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“QUEBEC LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.”

We derive no less pleasure than encouragement from the reflection, that we have commenced our labours at a time when such vigorous efforts are made to improve the moral and political condition of those parts of the British Empire, with whose literary prospects we are about to connect ourselves. If these, our labours, shall ever be so fortunate as to contribute in any way to the promotion of those patriotic views, we need not say what satisfaction we shall derive from the contemplation of those reasons which induced us to come forward and lend our feeble aid to purposes so highly honorable to a nation's worth and glory, and the honor which such an event will confer, not upon us, but upon that public whose liberality of sentiment so easily paves the way for judicious and meritorious enterprise. The institution of such an association as the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, is in itself, so noble an effort to organize the literature of the Country, and otherwise so similar in its objects to our own pursuits, that we feel no apology is due for introducing it as our preliminary article, in order at once to declare our opinion of its ends and purposes, and, in so doing, make such other observations as may appear necessary while ushering such a work as the present into the world.

About the commencement of the French revolution, the Duke de la Rochefoucault Liancourt travelled on this Continent, and we believe it is in his account of those travels that the following short, but curious and important passage is to be found:—“Throughout all CANADA, there is no public library, except in Quebec, and this is small and consists mostly of French books. No literary Society exists in Canada, and not three men are known in the whole country, to be engaged in scientific pursuits. Excepting the *Quebec Almanack*, not a single book is printed in Canada!” The case is very different.