

after toiling for a week to provide for the amusement and instruction of his associated literary brethren, than is displayed by the contemptuous absence of those who should have listened to his Essay, and in many instances of those who had previously engaged to assist him in Debate.

The subject is disagreeable, but I have thought it right to advert to it, knowing as I do, that I am only putting into words the feeling entertained by the working members of the Society. A more cheerful prospect is however opening upon us; the meetings are improving, and we are now enrolling a class of gentlemen who there is every reason to suppose will warmly co-operate with the elder brethren, in displaying the Society in all its vigour, and developing its perfect usefulness. In the words of the Reverend President* of an Institution in Toronto which I am led to believe owes something of its rise to the "*disjecta Membra*" of a Society with which I had an intimate connection:—

“Let us, therefore, persevere, meet we with every so many impediments and coldnesses. Let us but exist, and husband well our life, and we shall grow with the growth of the fair city that surrounds us, and share yet, not unworthily, in its history. We are, it is true, in the embryo state; but let us believe ourselves an embryo of all hopeful things—the acorn from which the oak may grow. Let us go on steadily, with our eye fixed simply on the improvement of ourselves, and the facilitating the study of Literature, and we shall speedily find our Society to be a centre of influence, not only having weight with the community around us, but connecting us and it by the strong sympathy of common pursuits, with some of the most useful and most respected bodies of men in the parent country.”

Believe me, Gentlemen, that OURS also is a future of all hopeful things—“the stream of time which is continually washing the dissoluble fabric of other Poets passes without injury *the adamant of SHAKSPEARE.*” In that mighty name we are destined to conquer, and to erect an Institution in this improving City, which shall in time embrace beneath its shadow all who by character, standing, and intelligence, can give stability to a Society formed solely for the advancement of Literature, and calculated

* Rev. Henry Scadding.