

On the last day of the annual meeting, Their Excellencies entertained the members, the delegates of the Royal Society and many distinguished Ottawa citizens to a sumptuous lunch in the stately banquet hall at Government House.

After the usual loyal healths had been drank, His Excellency Lord Aberdeen, dwelled in glowing terms on the aims of the Society and the good work it had already performed and could continue to perform, closing with a gracious tribute to its President, J. M. LeMoine, to which the President replied as follows :

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"A pleasant, but a trying duty has just devolved upon me as the unworthy spokesman of the Royal Society of Canada. For the kind wishes and encouraging words just fallen from the lips of Your Excellency to our association, and for your too favorable remarks on myself, I return the cordial thanks of the Society and my own.

Each year, at the auspicious period of spring, with recurring heat and the return of the swallows, there takes place a pleasant incident ; pardon, I might safely say, an event which gladdens the hearts of our workers. The poet reaches out his hand for his lyre ; the student of history dives again and again among his dusty, old manuscripts ; the scientist ponders over a new problem of art or science ; the *litterateur* carefully reads over the essay or memoir, prepared during long, dreary winter evenings, to make sure that his right hand has not lost any of its literary cunning. Festive nature, in fact, that sweet inspiring time, which according to the poets—and I think the poets are right—causes the pulse, of youths and maidens to throb quicker, nature seems to have awoken our intellectual bees. They forthwith wing their flight to the Dominion Capital of Canada ; each anxious to bear an offering to the federation of science and letters in session there during a whole week ; for has not the notice of the Annual May Convocation of the Royal Society gone forth ? Here, under the folds of the glorious old flag which more than once has stood a friend to Canada, in full view of a neighbouring people perhaps less favored than ourselves in point of extent of territory, however much they have otherwise prospered, with laws differing from our own and a form of government which we think inferior to ours, it is the aim of our society to co-operate in the perpetuation of the free institutions implanted in this great, this rising dependency, this lesser Britain, which guarantees liberty and equality to every man, to every creed.