

develope our plans, and we ought to work diligently towards securing them.

One of our practical wants is that our papers should give rise to more conversation, making our meetings more social, and that there should be more time and opportunity for general conversation. I am inclined also to think, that if a certain number of our meetings every season, were devoted to lectures by some of the members, on suitable subjects, literary or scientific, at which ladies might be invited to attend, we should thus make the character and objects of our Society better known; increase its useful influence, and contribute to the pleasure of our members. Our financial condition forbids any important immediate increase to our Library, or additional supply of our Reading Room, though it is not so bad as to prevent something being done which I hope will be immediately considered; but, to speak the plain truth, if those who call themselves our members, and who all ought to be with us, would only regularly pay their annual contributions, which if done regularly would be to them but a small matter, we should be well able to do many things which we now lament our inability to accomplish; and of course the more we did in this way, the greater would be the inducements to others to join us, as well as our own benefit from our association. As to our Museum, it is at present useless, and little else than a name. Personally, I am strongly impressed with the folly and wastefulness of multiplying museums in the same neighbourhood. The University of Toronto, which is a national institution, and opens all its advantages as freely as possible to the whole public, aims at a good general museum, both as a means of teaching the natural sciences in University College, and as a place for consultation of specimens and improving study to all lovers of natural history, as well as a pleasing recreation to all visitors. It is a matter of public and national interest to improve this Museum, which, if it had any funds for its increase, would speedily become highly valuable. For us to attempt a duplicate general Museum, would be absurd; and the few interesting productions of distant countries possessed by us, are really out of place with us, and wasted upon us. But there is something in this way which we might do, which would be both pleasing and useful. We might have a Natural History collection of the productions of our own Province. We might solicit our sporting friends to send us specimens of the mammalia and birds of our region. The fishes of our lakes and streams would not be less attractive, and a good deal more