

all my fellow-members, entertain of the long continued liberality of the Government towards us, I cannot help expressing my regret that it has been deemed advisable to withdraw the grant formerly made to the Toronto Athenæum, and which we have enjoyed since the amalgamation of the two institutions. The depressed state of the financial affairs of the country, and the consequent necessity for a strict economy in the expenditure of the public moneys, induced the Government, I suppose, to limit their liberality last year to the grant of £250, but I hope that it will not be found necessary to confine it to that amount hereafter.

I cannot but regard a liberal appropriation from the public funds for the purpose of aiding and supporting societies having for their objects the advancement of science and the spread of knowledge, as a wise and judicious act on the part of any government, and with reference to this point I trust you will pardon my again quoting from the excellent address of Professor Owen, to which I have already alluded. In that part of it in which he alludes to the aid and countenance which the British Government had always given to science and scientific institutions, he proceeds to show how science makes *return* to governments for fostering and aiding her endeavours for the public weal :

“Every practical application of the discoveries of science,” says the Professor, “tends to the same end as that which the enlightened statesman has in view. The steam engine in its manifold application, the crime-decreasing gas lamp, the lightning conductors, the electric telegraph, the law of storms, and rules for the mariner’s guidance in them, the power of rendering surgical operation painless, the measures for preserving public health, and for preventing or mitigating epidemics—such are among the more important practical results of pure scientific research, with which mankind have been blessed, and states enriched. They are evidence unmistakeable of the close affinity between the aims and tendencies of science, and those of true state policy. In proportion to the activity, productivity, and prosperity of a community, is its power of *responding to the calls of the Finance Minister*. By a far seeing one, the man of science will be regarded with a favorable eye, not less for unlooked for streams of wealth that have already flowed, but for those that may in future arise out of the application of the abstract truths, to the discovery of which he devotes himself.”