

independent of the personal characters of the first members,—a visible sign of the existence and utility of the Institution and around which, the members might at all times rally. With a view, then, to afford this bond,—to prevent the tendency to dissolution, the proposers of the NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY resolved to found a Museum, an Institution which experience has proved to have great power in calling the attention to scientific pursuits, and the want of which was forcibly felt by several members, who looked back upon the causes which in their younger days retarded their own improvement. But the mere collection of the productions of nature would leave the design of the Society imperfect without the possession of books, that treat of such objects. They are mutually dependent on each other—One without the other leaves the work half-done, but both connected give the greatest facilities for instruction which can be afforded. In addition therefore to the possession of a Museum, it was one of the first objects of the Society to secure a library of books on Science in general. On these principles, and with these views, the NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY was established and we may now turn to the development of the plan and the progress we have made.

We cannot without feelings of pride contrast the appearance which this room presents within the lapse of a year. At the commencement of the Society, the expectations of the members were by no means sanguine. They hoped that by affording a focus, they might, in the course of years, have formed a collection of some value and they were content to think they might slowly advance. Commencing with no extravagant ideas, but acting with zeal and unanimity, their success exceeded all expectation. No one in May 1827 could have anticipated the state of the Society in the present month. His Excellency the Governor in Chief consented to become its Patron, and shewed by a munificent donation his wish for its success. New members were admitted at every meeting by which the funds of the Society were increased. The Society enrolled on its list many of the most scientific men of the neighbouring States and of Britain, and from many of them has received assurances of support. Correspondence was commenced with all willing to assist in the undertaking. Donations have crowded upon the Society, and the flourishing state of the funds has allowed the purchase and preparation of numerous specimens, and their being arranged in a proper manner. Among the donations the Committee cannot omit to mention that the collection originally formed by S. SEWELL Esquire, and deposited in the charge of the MONTREAL LIBRARY was by the liberality of that gentleman, and with the consent of the Directors of the Library, transferred in full right to the Society, by which donation possession was obtained of a large number of specimens of every kind.

The Committee will now proceed to detail more particularly the state of the Society, premising, that at its commencement,