

would be rendered far more attractive if we could now and then place on our shelves, or better still, upon our table, some of the more recent books on different branches of natural history. I am sure this would be a great boon, more particularly to our younger members.

But it is easy to expatiate upon the needs of such a Society as this. Every advancing institution has ever increasing needs, and you may be sure that a society without needs is in a state of stagnation. Some of the improvements which I have suggested I had hoped to see carried out during my own tenure of office; but a year soon rolls by, and what I anxiously hoped to do I must leave to others to perform. I have so many claims upon my time and strength that I now wish to retire to the ranks of this Society, and in doing so, let me thank you heartily for the honour that you did me in making me your President, and for all the kind indulgence that you have shown me during the past year. Though unwilling longer to hold any office in the Society, I trust that indirectly I may be able to advance its interests in different ways.

In conclusion, gentlemen, let me remind you of the great satisfaction which everyone may derive from a study of nature, who, as Wordsworth puts it,

“Never did betray the heart that loved her.”

Sometimes down at the sea-side I fall in with people who tell me that the time hangs heavily on their hands—there is nothing to do—nothing to see; and yet every wave that breaks upon the beach at their feet is filled with surpassing forms of beauty, whose study would make the hours all too short.

One man some years ago asked me how I could endure the monotony of such a place as Little Metis. “I like,” said he, “to go where I can see horse races every day and fire works every night.” Is there pity too deep for such a man?

“The soft blue sky did never melt into his heart.”

The busiest among us are those most in need of change