

scientific institution. This subject has engaged the consideration of the Society and its Council for a long time, and they are sorry to have to report that nothing has yet been definitively settled. For three years past, it was supposed, from former liberality, that upon proper representations, the Legislature might be induced to grant a sufficient sum of money to erect the necessary buildings, since the object was not one of a local nature, but one which interested the whole country. While the Society rested on the anticipated aid of the Legislature, it could take no other mode of obtaining the desired end, but it having been clearly declared by the Committee of the House of Assembly, that they considered the support of such Societies should depend upon private contributions, and, consequently, that they should not look to Legislative aid, it became necessary for the Society to devise some other method of procuring that which is indispensably necessary. Whether the Committee of the House of Assembly be correct in the principle upon which they have based their rejection of the prayer of the Society may be questioned, especially in a young community like ours, where every help is needed to invigorate the pursuit of science, and where the want of the usual facilities to be met with in the museums, colleges and schools of older countries, is connected with the comparative poverty of the large mass of the community, and the consequent necessity of devoting the larger portion of their time and energies to a mere livelihood. Such circumstances, it might be supposed, were peculiarly calculated to shew the necessity of greater governmental assistance, than is required in countries where the beneficial effects of great progress in science, literature and arts, are more highly estimated, and where the accumulation of wealth allows of powerful individual efforts, and of the devotion of leisure to the promotion of objects not immediately connected with comfortable subsistence. Besides, the principle appears to have been conceded, by the Assembly itself having repeatedly made large grants for the education of the people, and having even, during