

appellation of Canada is associated with half a continent extending from the eastern to the western oceans.

The founders of this Institute designed that it should have a wide sphere of usefulness. They were not satisfied that it should be a local Society merely, with its membership confined to the citizens of Toronto. The name chosen, the first presidents elected, and the first list of members published, furnish evidence of a higher ambition. As the years have passed the significance of the name originally given to the Institution has kept pace with the expansion of Canada. At first it was provincial, it has since then assumed a national character.

Among the many vicissitudes which time has wrought since the Society received its name, there is almost a complete change in the population. In the course of events the old inhabitants have for the most part passed away, and other people appear on the scene, only a small percentage of whom were born into the world fifty years ago. Of the men who took an active part in establishing the Canadian Institute, three only survive, and as one of the three, the writer has been called upon to give a brief outline of the origin of the Society and his recollections respecting it. In consequence of this invitation he has the great satisfaction and high privilege of submitting the following paragraphs.

The character of the Canadian Institute has not always been what it is to-day. In its first inception the design was to organize a Society of Surveyors, Engineers and Architects. The special objects of its formation are set forth in the first constitution, and prominence is likewise given to them in the Royal Charter. The Institute has, however, long abandoned the exclusively professional character of its origin and adopted general scientific aims. This change has been effected without any up-rooting or revolutionary process. No ground gained by the founders and friends has ever been lost; the wise policy has been adopted of always going forward and never backward. The reformation of the Society was effected simply by opening its doors to the world and ceasing to be professional and exclusive. To this policy may be attributed the measure of success which has attended the operations of the Canadian Institute for half a century.

The first germ of the Institute may be traced to a gathering of a few gentlemen in a room near the corner of King and Yonge streets, on June 20th, 1849. The room was used as the office of one of the surviving founders, Mr. Kivas Tully. The gentlemen present on that occasion were architects, land surveyors and civil engineers, practising in and around Toronto, who considered it desirable to establish an association in