

## REPORT.

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### TO THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

THE period when, according to custom, a sketch of the proceedings of the Natural History Society, for the last twelve months, should be submitted to the members, having again arrived, your Council proceed to discharge the duty imposed upon them.

If they cannot congratulate the members upon any great increase in the prosperity or influence of the Society, they can at least say that its sphere of usefulness has not been diminished, and that the number of its members continues to increase. The great object for which it was established, that of extending and preserving in the public mind the importance and utility of the study of Natural History, has been steadily persevered in; and if the laborers have been few, and the discouragements met with many, it is hoped that the efforts made have not been entirely fruitless, and that in the wide field embraced within the operations of the Society, additional help will be received, and more energetic action entered upon, during the course of the present year.

In accordance with the recommendation contained in the last report of the Council, the Society resolved that from the first of January last the annual subscription should be raised to *four dollars*. The Treasurer has shewn that heretofore the higher rate of subscription worked well; the present effect of this measure yet remains to be tested; the accounts for the present year at the increased rate, not being yet issued, your Council having deemed it expedient, in view of the general monetary depression, and the additional calls thereby occasioned, to defer collecting the subscriptions until the business season had fairly commenced. They recommend to their successors that this work should now be immediately undertaken, and they trust when members reflect how much the prosperity and usefulness of a Society depend upon the manner in which the annual contributions to its funds are paid up, that they will not be backward in performing this part of their duty, by discharging the arrears which are now outstanding, as well as paying up the subscription for the current year.

The Council, on the departure of Lord Elgin, late Governor-General of this Province, the then Patron of the Society, hailed with satisfaction the arrival of His Excellency Sir Edmund Head, his successor. His classical and literary reputation had preceded