

would be found to be impracticable by which a great public good might be attained;—these all made him an invaluable fellow-worker with you, especially in laying the foundation for your future system of proceeding. Some portion of his spirit inevitably communicated itself to those with whom he was associated; and thoroughly unselfish, and disinterested as he was seen to be in all his aims, he proved to be an efficient applicant on behalf of the Association whenever an occasion offered, being a suitor whom all were reluctant to disappoint, and all willing to oblige.

I need offer you no excuse, I am persuaded, for not suffering myself to be restrained by the domestic tie which exists between Capt. Lefroy and myself from paying this just tribute to his services—That circumstance has but given me a better opportunity than I should otherwise have had of appreciating his disposition and exertions. It can hardly, I believe, lead me to take a more affectionate interest in his reputation than will always be felt by those whom I am addressing.

It is abundantly evident, gentlemen, that the Canadian Institute, from the zealous efforts of several able and efficient supporters, is occupying at this moment a more considerable place in public estimation than it could have been expected to attain so early; but if we stop for a moment on the vantage ground that has been gained—to look round us, and to glance at the past as well as at the future, I believe we may come satisfactorily to the conclusion that if it shall be the good fortune of this Association to work out any important good for Canada, it still need not be seriously regretted by us that it did not begin its work sooner, or rather that such an Association was not sooner formed.

Many things seem to have concurred to render the time chosen for its commencement an auspicious starting point, and it will be more favorable perhaps to its future success that the Institute has had from the first a vigorous growth, and has occupied early a position recommending it to public countenance and favor, than that it should have been forced into existence before it could have found adequate support. It could only then have lingered in a sickly state, not attracting much attention, nor giving rise to any sanguine hopes;—and it would have been more difficult to have