

proceedings and reports from various bodies in the United States of America, Mexico, South America, the British Islands, France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, India, Australia, and other countries, giving us information as to what the learned world is doing everywhere in all departments of inquiry. These are of great value to the specialist, inasmuch as they enable him to ascertain what other specialists in his department are doing. We are in this way a member of a great federation of learned societies, each of which, as far as practicable, coöperates with all the rest, and whose work, when summed up, amounts in each year to a great total, however insignificant the contributions of individual bodies may be. The existence of these learned societies is one of the marked features of the history of modern times, and both an index of a great advance in civilization, and an augury of still greater progress.

In addition to encouraging research and the acquisition of knowledge, we undertake to discharge the related function of receiving and caring for objects of scientific, historical or antiquarian interest. We have already accumulated a considerable collection, which we are now engaged in classifying, and we hope ultimately to have here a museum which will be one of the most interesting sights in the city. We have hitherto been prevented from arranging our material by two causes. Before this building was erected we had no room ; since its erection we have had no money. We now feel able to attempt to devote a little money every year to this purpose; not as much indeed, as we would like, but still some. I know of no object to which one of our wealthy fellow citizens could better devote a legacy of a few thousand dollars, than to the building up of our museum. And there is a pressing need of a good museum somewhere in Ontario, for one reason. There are scattered over this country an immense number of objects of ethnological and archaeological interest, that have recently been obtained from Indian ossuaries which reveal to us the physical character and state of civilization of the aborigines of this country before they came into contact with the white race. Unless some effort is made to prevent it many of the most valuable of these relics will be lost, or destroyed, or carried off to other countries. The Canadian Institute proposes to do what it can to meet this want, and it asks for the hearty coöperation of all who feel the importance of the work.