

new movement of which it may suffice to say that, as yet, it presents no greater significance than did the little club, by and by designated by Mr. Boyle, "The Invisible Society," which in 1645 and following years—while England was pre-occupied with her great Civil War,—held its meetings at Dr. Goddard's lodgings, to consider points of philosophical interest. From thence it moved to Gresham College; and there, or at Wadham College, Oxford, or again at the lodgings of Mr. Boyle, the little coterie of philosophers gravely discussed, *e.g.*, the truth of Schotter's affirmation "that a fish suspended by a thread would turn towards the wind!" or tested by crucial experiment the opinion that a spider could not get out of a space encircled with powdered unicorn's horn! Yet this is the body which only seventeen years later received from the restored Charles II. its charter of incorporation as the Royal Society; and which now includes in its illustrious roll of Fellows the names of Wren, Halley, Newton, Davy, and the whole intellectual peerage of England.

Intellect and genius are limited neither by race nor geographical boundary. Let us hope and believe that, in the future of our young Dominion, men will arise to bear a part in Letters and Science not less worthy than those who figure in England's golden roll. If, when that consummation has been reached, our work of to-day should be reverted to; even as we now recall that first little gathering of England's scientific pioneers in Dr. Goddard's parlour: the name of "Royal Society,"—whatever may then be the political organisation of Canada,—will suggest anew the circumstances of its origin under the special encouragement of His Excellency, the Marquis of Lorne, as the representative of a Queen whose name will be associated in future ages,

like that of the great Elizabeth, with an era of unequalled distinction in letters and science.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to add, as in no degree foreign to the legitimate objects of a section which embraces history as well as literature, that, whatever may be the new relations, or the modified organisation of this Dominion:—

"Far on in summers that we shall not see,"

the confederation which has thus sprung into being from the extension of responsible constitutional government by Great Britain to the United Provinces of British North America, under a vice-regal representative of the Crown, presents features which cannot fail to awaken interest in the thoughtful student of history. What we look for in vain in the relations of Phœnicia, Carthage, Greece, or Rome, to their provincial states and colonies; and what Venice, Portugal, Spain, France, and Holland, have alike failed to achieve in modern centuries, has become for us an accomplished fact. The colonies of Greece were indeed bound to the Hellenic centre by community of language, race, and faith; even as the republican Anglo-American cannot, if he would, wholly alienate himself from the old land and race with which he shares in common

"The tongue

That Shakespeare spake; the faith and morals holds  
Which Milton held."

But history has no parallel to this novel experience of a free people, the occupants of a vast region stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, enjoying all constitutional rights, electing their own parliaments, organizing an armed militia, controlling customs, immigration and all else that pertains to independent self-government, while they continue to cherish the tie which binds them to the Mother Country, to