

whose skill and enterprise have in advancing these results done honour to Canada? Would it not therefore be becoming on the part of the Canadian Institute to initiate a movement to establish some enduring record in commemoration of the voyage of the "Royal William" in 1833, and in honour of those connected with her? The record might take the form of a brass memorial tablet, or as may hereafter be determined, placed in some fit position in the halls or corridors of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa. This course is followed in the mother country, where records of great historical events can be seen in the entrance Hall of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster.

Whatever form the suggestion may assume, or wherever placed, it will be a lasting tribute to the skill and courage of the men associated with the first transatlantic steamship. Such a record is due to our country, and our countrymen, and the proposal having its origin in Toronto will be accepted as a graceful compliment to a sister city, where the "Royal William" was designed, constructed and sent to sea. The memorial itself will denote an incident in our annals of which all Canadians of whatever race, may feel allowable pride. It will indicate the point of commencement of a new era in the history of navigation. It will mark the part which Canada has played in the inauguration of a system of inter-communication which has contributed in a remarkable degree to the advancement of civilization; and which has exercised and will long continue to exercise an important influence on the destinies of the human race.

#### NOTE ON EARLY STEAMBOATS.

BY SANDFORD FLEMING, LL.D., C.M.G., ETC.

*(Read 17th December, 1892.)*

There are many records of attempts to propel vessels by steam before the beginning of the century. The most successful were those of Mr. Miller, on Dalswinton Loch in Scotland in 1788 and of Mr. Symington on the Forth and Clyde Canal some twelve years later. These and other inventors devoted much time and money to accomplish the object they had in view and much credit is due to them for the ingenuity displayed :