of the world are wet;
Why doth he tarry so long?