

abler in every department of science than myself, have achieved ; and while such men as Sir William Logan, Principal Dawson, the Rev. A. F. Kemp, Mr. Billings, and others, continue to give their time and talents to its support, I am confident that it ought to receive cordial and liberal encouragement from the public of Montreal. It is an Institution which, though still in, what we may consider, an infant state, and with its Museum, as compared with those of the old world collections, only as it were commencing its existence, yet reflects credit upon this city, and I trust will continue to do so more and more. I certainly regret that we have not yet got in Montreal some regular and permanent building for carrying on Astronomical and Meteorological Observations. We are however now arrived at a time, when it is not unreasonable to expect occasional acts of well considered munificence amongst our wealthier citizens to enrich our city with useful Institutions, whether connected with Religion or Charity, Learning or Science ; and I trust that the example recently set by one of them in connection with McGill College may lead to many similar instances. Perhaps amongst them we may some day find the means of establishing an Observatory in connection with this Institution, and carrying on a regular course of scientific observations. But at any rate whatever may be hereafter accomplished in any fresh departments, we must not allow the "Natural History Society of Montreal" to stop in its present onward progress, or to fail in making good its own special work, either for want of talent ready to labour in its cause, or a grateful public ready to support it.

Principal Dawson then read the following :—

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The past year has been characterised by steady progress and prosperity in the affairs of the Society. The papers read have been numerous and important, the publication of the *Naturalist* has been maintained with its usual vigour, the annual course of Somerville lectures has been delivered to crowded audiences, considerable additions have been made to the library and museum, the number of members has increased, and the legislative grant