

of far preferable apartments. The Council in their Report for 1854 advert in pointed terms to the efforts which had been lately made towards obtaining a permanent residence, suitable to the increasing exigencies of the Society. "The want of such a building (says the Report) has never at any previous time been so severely felt;" and subsequently: "It is a matter of painful regret to know that after 28 years' existence the Society has not yet been able to procure a suitable edifice for the prosecution of its labors." It is unjust in the Government to withhold from this Society, the oldest incorporated Society of the kind in Canada, the same measure of assistance which it has extended to similar Societies elsewhere. In reference to this subject, it should not be forgotten that the Council in their annual report last year, recommended a renewed application to the War Office for a grant of land as a site.

The Council is happy to say that the stated meetings were continued last season to the usual period; several interesting papers were read at these as well as at some of the general monthly meetings; a list of them is subjoined to this Report. For reasons already partly referred to, it has not been thought advisable to recommence as yet the evening meetings of this season; but the subject will probably be brought under the immediate notice of our successors. The Reports of the Librarian and Curator of the Museum will contain lists of the donations received by the Society during the year. It is impossible, however, to avoid special allusion to the valuable collection of shells, fossils, minerals, specimens of marbles and volcanic substances from Italy, presented to the Society by Henry Atkinson, Esq., of Spencer Wood,—a collection almost sufficient to form the nucleus of a museum. This gift was accompanied with an Antique folio Volume of capitulary. It is needless to remark that the thanks of the Society were voted most cordially to the donor. The magnificent publication entitled "*Victoria Regia, or the Great Water Lily of America*," with appropriate plates, by John Fisk Allen, of Boston, received from the author through Mr. P. Sinclair of this City, is entitled to special notice.

The society has had to record its sorrow for the loss of one of its most esteemed members, Major Ranken, R. E., who after a brave and glorious career in the Crimean war, was unfortunately killed by the explosion of a mine, when peace had been already re-established. We have also had to regret the departure from Canada of one of our most active members and office bearers, Capt. A. Noble, R. A., and the loss of his valuable scientific services.

It was thought possible, by some of the officers of the Society, for the laudable purpose of reducing the expenditure, that its proceedings and general business might be conducted without the help of an Assistant Secretary, and that the several Secretaries might be induced