

the value of science and literature, and who, though they did not devote themselves to this pursuit, yet derived considerable gratification from them. One of the reminiscences of his youth related to a time when Griffintown contained but a single house, that of Mr. Robert Griffin. That gentleman used to assemble his friends—and he (Dr. H.) as a youth considered it a great privilege to be allowed to be present—to hear recitations of Shakspeare. Now, as recitations of Shakspeare even at this advanced period and in the metropolis of the world could draw large audiences, he thought Canadians were not then so very far back as Dr. Hall's books probably stated they were. (Laughter.) They had even societies at that time amongst them. He belonged to one which had existed before the Natural History Society, and which was styled the Literary and Philosophical Society of Montreal. This Society lasted for a year or two; the members got tired of it, the meetings were not attended, and it was broken up. Some slight collections made by it, however, formed a germ for the subsequent organization of the Natural History Society, which commenced its operations in the year 1827, on the 12th of May. To give it stability, it was determined that one of the leading objects should be the formation of a collection illustrating Natural Science. To one who, like him, had been engaged in originating the Society, it was exceedingly gratifying to witness such a museum as was displayed in this building to-night. (Applause.) The Society met at first in a small room, over a bookseller's shop in St. Paul Street, and remained there for several years until their collection became too large for their room. They then removed to a building—now thrown down—between the Banque du Peuple and the Montreal Bank. They remained there for several years, and then they purchased the building from which the Society had just now removed. At the meeting at which the Society was finally organized on the 16th May, 1827, there were 26 members present. Of these there were now only three living in Montreal—the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, Hon. Judge McCord, and himself. There was one other of these 26 original members who was now living in Upper Canada. Whether there might be others still living, who had left the city, he was not aware. Dr. Holmes proceeded to give an interesting sketch of the subsequent history of the Society, mentioning the names of several of its benefactors, and drawing a comparison between the liberality of the old Lower Canadian Legislature and the strange conduct of the present