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THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

BY THE REV. JOHN M^cCAUL, LL.D.,
PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.

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GENTLEMEN OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE,—

In opening the proceedings of a new year of the Society's existence with the customary address, my first duty is to return thanks for the honour which you have conferred upon me, by your unanimous election of me as President of the Institute. Whilst I highly appreciate this mark of your estimation, I must confess that when I received the official notification of our Secretary, I had some hesitation as to the propriety of my accepting the office, for I was conscious that it would be impossible for me to discharge the duties with that regularity which you might expect, and which I myself would desire. In other Societies, in which I have held a similar position, I have endeavoured, if prevented by my avocations from lending active co-operation, at all events to give assistance by punctuality of attendance at their meetings. In the case of the Canadian Institute, however, as its season extends over precisely that period of the year, when my duties are most heavy, and my engagements most pressing, I could not hope to