

subjected to inconvenience in attending the evening meetings, particularly during the winter months, it is proposed that the hour be changed to an earlier one in the afternoon. The Council have reason to believe, from past experience, that these alterations in the By-laws will tend materially to the advantage of the Society and the convenience of the members.

The regular meetings of the Society having so repeatedly failed through want of a quorum, the papers read have only been two in number—viz:—one transmitted by Thomas Stratton M. D. of Penetanguishene, a corresponding member, entitled—"A description of the Ruins of an old Fort on Christian Island, Georgian Bay, Lake Huron;" the other read by the Rev. Dr. Wilkie L. L. D., whose exertions are never wanting to uphold the usefulness and assist the progress of the Society, "On the Origin and History of the Names of Persons."

The opinion expressed in the Annual Report of 1846, "that several other papers would have been read if a fuller attendance could have been had to form the regular meetings," applies with equal justice to the proceedings of the year just closed. The chilling influence of a thin attendance will be well understood by those who have devoted time and labor in elucidating a subject which fails to attract; and although the Poet may be borne out by truth, when he tells us that—

"The labor we delight in physics pain.—"

it cannot be denied that the uncertainty of obtaining a literary audience will damp considerably the ardor of even the most zealous.

The publication of another part of the transactions of the Society is in progress, and papers have been reported by the Classes for publication, nearly sufficient, it is believed, to complete the Fourth volume.