

undertaking by the belief, nay, almost by the certainty, that there does yet exist a mass of manuscript and printed documents, scattered through the country, in possession of various Religious bodies and of private persons, or thrown aside, utterly useless and uncared for, in the chests of Public Offices. We cannot entertain a doubt, but such Religious bodies and individuals will cheerfully contribute their assistance towards promoting the objects of this Society, by affording such documents for examination, and if necessary, for transcript.

We are also encouraged by the benefits to be derived from the innumerable Institutions of a similar nature in other countries, which have gone before us. We have the advantage of many Institutions of Learning already existing among us, of many men in the number of our citizens who are entitled to be called Learned; and above all, we have the powerful, and irresistible stimulus of an ardent and patriotic desire to imitate in this Colony the glorious example of the Mother country.

The beneficial effects to be rationally anticipated from the prosperity of such a Society require no exaggerated description. It must strike every one that our objects are most desirable in themselves, inasmuch as they combine the propagation of knowledge with the gratification of laudable curiosity; and the AUGUSTAN POET who has so well extolled the union of the *useful* with the *agreeable*, could not have contemplated any pursuit in which these qualities are more essentially combined than in LITERATURE and HISTORY.

Whether we regard the prosperity of this Institution in a NATIONAL or in a LITERARY point of view, its advantages are equally apparent, and must come home to every bosom. It will raise us in the moral and intellectual scale of nations. It will cherish our noblest feelings of honor and patriotism, by shewing that the more men become acquainted with the history of their country, the more they prize and respect both their country and themselves. In a LITERARY point of view, it is fair to expect that the formation of this Society will introduce a lasting bond of union and correspondence between men, eminent for rank, erudition, and genius, from one extremity of the British Provinces to the other.

With these views, then, we invite

men of Learning and taste to join us, and conclude by soliciting the assistance and co-operation of a liberal and enlightened Public, in the prosecution of a cause which may, in so many ways, conduce the advancement of Historical knowledge, and consequently, to the honor and ornament of this Province.

1824.

OFFICERS

*Of the Literary and Historical Society
of Quebec for the current year.*

FOUNDER AND PATRON,
His Excellency the Right Honorable
GEORGE, EARL OF DALHOUSIE,
G. C. B. &c. &c. &c.

President.

His Excellency the Honorable
Sir FRANCIS NATHANIEL BURTON,
K. C. G.

Vice-Presidents.

The Honble. the CHIEF JUSTICE,
VALLIERES DE ST. REAL, Esqr.

Recording Secretary.

WILLIAM GREEN, Esqr.

Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

JOHN CHARLTON FISHER, Esq.
L. L. D.

QUEBEC,
13th May.

The Court of King's Bench gave a decision on the last day of April term in the case of *Charles Adolphus Holt*, against *William Smith Sewell*. This was an action brought against the latter Gentleman, the Sheriff of this district, to recover damages for an escape on *mesne process*. On the sixteenth of June last, Mr. Holt sued out a writ of *Capias ad Respondendum* which was delivered to the Sheriff to be executed. The Sheriff, as he usually does, employed one of his deputies, who succeeded in arresting the individual against whom the Writ was directed, and had him in actual custody for a few minutes, but he contrived to escape and was not afterwards retaken. Mr. Holt in consequence brought his action against the Sheriff to recover, in the shape of damages, about three hundred pounds, such being nearly the amount of the note upon which the *Capias* was issued, together with charges of protest, interest and the costs incurred.