

tural Societies, and "took frequent excursions into the country, to mark whether the husbandmen were ripe for any permanent improvement."

The Earl of Dalhousie, in quality of Governor General, arrived at Quebec, with his family and staff, on the 18th of June, 1820.

The establishment of a Literary Society in Lower Canada appears to have occupied his thoughts from his first arrival. His impression probably was, that the time was now come when such an attempt could be made with some prospect of success, and that the Lower Province, the oldest of these Colonies, was the place where it ought naturally to originate. Accordingly, in the course of the year 1823, he called together, at the Castle of Saint Lewis, a number of persons favorable to this design, and in a short address explained to them his views. After apologising for taking the lead in the absence of any other likely to do it, he stated that the advantages of such an institution were indisputable,—that, independently of other subjects of research open to all, the early history of Canada, and the language and customs of its *aborigines*, offered an immediate and prominent ground of enquiry,—and concluded by offering for himself, an ardent zeal and most anxious desire to promote the success of the Society by every means in his power.

The first meeting of the Society was held on the 6th of January, 1824, when an election of officers took place, and His Lordship was nominated Patron. At a subsequent meeting, on the 1st of March the same year, he fully redeemed the pledge held out in his opening address, by granting annually out of his own resources, the sum of £100 during the period of his stay in the Province. By means of this munificent grant, the Society was enabled to enter upon the collection of a museum and apparatus, with a rapidity which would otherwise have been impossible, with its scanty resources, and the paucity of its members at that period. From this source was procured, among other objects, the large collection of mineralogical specimens which now adorns our rooms, and attracts to them the student of natural history, as well as the intelligent stranger.

Other literary and scientific institutions in the country also received his patronage; and the religious associations throughout the country, experienced his bounty to a greater extent than could have been expected.