

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

By JOHN READE, A.M.

The Royal Society of Canada owes its existence to the thoughtful interest of Lord Lorne in the intellectual progress of Canada. The movement out of which its organization arose was inaugurated in 1881. Already its enlightened founder had established a Canadian Academy of Arts, for the encouragement of design as applied to painting, sculpture, architecture, engraving and the industrial arts, and the promotion and support of art education. The success which had attended the formation and early proceedings of the institution led his Lordship to believe that a national organization which would be to science and literature what the Academy was to art would be of real service to the cause of the higher intellectual culture in the Dominion. After consulting with the leading men of science and letters, both French and English, his Lordship invited the gentlemen whom he had designated as provisional officers of the proposed organization to meet in Montreal. The meeting accordingly took place on the 29th and 30th of December, 1881, and thereat a memorandum from Lord Lorne on the subject was read and considered.

A provisional basis was then agreed upon for the constitution of the new society, the first meeting of which took place at Ottawa on the 25th of May, 1882. The Governor General (Lord Lorne) had invited the members of the provisional council to Government House for the settlement of the procedure, and the arrangements proved entirely satisfactory. The Council consisted of Principal (now Sir) J. W. Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., President; the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, LL.D., Docteur des Lettres, Vice-President; and the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of sections: J. M. LeMoine, Esq., and Faucher de St. Maurice, Esq., first section; Dr. (now Sir) Daniel Wilson, F.R.S.E., and Goldwin Smith, Esq., D.C.L., second section; Dr. T. Sterry