

The Montreal Celebration.

An Essay delivered before The Toronto Literary and Debating Society, by Mr. WILLIAM BALDWIN SULLIVAN, Secretary, on the 4th of Dec., 1856, in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, and published by order of the Society.*

INTRODUCTION.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—In reading the present paper before the Society, I am not violating any of the purposes of its association.

The character of the age in which we live, moulds the nature and creates the spirit of our institutions.

This Society is the offspring of the liberal and enlightened character of this age, and proudly boasts of the variety of pursuits which form the elements of its existence. It excludes no profession, no occupation from its ranks, and in its title holds out no distinction of clan or class. Its researches and discussions are not confined solely to the study of the past,—they are not centuries behind the age. We turn our eyes chiefly on the wonderful page of the Present, and from experience form conjectures as to the Future.

In the spirit of the present I have composed it, and may its pages be truly prophetic of the future !

* Now "The Toronto Literary Association,"