

The implication is that the granting of a constitution was dependent upon the expulsion of the French which is not historically true. (By the way, is this 'granting a constitution' anything more than the permission by the home government in 1858 to Nova Scotia to convene a 'House of Assembly?') As it is written the unity of the second sentence is destroyed.

That there is much in the article which is correct, and that it in a fair measure fulfils the object for which it is written does not justify the insertion of the above and similar errors.

Yours etc.,

TERTY.

OUR LECTURE COURSE.

The first lecture of the present term,—“Our indebtedness to the Past,” was delivered in Academy Hall, on Friday evening, Jan. 23rd, by Rev. Dr. Day of Yarmouth.

The lecturer opened his remarks with a comparison between the young and old. Youth lives in hope; age in experience. Still manhood is to be preferred to boyhood, the present to the past, for who would be willing to exchange the knowledge of the former for the unquestioning faith of the latter? The ripe golden grains of the autumn are more glorious than the tender blades of the springtime. Disappointment sits enthroned on the threshold of the future, but the dove of hope is sent out from the brief to-day. We must strengthen ourselves by the past as well as the present. Most persons have a tendency to disregard the past, feeling themselves heirs thereto without study, and by this means they limit the horizon of their hope and cramp the freedom of their soul.

Each century bears peculiar treasures to the one succeeding. As former generations live in that of to-day so will we live by our influence in the ages to come.

1. We are indebted to the past for the *Development of the Social System*. The advance from barbarism to civilization in every country has been slow. First the pastoral condition leading gradually to the agricultural. Then as the various branches of civilization are furthered, trades come into existence. Next, what are commonly termed professions: the arts and sciences are cultivated, and all things tell of progress. As time goes

on, man becomes mutually dependent, and wars grow less and less frequent. Thus the treasures of the ages cluster around us at our birth.

2. We owe much to the past for *Progression in Forms of Government*. The first semblance of formulated government was the Patriarchal, in which each father ruled his own family until the members thereof were old enough to leave their old home and establish new ones for themselves. Next the Feudal system was introduced, which made each landowner supreme in his own domain. This again was followed by the Monarchical system tending to establish the supreme rule of the king. A limited monarchical dictatorship will be found eventually to be the best and most satisfactory form of government. With the political improvements, education and science have likewise advanced.

3. We owe the past for the *Treasury of Industrial Implements* which it has handed down. The labor and ingenuity of our forefathers are conferring priceless blessings upon us. Iron, the most important element amongst the instruments of production, is found to have been used amongst savage tribes in by-gone ages. As time went on, the amount of its usefulness increased. For the treasury of discoveries and inventions are we also under obligation to the past. Our barbarian ancestors were the parents of the arts. To them we owe many of the most useful discoveries, such as the means of producing fire, and the use to which it may be put. The productions of art are not much less numerous than those of nature. For the elevation of labor by thought we are indebted to many noble men whose names are little known or appreciated. Such, for example, were the inventors of the art of printing, which has proved itself the foe of despotism, the friend of wisdom.

4. For the gifts of *Poetry* and *History* do we owe the past. Poetry, one of the simplest forms of nature, is of extreme antiquity. Before Ovid or Virgil or Milton were thought of Moses sounded forth the praises of his maker in poetic strains. In the age of the hunters and shepherds we find its genial influence. For countless years it has lightened the weary walks of way-worn pilgrims on life's highway. History sends forth a stream of light, informing us of what preceded the present era, and as we read we feel ourselves to be living amidst the ruins of a by-gone world. It gives immortality to facts which