

## President's Address.

The Members of the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

GENTLEMEN, — Following the precedent established in 1887 by Mr. Ashdown, at that time President of this Board, I will, with your permission, address a few words to you on my retirement from the office to which you did me the unquestioned honor of electing me a year ago.

The report of the Council for the past year is now before you and will be found replete with most valuable and interesting information. As it contains a correct and complete record, concisely and chronologically arranged, of all the proceedings of the Board, its Council and Committees, there exists no reason for my enlarging upon all the matters submitted therein, and although all the subjects dealt with are important, a few appear to suggest special reference, one of which, and I take it up first, as an old acquaintance, is that of the improvement of St. Andrew's Rapids. This question has, I believe, found a place in every President's address and annual report almost from the inception of the Board, and its importance has been earnestly pressed upon every Government in power at Ottawa. Time after time our hopes have been raised, only to meet with gloomy disappointment. I esteem it indeed a privilege to be able to point out that the