

But the commercial difficulties of the past two years, and the general depression in the monetary affairs of the Province, sufficiently account for these pleasant anticipations not having been realized; and the Council have doubtless exercised a wise discretion in refraining from any attempts to force on the erection of the building under circumstances which might perhaps have occasioned serious embarrassment to the Institute.

I may be permitted, however, to express the hope, that with the improvement in the financial condition of the country, which I trust we are justified in anticipating, the means at our disposal will also be so far increased as to allow of our setting about the work in earnest. We should bear in mind that one of the principal objects which the founders of this Society proposed to themselves, was "the formation of a museum for collections of models and drawings of machines and constructions, new inventions and improvements, geological, mineralogical, and zoological specimens, and whatever may be calculated, either as natural productions or specimens of art, to promote the purposes of science and the general interests of society." I need scarcely say that the very limited accommodation afforded us by our present rooms almost forbids anything like a satisfactory arrangement of the specimens and models we already possess, and is certainly a very serious hindrance to the enlargement and extension of our collections.

But although we cannot as yet point to spacious halls and handsome lecture rooms as material evidences of the Society's prosperity, we can with confidence refer to these *sure* tests of its growth and vigor, the number and character of the original papers and communications read at our weekly meetings, as well as of those which have appeared from time to time in the pages of the *Journal* of the Institute.

In congratulating you, however, as I justly may, on these evidences of the general progress and satisfactory condition of the Institute, I would at the same time avail myself of this opportunity to urge upon the attention of the members of the Society at large the complaint which has so repeatedly been made by former Councils, and which has been reiterated again in the Report submitted at our last annual meeting—that it is still a matter of regret that so large a share of the business of the Institute, so far as regards the contributions to the *Journal*, should continue to fall upon a few individuals. To the conductors of the *Journal* the members of this Society are under very large obligations. The high character which it has obtained under the