

# The Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1853.



INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

The Annual Address of the President of the Canadian Institute was delivered on Saturday, January 8th, at the Rooms of the Institute, in the old Government House. The number of members present exceeded forty. The presence of the Hon. The Chief Justice Robinson and many other distinguished and earnest well-wishers of literary and scientific progress in the Canadas, afforded a very gratifying indication of co-operation and interest in the proceedings of the Institute.

The preliminary business of the evening consisted of the revision and amendment of the Regulations and By-laws of the Institute, the election of members, &c.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Institute:

The Reverend W. A. Adamson, D. D., Librarian	
Legislative Council.....	Quebec.
Charles Rahn.....	Toronto.
W. J. Fitzgerald.....	Toronto.
Samuel Spreul.....	Toronto.

The members proposed were,—

Major Lachlan.....	Montreal.
Dr. Connor.....	Toronto.
William Hawkins.....	Toronto.
Thomas Henning.....	Toronto.

The President announced the establishment of Two Prize Medals by the Council for the best Essays on the following subjects:—

1.—A Medal, value £10, for the best comprehensive essay on the Public Works of Canada, their commercial value, their relations to a general system of American Public Works, their engineering peculiarities, cost and other statistics, to be accompanied by illustrations.

2.—A Medal, value £10, for the best essay on the physical formation, climate, soil and natural productions of Canada.

Notice was given by the President that a paper on "The Vol. I, No. 6, JANUARY, 1853.

Mineral Springs of Canada" would be read before the Institute by Professor Croft, at their next meeting, on Saturday, January 15th.

## The President's Annual Address.

The termination of the official year, gentlemen, or the commencement of a new session, is the time when it seems fitting for the President of our Society to exercise the privilege of addressing to it that commentary on its affairs,—and its actual position,—or it may be that counsel and suggestion,—which cannot be well incorporated in a Report. I think there can be no difference of opinion as to the advantage of this course, where there is any real activity in the body to respond to it, or the essential part which an annual Address may perform in sustaining the action of the Society, coming from an officer whose voice will, in general, have a weight precisely proportioned to that earnestness, activity, and ability, of which the Society is itself the exponent. On this account I have not shrunk from the responsibility of establishing the proper precedent, by venturing to address you now, notwithstanding the circumstance that less than twelve months ago you were pleased to accept me as the President's representative upon a similar occasion. Nor will I pay the Society the questionable compliment of too strongly expressing—what it would, however, be impossible for me not to feel—a sense of unfitness for the office to which you have been pleased to call me; and which, if it implied anything more than an acknowledgement—very gratifying to myself—of previous services, and of, perhaps, some advantages, from accidental circumstances, for aiding the endeavours of the Society, I should have been most reluctant to assume. I will merely beg, therefore, that you will on this occasion divest my views or advice from any other claim to authority than they may possibly derive from the manner in which they commend themselves to your own judgment.

It is not organization, gentlemen, which makes the difference between things animate and inanimate, but Life. "Stone walls, do not a prison make;" nor do apartments and paraphernalia make the learned society,—but Learning. It is not enough for us to have combined ourselves to effect certain useful objects, if having done so, we individually leave those objects to take care of themselves. I venture to press this very obvious truth; because upon the spirit of our first complete session may probably depend much of the support which we may fairly claim from the community, and the interest which enlightened and liberal men may take in our proceedings. In our actual circumstances, we cannot altogether trust, as larger and longer established societies may do, to spontaneous efforts, but must strive to give reality to what in their cases becomes but nominal,—a claim of the society upon the active exertion of each individual member. There is an MS. preserved in the British Museum which gives a list of the members of the Royal Society at a very early date; and a sort of memorandum against the name of each, as to what might be expected of him. There are some,—and I am sorry to say Newton is one of them,—with the words "no pay" against their names. Sometimes, however, with