

sive Museum of natural history and mineralogy, the fruits of the labor and expenditure of many years, embracing a unique collection of American birds, and specimens of almost all the natural productions of the country, as well as many antiquarian objects of interest, perished in the flames. Through the praiseworthy exertions of some of the members of the Society, a large portion of our Library, and almost the whole of our valuable manuscripts relating to the early history of the country, were rescued from destruction. But a serious inroad was, notwithstanding, made upon our library shelves, and many valuable sets of books have been rendered comparatively useless by the loss of one or more volumes from among them. The pecuniary loss which the Society sustained on that occasion has been estimated at about £1400, but many of the most interesting objects which were destroyed in the Museum are such as cannot be replaced.

Under these circumstances immediate steps were taken by the Council to meet the emergency, and to repair as far as possible the severe losses of the Society. In the first place rooms were secured, fitted up and furnished for the Society's meetings, and for the temporary reception of the remains of the Library, and the wreck of the Museum, and an appeal was made to other Institutions of a similar nature with our own for contributions to enable us to commence the re-construction of our Museum.

The first meeting of the Society was held in our present rooms, on the 8th March. When it is borne in mind that the Council had to provide, fit up and furnish the rooms, it will, we think, be admitted that no time was lost in providing the Society with the necessary accommodation. The fitting up and furnishing of the Society's rooms involved an outlay of a considerable sum, as compared with the resources of the Society, but the Council did not hesi-