

FAMOUS SCIENTISTS REPLY.

Lord Lister, as retiring president, Sir John Evans as president-elect, and Lord Kelvin, as a past president, in speeches felicitous and eloquent accepted the greetings so warmly tendered. At this point the chairman availed himself of the presence of the Hon. A. S. Hardy, premier of Ontario, and the Hon. G. W. Ross, minister of education, who, on behalf of the Province, added their greetings to those previously voiced. The proceedings closed with an informal reception at which the members of the City Council were introduced to the officers of the association.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Sir John Evans, in his address as president-elect of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, most ably presented the claims of the association for its work's sake upon the friends of progress. In his introduction he said :

"Once more has the Dominion of Canada invited the British Association for the Advancement of Science to hold one of the annual meetings of its members within the Canadian territory; and for a second time has the association had the honor and pleasure of accepting the proffered hospitality. In doing so, the Association has felt that if by any possibility the scientific welfare of a locality is promoted by its being the scene of such a meeting, the claims should be fully recognized of those who, though not dwelling in the British Isles, are still inhabitants of that Greater Britain whose prosperity is so intimately connected with the fortunes of the Mother Country. Here especially are loyal subjects of our beloved Sovereign, the sixtieth year of whose beneficent reign has just been celebrated with equal rejoicing in all parts of her Empire; as speaking the same tongue, and as in most instances connected by the ties of one common parentage, we are bound together in all that can promote our common interests.

There is, in all probability, nothing that will tend more to advance those interests than the diffusion of science in all parts of the British Empire, and it is towards this end that the aspirations of the British Association are ever directed, even if in many instances the aim may not be attained.

We are, as already mentioned, indebted to Canada for previous hospitality, but we must also remember that, since the time when we last assembled on this side of the Atlantic, the Dominion has provided the association with a president, Sir William Dawson, whose name is alike well known in Britain and America, and whose reputation is indeed world-wide. We rejoice that we have still among us the pioneer of American geology, who, among other discoveries, first made us acquainted with the "Air breathers of the coal," the terrestrial, or more properly arboreal saurians of the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia coal measures.

On our last visit to Canada in 1884 our place of assembly was Montreal, a city which is justly proud of her McGill University; to-day we meet within the buildings of another of the universities of this vast Dominion—and in a city the absolute fitness of which for such a purpose must have been foreseen by the native Indian tribes when they gave to a small aggregation of huts upon this spot the name of Toronto—"the place of meetings."

The speaker here referred to the presence at the present meeting of the association of the members of the sister association of the United States and some other learned bodies, describing it as a feature of entire novelty and extreme interest. "I need hardly say," he went on, "how welcome their presence is, nor how gladly we look forward to their taking part in our discussions, and aiding us by interchange of thought. To such a meeting the term 'international' seems almost misapplied. It may rather be described as a family gathering, in which our