

look for in these colonies where the broad and but-ter problem is associated with every profession, not excepting that of instructors in our institutions of learning.

But, while we cannot compete in exploring the unknown regions of knowledge, we may enlarge our boundaries over the more readily attainable; and further, by arousing the spirit of inquiry, we may, in this formative period, lay the foundation of a culture which, increasing with each generation, will finally rival, yea even excel that of any other people in the world.

How can such beginnings be made? By helping men and women to contemplate themselves and their surroundings. Awake them from mere passive acceptance of existence to thoughts as to how they came to exist in this place and in this manner. Thus by calling into activity energies that will search the past for the story of our growth, the foundation of historical studies will be laid.

But this study of the past will naturally increase our interest in the present and develop new ideas for the future—results which by leading to inquiries into social conditions, may be the beginning of large work in sociology or social science.

Again, our people must be helped to realize that around them are objects of absorbing interest, that, except to the mentally blind, this dull earth of which they have been only half conscious, is not dark and void, but overrunning with beauty and wisdom. Let the delusion that all the beautiful things in nature lie in distant lands, be forever dispelled. On the contrary, let it be known that in our own fauna and flora, our rocks and rivers, may be found those objective qualities which bring into exercise the most pleasurable faculties.

This done, we have induced the primary conditions of scientific investigation of which none dare predict an end.

Let the elementary training in the subjects indicated begin in the common school; let the interest and power here obtained receive the proper stimulus and direction in after life; let the higher institutions keep pace with the times; let the public mind give approbation and encouragement: then in Canada, which is so well adapted to develop the *mens sana in sano corpore* there need be no fear of intellectual weakness.

Much of the progress in these matters is due to organized societies; hence it is pleasing to note that several similar societies exist in this country.

In 1875 a Historical Society was organized in St.

John. From that date to the present time, it has been doing thorough and comprehensive work in local and provincial history. Though the fire of 1877 destroyed all their records and property along with monuments and other materials of history these workers were not dismayed. Mr. Hannay had all the manuscript of his "History of Acadia" burned.

Meetings are held quarterly at which papers are read and discussed. At the annual meeting the president delivers an address. The "Foot prints," a small volume giving the chief incidents in the history of New Brunswick during the last century, was an outcome of one of these annual speeches. The author, Mr. Lawrence, who has been President from the first, deserves special notice both because of his ability and his unwearied energy in collecting facts. For many years he has been doing in St. John, as a self-imposed task, what Dr. Aiton, of Halifax, has been doing in the service of Government. In this connection it may be said, while the P. E. Island Society became defunct after a short life of three years, because of the Government's refusal to grant aid, the Society in St. John, also unaided, has shown more enterprise in this, its eighth year, than at any previous time. Indeed, it is impossible to speak too highly of the work done by its members in connection with the centennial celebrations.

Though it may seem strange, it is nevertheless true, that many had to be educated in the very facts they were celebrating. But this work was executed with the most commendable zeal and completeness by the co-operation of this society with the press. From the platform and in the daily paper the citizens heard or read the history of their town in detail—the landing of the Loyalist, the early struggles, the first buildings, the first meetings for worship, the rise and growth of the churches, the Mayor, and Corporation, &c., &c.

Prizes were given for historical poems. The inscriptions on the tombs of the honored dead were deciphered, and the cemetery in which they rest planted with trees. Concerts were held to raise necessary funds; arbor days were held in which the public squares were planted with trees dedicated to deceased and living men. What an excellent idea! It connects the past with the present, and weaves into the complex thought of every-day life the noble and the good.

In a communication to the writer, President Lawrence says, "Your college should have an