

education of the people. By this Bill the people of the country would, at least, have the right of holding a piece of ground for building a School House, and receive charitable Donations for the support of Schools, without being liable to have the whole taken from them, as was the case at present, and had actually happened. This was a Bill, properly speaking, to permit the people to have Schools, which, after all the fruitless attempts of this House, to obtain something better, might be considered as valuable. The Amendments were agreed to unanimously.

It gives us pleasure to be able to call the attention of our readers to a subject of domestic interest, of the highest and most gratifying description. The early history of this Province is still involved in an obscurity highly discreditable to the taste and research of the learned among its inhabitants. Attempts have indeed been made, and they have been successful as far as they went, to throw some light on a subject which is of uncommon interest to the patriot and to the antiquarian. But the want of materials, or rather the impossibility of obtaining the use of materials which it is believed, really exist, has presented obstacles that the perseverance of individuals has not been able to overcome. Considerations, founded on the importance and eligibility of this subject in a literary and national point of view, forcibly intruded themselves on the minds of many of our most distinguished characters—and we are happy to state, with such effect on the mind of the highest personage in this Province, as to suggest to him the establishment of a Society, on the most liberal and inclusive scale, for the purpose of promoting Literary and Historical research in these Provinces. It was hoped, in the event of this Society obtaining a maturity, of which its rapid progress now gives every expectation, that such learned and religious bodies, and such individuals of the same character, as, possessing historical treasures in their libraries, felt a natural reluctance in submitting them to the examination of unauthorised individuals—might be induced to entrust them to the members of a Literary Society for the purpose of being displayed to public view, and even to become active members of that Society themselves.

During the last year, a meeting of the friends to the establishment of the *Quebec Literary and Historical Society*, was held on a limited scale, and the minutes of the proceedings were recorded. In pursuance of resolutions then adopted, the first general and enlarged meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday the 6th January, at the old Castle of St. Lewis. His Excellency the EARL OF DALHOUSIE in the chair. His Lordship forcibly stated the motives which had induced the formation of the Society, in language which was cordially responded to by every person present. Several gentlemen offered their sentiments in relation to the proper method of proceeding to the permanent establishment of the *Quebec Literary and Historical Society*, and resolutions, by which a Committee of fifteen was appointed to decide upon the proper steps to be taken in this respect, and to manage the Society for the space of one year, including a President, two Vice Presidents, Librarian, Treasurer, and Secretary, were passed unanimously. Some discussion afterwards took place, as to the name of the Society, when it was finally resolved, that an Address should be laid at the foot of the Throne, through His Excellency the Governor in Chief, praying His Majesty to honor this Literary and Historical Society with his protection, and to add to it any designation that to him might seem proper. On the unanimous request of the gentlemen present, His Excellency was pleased to allow himself to be termed for the future in all Acts of this Society, its FOUNDER and PATRON, designations no more than his Lordship's due, as the first promoter of this laudable establishment.

We doubt not but every friend to the moral and literary improvement of this Province will join us in expressing unmixed satisfaction at an occurrence, which stamps an honorable distinction on the commencement of the year 1824.