

able management of the editor and the editing committee, has reflected honor upon the Institute, and has been one of the chief means of making the society known beyond the limits of the Province, and of establishing for it something more than a mere local reputation. I think therefore that a sense of gratitude to those who have labored so zealously and effectively, should incite us each in our several degrees to assist in the work, and I would join with the Council in earnestly inviting a more active co-operation on the part of the members generally, both in contributing to the *Journal*, and to the subjects for discussion at the weekly meetings.

I may fairly presume that it is the earnest desire of every Canadian that his country should at least keep pace in its intellectual progress with its growth in wealth and advancement in material prosperity; and we can doubtless point to our colleges and universities to prove that we have not been unmindful of the claims of letters, and that the generation, not yet passed away, which found Upper Canada a wilderness, and by their energy and industry converted it into a thriving and populous Province, were not so absorbed in the mere material interests of the day, as to preclude their taking thought for the higher interests of learning and science. But, admitting all this, it can scarcely be denied that the study of the physical sciences has, until very lately, made but comparatively little progress in Canada, and if we would establish for our country an honourable standing in the world of science, it behoves us to use our best exertions to aid and foster those associations which tend to encourage a spirit of enquiry, awaken a taste for scientific pursuits and investigations, and assist in promoting those observations and experiments which but for some such organization would perhaps never be made. Now in this Institute we possess just such an *organization* as we require—a *centre* into which the treasures gleaned by the experience, the observation, and the discoveries of active and intelligent minds amongst us, should naturally flow, to be there digested and arranged, and thence again diffused throughout the length and breadth of the land.

In this wondrous age of mental activity and scientific research, we need to task all our energies to keep pace with the progress of discovery. Every year new fields are thrown open for the researches of the geographer, the naturalist, and the geologist. Countries hitherto almost inaccessible, either from the natural obstacles which interposed themselves to their exploration, or rendered so by the jealous restric-