

the increasing wants of civilization, and the effects of competition, will undoubtedly leave us far behind in the race of progress.

We should do well ever to bear in mind the words of one well qualified to speak on such a subject :—"The progress of science and industry in countries which have reached a certain stage of civilization, ought actually to be synonymous expressions; and hence it follows, that it is essentially the policy of a nation to promote the one which forms the springs for the action of the other."

If, then, we desire to see our country attain that position, which its boundless natural advantages, if properly turned to account, entitle it to assume, let us use our best exertions that this Institute may become the channel for the diffusion of the fullest information as to our peculiarities of soil and climate, our agricultural and mineral productions, and our means of internal communication and improvement; and, while uniting together in a common bond all who possess a taste for literature or science, may more especially prove the means of fostering those studies and enquiries which are not only of vital importance in enlarging and strengthening the mental powers of those who engage in them, but must also have a directly practical effect upon the progress and advancement of the country to which we belong.

And now, gentlemen, allow me, in conclusion, to thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me, in electing me as your President. The only drawback to the pleasure and gratification which I feel in having been honored by your choice on this occasion, is the consciousness of my want of ability, as compared with those who have preceded me in the occupation of this chair, worthily to fill so honorable a post, and I can only suppose that a deep interest in the welfare of the Society, and an earnest desire (which I trust I have always exhibited) to further its objects and promote its advancement, have been kindly accepted by you in lieu of many higher qualifications which I feel to be wanting in me for this important office.

I have reason to congratulate the Institute that its Vice Presidents and the members of the Council are gentlemen whose talents and acquirements well qualify them for sustaining the reputation of the Society, and I trust that under their able direction the Institute may continue to make as rapid progress as it has hitherto done, and attracting to itself the undivided support of the learning and science of the Province, may continue to attest that the intellectual progress of Canada is ever keeping pace with her rapid advancement in material prosperity.