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## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

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BY THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE DRAPER, C. B.

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*Read before the Canadian Institute, January 10th, 1857.*

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My first duty in assuming the Chair of the Canadian Institute, is to thank you for the honour you have done me in electing me to fill a position which has been previously occupied by men justly distinguished, and with such special claims to the honour. Without assuming a forced humility, or that tone of self-depreciation which is ever akin to vanity, I cannot but recognize my own deficiencies, and wish myself better qualified for the duties I ought to discharge. If I have felt hesitation in undertaking these duties, it is from no want of regard for the Canadian Institute, or of desire for its welfare; still less is it from undervaluing those who have assigned to me so conspicuous a place in a body associated together for objects at once so honorable, and so indispensable to the highest interests of this Province. But in accepting the office of President I comfort myself with the assurance that I am surrounded, in the Council, by those selected by you, and well qualified to relieve me of the grave responsibilities which the high aims of this Institute would otherwise impose on me; while I can only assure you that I yield to no member of this Society in earnest zeal for the promotion of its best interests, or in the high estimate of what it is capable of accomplishing for Canada.