

information and instruction, than with any expectation of being able to contribute to the general stock of knowledge themselves: we should, nevertheless, remember that it is not *only* to those amongst us whose scientific attainments and extensive learning pre-eminently fit them for the task of sustaining the character of the Society, and carrying out its objects, that we look for assistance and support. There are many subjects of enquiry and observation which come within the reach of every intelligent person. Subjects connected with the peculiarities of our climate and soil, and the geology and natural history of the country, upon all of which much valuable information might be collected at the cost of a comparatively small expenditure of time and trouble on the part of individual observers, while many important facts might be thus elicited which might form the basis for future enquiry and research, on the part of those whose talents and acquirements more peculiarly fit them for the task.

Upon the individual exertions then of the members of the Institute, and their hearty co-operation in the furtherance of its objects, must we depend for that degree of life and vigor in this Association which alone can enable it to take rank worthily among the scientific societies of the world.

The inducements to the prosecution of scientific enquiries are as great here as in any other part of the world—indeed it may be said that there are peculiar reasons why those who desire to promote the best interests of our country, should exert themselves in the prosecution of such studies.

Canada has lately made herself most favorably known through her products and manufactures, at the great exhibitions of 1851 and 1855.

Now, I think it will be readily admitted that the results of these exhibitions have clearly proved that, in the present advanced state of civilization, "*a competition in industry must be a competition of intellect,*" and that the material greatness and prosperity of individual countries must largely depend upon their advancement in science.

Possessing, as we undoubtedly do, many advantages over other countries, in the fertility of our soil, and the extent and excellence of our mineral productions, still, if we neglect or overlook the cultivation and promotion of those scientific enquiries which tend to the effective application of increased power, be it in agriculture or manufactures, both with regard to the economy of labor and of time—