

modious building than that which the Society now occupies have been frustrated. In the report of last year it was announced that a site had been obtained, on very liberal terms, from the Governors of McGill College, that plans had been prepared for the building, that contributions to a considerable amount had been subscribed, and that we only waited a favorable offer for the purchase of the present building to commence operations. This last and indispensable step to further progress has, contrary to their expectations, not yet been carried into effect. In these circumstances the Society must wait a more favorable season for the prosecution of this good project. Your Council are equally of opinion with their predecessors, that the premises now occupied are most unsuitable in many important particulars, either for a museum, library, or lecture room, and that no great improvement can be expected in any of these departments until a building erected for their special use has been obtained. The Council would earnestly commend this matter to the immediate consideration of their successors.

Your Council have also to report that petitions have again this year been presented to His Excellency the Governor General, and to both Houses of the Legislature, urging them, from public and national considerations, to grant a more liberal sum of money to the Society for scientific purposes, than we have hitherto received. It may be confidently said that there is no scientific institution in the country so comprehensive in its aims as ours is, possessing a larger collection of scientific objects than our museum contains, or publishing transactions on natural history of greater scientific value than are to be found in our Journal—these facts, we therefore think, entitle us to some more marked consideration at the hands of the Legislature than we have yet obtained. We deem it at least but justice that this, the oldest and not the least honorable of the incorporated institutions of the country, should be placed upon an equal footing as regards public support with the Canadian Institute of Toronto. Hitherto we have been left mainly to our own efforts and resources in arranging and furnishing our museum and library; and the building we now occupy, together with our valuable collections in zoology, geology, and ethnology, testify to the liberality of our members and friends. But it is now felt that if the Society is to take that place which the rapid progress of modern science demands, large additions *must* be made to its museum and library, and some method adopted to keep alive a