

science with such great discoveries, as shall open up to future generations fresh paths of knowledge and clearer visions of the true; or, if even systematically to master particular sciences, may not be our province, consistently with other occupations and other duties, yet all may assist in the promotion of science, and the encouragement of those who are striving to learn its mysteries, and to make them practically useful, as well as interesting to all. Our President, in the Introductory Lecture of the last year's course, on "Things to be observed in Canada, and especially in Montreal and its vicinity," gave us some very plain and useful advice on this subject. And, in the notes to the "Pursuits of Literature," it is mentioned that Watson, formerly Bishop of Llandaff, writing to a friend, told him that "Sir Isaac Newton and Dr. Bentley, meeting one day accidentally in London, Sir Isaac inquired what philosophical pursuits were carrying on at Cambridge? Bentley replied, none; for when *you* are hunting, Sir Isaac, you kill all the game: you have left us nothing to pursue. 'Not so (said the philosopher), you may start a variety of game in every bush, if you will but take the trouble to beat for it.' And truth it is, (continues the Bishop), every object in nature affords occasion for philosophical experiments."

And certainly there is a wonderful difference between those who go through the world with their eyes open, and those who keep them shut; which is very prettily exemplified in a little story—well known, I dare say, to many—called "Eyes and no eyes," in *The Evenings at Home*; where two boys having taken the same walk through a diversified tract of country, but without falling in with each other, on being asked by their tutor, when they came back, how they had been amused,—one said it had been the dull-est, most uninteresting walk he had ever taken; the other, by making use of his senses, and observing the different places he passed and objects he met with, was full of delight and adventure.

One thing is a great encouragement to us in Montreal at present, and that is the completion of this Building, in which we now are assembled, for the service of the *Natural History Society*; not merely as being more commodious for our meetings and lectures, but as affording a fit and proper place for the collection of our