

antiquities and specimens of natural history. And here those, who wish to further the objects of this Society, may easily and usefully give their aid; by sending specimens to add to the present collection, where they are now far more likely to be taken care of than in private hands, and will be more widely known and useful than it is probable that they would ever otherwise become. It must be a subject of great satisfaction to those who were amongst the original founders of this Society, to witness the advance it has been making in the last few years: for which we are mainly indebted to the increased exertion of our President and a few other members of our body. It has been in the face of many difficulties,—uncheered and unsupported as yet by any general countenance of the citizens of Montreal, and hardly noticed by those who dispense the patronage of Government, though really, with scarcely an exception, doing more for science and the honor of Canada than any other existing Institute of the kind,—that *the Natural History Society of Montreal* has reached its present position. Perhaps such difficulties, this general indifference, has stimulated the zeal and nerved the energies of those who have been labouring to advance her interest and increase her usefulness, and thus enabled them to attain their present measure of success. We are told by naturalists that Birds of Paradise fly best against the wind; and against an adverse gale our Society has long been pushing onwards. Its *ultimate* success is *now* no longer a matter of uncertainty; its *immediate* powers of usefulness, their extent and application, mainly depend on the support it is yet to receive. Let us hope that that support will not be wanting in this city; and that the time is coming, when public grants of money will not be always voted, as acknowledgments of political support, but in some just proportion to the real claims and merits of the institutions of the country.