in Canada. To this notable incident of the year we may justly look for fresh incentives to exertion, alike by professors and students, in all departments of our college work. The appeal to us for workers ready to bear a willing part in accelerating the progress of investigation and discovery is one which we should be recreant to our high responsibilities if we slighted. We are invited to share in a triumph, the certainty of which is assured, whatever may be the response from us. As Lord Rayleigh remarked in his inaugural address: "Science knows no retrograde movement. Increasing knowledge brings with it increasing power; and great as are the triumphs of the present century, we may well believe that they are but a foretaste of what discovery and invention have yet in store for mankind. Encouraged by the thought that our labours cannot be thrown away, let us re-double our efforts in the noble struggle. In the Old World and in the New, recruits must be enlisted to fill the place of those whose work is done. Happy should I be," added the noble president, "if, through this visit of the British Association to Canada, a larger measure of the youthful activity of the West could be drawn into this service. The work may be hard, and the discipline severe, but the interest never fails, and great is the privilege of achievement." I can myself look back over the long interval which bridges the gulf between early youth and age, to the first meeting of the British Association at Edinburgh, and still more vividly to that of 1850, in which, for the first time, I was privileged to take a part in its work; and reflect with peculiar interest on the fact that it was then that the rarely gifted youth, Clark Maxwell—to whom Lord Rayleigh has since succeeded in the Cambridge Chair of Experimental Physics,—with modest courage made his first appearance in the Section of Mathematics and Physics, and challenged the veteran, Sir David Brewster, in his own special domain of optics. Nor can I now reflect with other than keenest interest, in addressing the alumni of this College, on the stimulating influences then exerted over many ardent young minds, the fruits of which have been gathered in later years. The welcome which Canada has given to the leaders of British Science may well suffice to awaken high hopes in relation to all intellectual culture; reminding us of the wondrous vistas opening out to the modest searcher into nature's secrets; and the value which attaches to every suggestion of a novel truth, and every detection of those hidden laws which reward the diligent accumulation and interpretation of facts. Science has in recent years received some adequate place in our university requirements and collegiate instruction. Let us hope that it will derive a fresh impetus from our intercourse with veteran explorers, to some of whom we owe discoveries that have vastly accelerated the world's progress, and advanced alike its intellectual and material wealth. In experimental science the training now encouraged in the college laboratories is replete with promise. The present generation of Canadian students has opportunities and incentives such as were wholly unknown in very recent years; and while there are still departments of the natural sciences in which we recognize the pressing need of additions to the practical appliances of the lecturer, and especially in certain branches of biology, and in electricity; yet in other branches of physics, as in optics, acoustics and dynamics, the apparatus now available to teachers and students in this college elicited remarks of admiration, no less than of surprise from some of our recent visitors best qualified to judge of their practical value. But