

in some of the leading scientific journals of Europe. Your own Journal, in which such papers first appear, has already attained distinction among periodicals of the same character.

But you have had it also in view to induce a more general attention amongst the Canadian people to the objects of Science ; and, in the observations I am to make upon this occasion, I am sure that I shall have your indulgence, though I should chiefly keep in mind this part of your design, and though I should speak from the stand-point of a politician and a public man—a character which it is but a few weeks since I ceased to fill, rather than profess to speak from the stand-point of a man of science—a character to which I do not venture to make any pretension.

The worth of the Canadian Institute has not been altogether unrecognized in the Councils of the Province. Parliament has for many years been in the habit of making to it an annual grant. Our country is under popular government, and the mass of electors, or indeed of their representatives, make no claim to science ; and it is therefore gratifying to know that to some extent they appreciate the value of scientific pursuits. Our fellow Canadians are almost all engaged, as in a new country like this almost all must be engaged, in the struggle to obtain for themselves and their families the means of subsistence, or to add to these some of the comforts of life. Yet they have certainly shewn some ability to recognize, and some disposition to encourage, pursuits entirely foreign to their own, and of which, therefore, it always needs a considerable amount of intelligence to perceive the claims or the utility. This disposition will, I trust, gradually increase ; but that it now exists to the extent it does, is a fact of peculiar interest in view of the work which our statesmen are at this moment engaged in, of laying the foundations of a nation of which Canada will long be, and will perhaps always be, the most important portion : a nation, though still receiving, and wishing to receive, its Chief Magistrate from the sovereign of the Fatherland : a nation, though still cordially recognising the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament : a nation, not independent of any other, but continuing, and preferring to continue, part of the country from which we have sprung ; of the country whose language we speak ; whose institutions we adopt or imitate ; whose history is our own ; and which, in science and literature, in freedom and power and wealth, in the purity of its statesmen of all parties, and