

existing plants and animals, as to indicate throughout a perfect harmony of design and unity of purpose. To assume that the evidence of the beginning and end of so vast a scheme lies within the reach of our speculations, appears to be inconsistent with a just estimate of the relations which subsist between the finite powers of man and the attributes of an Infinite and Eternal Being."

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I have left but a little time to speak of the work of our own society in the past year. Six meetings for the reading of papers have been held during the winter. The subjects discussed at these might well afford some material for interesting remark; but, as the substance of them has been or will be published, this is scarcely necessary. In geology, our papers have related chiefly to the west. Mr. Whiteaves has described to us some of the Cretaceous marine fossils from British Columbia, which are found there associated with and underlying the remarkable coal fields of Cretaceous age containing remains of so many dicotyledonous trees. Mr. G. M. Dawson has given us some interesting expositions of the geographical features and superficial deposits of the little-known region along the 49th parallel, between the Red River and the Rocky Mountains, which are to be illustrated in his forthcoming Report on that region. In ethnology, we have had papers on Indian Remains from Lake St. Francis, and Mr. Richardson's Collections in British Columbia; and Mr. McLachlan has described some curious Indian Pipes. Dr. Carpenter, Mr. Whiteaves, Mr. Caulfield and others have directed our attention to a variety of zoological subjects connected with the natural history of the Dominion; and the economic aspects of natural history were well presented to us by the former gentleman in his memoir on our marine fisheries and oyster beds. It is to be regretted that our dredging operations could not be continued last summer; but it is to be hoped that something may be done this year, if not by government aid, at least by private enterprise. Should the arrangements to be referred to in the Report of the Council for the association of the Society with the Fraser Institute be carried into effect, it is to be hoped that they may give a new stimulus to our work; and may relieve the Society from much of the difficulty hitherto experienced in sustaining its library and museum, leaving it more free to pursue its work of scientific research and publication, and of popular education in science.