

object of its promoters. In so far as it aims at promoting the proper national pride and sense of responsibility that spring from adequate self-knowledge, the results can only be beneficial to the community. The name of the Hon. Dr. Ross will be always associated with the establishment of Empire Day. Special mention should also be made of Mrs. Fessenden, who is entitled to every credit for the inception of the idea and her successful efforts to bring it before the public.

Besides issuing the usual annual report the Society has during the past year made a beginning in the publication of records and other historical material. The pamphlet of "Papers and Records" placed in the hands of our members to-day is but the first, we hope, of a series of similar productions. By such publications historical material will be preserved which might otherwise be destroyed by fire, mislaid by a careless employee, or in various other ways lost to the world. Baptismal, marriage and burial records of the pioneers may be the dry bones of history; but it is by such skeletons that the living forms are supported which otherwise would be mere masses of limp and inert tissue. Many early marriages were performed by justices of the peace whose records (where records were kept at all) are in private hands and exposed to all the vicissitudes of time and change. It is important that these should be gathered, preserved, and published for the use of students interested in following up the history of settlement. So with early letters, diaries, genealogies, and other manuscripts, maps, portraits, etc.

It is desirable that publications of an historical character issued by the various public departments at Toronto and Ottawa should be procured for the use of our members. Mr. A. F. Hunter's very valuable monograph on Huron Village Sites appears as an appendix to the report of the Minister of Education. The municipal records collected by Mr. C. C. James are published in the Report of the Minister of Agriculture. An effort is being made to have such publications distributed to our members from time to time as issued.

I may mention here that the papers of the founder of the Talbot settlement have lately been placed in my custody by Mr. Talbot Macbeth, of London, Ontario, with permission to use them for publication if deemed expedient. They include many letters from early governors, generals, and other military officials, especially during the war of 1812, and a few drafts of replies sent by Colonel Talbot. A hasty perusal enables me to state that they will furnish a considerable quantity of valuable new material for the history of the settlement called after Tyrconnel's eccentric descendant, and will throw interesting side-