

Miller, by one of our number. We cannot look back on the last year, and call up before us the events most interesting to those engaged in the cultivation of scientific pursuits, without pausing for a moment over this sad reminiscence, and taking comfort in the reflection—which was suggested on the occasion to which I have referred,—that in the profoundest depths of geologic research, the laborious exertions which overwrought the brain, never made Miller a less devout believer in religious truth. He seems to have proved in his own life-history, what Bacon has so well expressed,—“It is true that a little philosophy inclineth man’s mind to atheism; but depth in philosophy bringeth men’s minds about to religion: for while the mind of man looketh upon second causes scattered, it may sometimes rest in them and go no further; but when it beholdeth the chain of them confederate and linked together, it must needs fly to Providence and Deity.”

Turning once more to domestic matters, I shall beg permission to occupy your attention with a few observations touching the Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory in this city; which I am the more induced to do from a doubt whether the intrinsic value of the establishment, and its effects in making Toronto known throughout the civilised world as the seat of this Observatory, are sufficiently valued and appreciated among us.

Established at the instance of the Royal Society by the Imperial Government, this Observatory formed one of a chain of stations which were, almost simultaneously, called into existence, either by national support or private liberality, over the whole face of the globe, and were designed, in connection with exploring expeditions, both by sea and land, to furnish the data by which it was hoped the secrets of that mysterious agency, the earth’s magnetic force, might be laid bare. Its existence was prolonged much beyond the period which had originally been proposed, and which was found quite insufficient for the accomplishment of the work,—the liberality of the Imperial Government being successfully appealed to by the same learned body to whose exertions its institution was due,—and when ultimately the period arrived when its abandonment was no longer to be deferred, the offer was made to transfer it to the Province with its complete equipment, free (with slight exceptions) of cost, and subject only to the condition of its permanent maintenance. It is a just ground for congratulation that this generous offer was accepted, and that the Province has responded to the call of Science, not only by providing an ample endowment for the Observatory, but by replacing the temporary