

*mon ground* on which all can meet, and the golden opportunity now presented, if we would but avail ourselves of it, of enlisting all classes and parties in the support of *one great institution*, in contributing to whose library and museum, all may feel that they are not assisting to build up a collection belonging to any one section or party in the community, but that in adding to the contents of the one, and aiding to make the other the depository of all that is interesting in the natural history, mineral productions, and historical antiquities of the country, they are assisting to form a collection which will ever be regarded with feelings of common interest and pride by every Canadian.

But these bright anticipations could hardly be realized, unless the want which we have long felt, of a convenient and permanent home, of such a character as would meet the necessary requirements of the society, was also about to be provided for, and we have therefore scarcely less reason to congratulate ourselves upon another event which has occurred during the past year, viz. the commencement of our new building, which I trust the liberality of the members will enable the Council to push forward to completion, with as little delay as possible. We have only to look round upon the limited space afforded by our present rooms, to feel convinced that, with such an increase as may reasonably be looked for in the number of our members, and in the extent of our collections both of books and specimens, the means of accommodation here would soon be found wholly inadequate, and I do regard it as a fortunate circumstance for the Institute, that the proposed arrangements with respect to the Library, to which I have before alluded, will undoubtedly give us a strong claim upon the public for pecuniary aid towards the erection of a building, in which they will in many respects have a common interest with ourselves.

The time which we have chosen for this undertaking is, in many respects, a most favorable one. The Government, whose liberality we have upon many occasions already experienced, is now established here. Its removal hither has brought amongst us many gentlemen who take a lively interest in those pursuits, for the furtherance and management of which this Institute was founded; and we may reasonably hope that our hands will be strengthened by the active sympathy and support of many whom distance before precluded from taking an active part in the proceedings of our Society. Indeed, that we are already gainers by the change is evinced by the fact, that we have this year the pleasure of numbering amongst our vice-presi-