

dents one whose name has long been familiar to us as an active and efficient officer of one of the learned societies of the Sister Province.

The meeting of the Legislature will also bring together many who have taken a warm interest in the advancement of this Association, and who have given the most substantial proofs of that interest, in the aid and support which they have uniformly extended to us, whenever the question of pecuniary assistance to the Institute has been brought before them in their places in parliament.

All these are considerations, which supply the strongest possible motives to renewed exertion on our part, and we should endeavor to shew that the countenance and support which have been extended to us, have not been bestowed in vain, or without producing corresponding fruit.

And this naturally leads me to the consideration of another subject, which from its importance deserves to be specially alluded to on an occasion like the present. I mean the number and character of the papers which have been read before the Institute during the past session, as this must, after all, afford the surest index of the vitality and energy of the Society itself.

A glance at the list contained in the report will satisfy us, I think, that both in point of numbers and interest they will bear a favorable comparison with those of former years, and what is also *very desirable*, a large proportion were upon subjects connected with the natural history, and the history of the aboriginal races of this country, and the public works of the Province. But there is nevertheless, I fear ground for the complaint made in the report, of "*apparent supineness*" on the part of the members, as shewn in the fact that the labor has been borne by comparatively few, and that to the members of the Council is due the credit of having furnished by far the largest proportion of the papers of the session.

The members of the Institute should never forget that in the words of one of our first Presidents—"it is not organization which makes the difference between things animate and inanimate, but life. Stone walls do not a prison make—nor do apartments and paraphernalia make the learned society, but learning. It is not enough for us to have combined ourselves to effect certain useful objects, if having done so we, *individually*, leave those objects to take care of themselves."

Composed, as an association of this kind must always be, of very many whose occupations do not admit of their devoting any considerable portion of their time to the pursuits of literature or science, and who have joined the Society more for the sake of acquiring