

discomfiture was not in other eyes so absolute, and perhaps that *all* eyes were not directed to the exhibitor at the unlucky moment; that if it *was* the universal topic, still other topics will *gradually* supersede it; and the result is at length that another effort is made, accompanied, possibly, with less lofty hopes, but with a more careful and vigilant preparation, and a gleam of success, presage of a still brighter day, dawns upon the gloom.

I hope I may be pardoned for these remarks. They certainly stand in need of some apology to those I see around me who have borne the burthen and weight of the Society; but if the genius and talent which have been steadily devoted to the purposes of our association, have gratified while they informed and continued to keep up the interest of our meetings, I would desire to draw our younger members into the same honorable paths, and enable them in time to win the like meed of approbation from their associates, while their best reward will be their own conscious self improvement.

I hope, I say, I shall be forgiven. My only title to be didactic is the position in which your kindness has (for the second time) placed me, as your President.

In the *real* business of the Society, I confess with all humility, *minima pars fui*; but I hope those I address may prove, if *less* honored, *more* useful members.

I feel that some degree of resolution is necessary to resist the seductions of indolence and the fascinations of lighter and less intellectual pursuits. From various causes, of the number of the company which, to borrow the metaphor of a reverend and excellent predecessor in this Chair, embarked together when the ship first left the port, the survivors are but few.

However, our ranks have been supplied, and the Society has proceeded in its course up to this its eighth year with remarkable regularity, under the difficulties and disadvantages arising from the multifarious occupations of its members, engaged as they are in the active duties of life.

Sustained by the untiring energy of our Secretary, and the zeal of those of our members who have felt the great impor-