

relative position of remote points on the ground is important; except in these cases where unlimited pains aided by the best appliances, necessarily involving great expense, have been employed. It is, however, scarcely necessary to remark, that the telegraphic method of ascertaining longitudes can supersede other methods only within the limits of an established telegraphic system; and that on the ocean, or in uninhabited countries, or in those to which the telegraph has not yet reached, the ordinary methods must still be pursued.

I have now gone over the ground marked by the proceedings of the Society during the past year, and though we may not have wrought wonders, I trust our labours have not been without results to which we may recur with satisfaction. We have, on the whole, passed with success through eleven years probation, I trust in a manner not to require any of us to look back with regret at whatever share he may have taken in promoting that success. It has been sometimes said by individual members here, and those the least likely to have occasion to say so, that they had been led by the obligations of our rules to reading and investigations on subjects connected with our proceedings, from which they had derived both pleasure and instruction, which otherwise they should probably never have enjoyed. I doubt not but that this satisfaction is more or less shared by each of us, and in my own case, I the more freely acknowledge it, because it is one of the proofs of our success. This was one of the objects proposed when the Society was founded; but I think I am right in saying that it was not intended to circumscribe our views of benefit to our own limited circle; but as the Society increased in numbers, in combined intelligence and constitutional vigour, it should if possible be more influential for good, and particularly with reference to the industrial interests of the Province; I am prompted to make this remark by the dark cloud of commercial depression which continues to hang over us. We are, I believe, unanimous in regarding our dependence mainly on one, and that an exceedingly hazardous branch of industry, as greatly to be deplored; and that without multiplied employments to create