

mens in the various cases, has greatly assisted the study of this important branch of our national history. It is gratifying to report that the museum has been visited by a large number of ladies and gentlemen, from many of whom valuable donations have been received.

The appointment of Mr. David Boyle, as representative of the Provincial Government at the Cincinnati Exhibition last year, has been productive of much good to the interests he represented there, and has been the means of many valuable gifts being presented to our museum. His archaeological report for 1888 has already appeared as an appendix to the report of the Minister of Education for last year.

The thanks of the Institute are due to Mr. Sandford Fleming for his exertions in procuring an interesting and valuable present from the Grand Trunk Railway Company of a portion of the first sod of the Northern Railway, cut on the 15th October, 1851, by Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin and Kincardine, and the bottle used on 14th January, 1853, to christen Collingwood harbor, and an extract from the *Globe* of the 26th January, 1863, giving an account of these relics and other interesting matters.

The members of the Photographic Section, desiring to extend their work in a more practical manner, resolved to form a Photographic Society having wider scope than they believed would be offered by a union with the Institute; they have in consequence withdrawn from the Institute. The Council regrets this action.

The Biological and Natural History Section continues to make its influence felt, and deserves the thanks, not only of the Institute but of the citizens at large, for its recent successful remonstrances against the destruction of the purely natural beauties of High Park.

The list of donations and exchanges has increased. The library has received many valuable additions; this department is carefully attended to by our energetic librarian; over 300 volumes were bound this year; extra accommodation in the library is an urgent necessity.

The treasurer's statement shows a satisfactory balance at the credit of the Institute, and the increased interest taken in the Institute by the comparatively small number of members in arrears.

The membership has been increased by 22 elections during the past session. The Council after much careful thought determined to make a thorough examination of the list of members and enforce the rules against members in arrears who refused to make any settlement. The list now submitted is more complete than any hitherto presented to the Institute, and represents truly the actual membership. The Council would urge on the Institute the importance of adhering to the step now taken, and enforcing the rules against members in arrears, as it is only by this means that membership in the Institute will become of value.

The Council endorses the remarks of the auditors that a proper valuation of the assets of the institute should be made.