

or political distinctions. This was most happily evinced during last summer in the meeting of the American Association for the advancement of Science, held by special invitation, at Montreal; an assembly which seems to have been—as it was well to be hoped and expected—alike gratifying to the members of learned Associations there assembled, and to the inhabitants of the city whose hospitality was so freely tendered and so frankly received. Possibly the universal desire to extend a hearty welcome to their visitors, joined to that thirst for knowledge which is characteristic of the fairer part of the Creation, by causing “a gay assemblage of ladies which graced the entertainment,” may have produced among the more susceptible of the scientific assemblage a somewhat divided homage, which the sterner votaries—anchorites, who had for the occasion emerged from their studious cells,—disapproved of, as inconsistent with the devotion due alone at the shrine in whose honor they had met. But it is also satisfactory to find that many valuable contributions to science were made in the different addresses delivered and papers read, and that the kindly feeling created by the visit of the Canadian deputation to Alba., in the preceding year was strengthened by the Congress of Scientific men, American and British, gathered at Montreal. We, as Canadians, may also be permitted to indulge in an honest self-congratulation at the position maintained at both places by our scientific representatives.

I must be allowed to state to you, for it was to my position as your President that I attribute the distinction, that during my recent visit to England, I was a guest at the Celebration of the 104th Anniversary of the Society for promoting Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, on the 23rd June last, and sat next the noble Lord who presided on that occasion. The gratification I there experienced in the Society of many men of distinguished reputation in various branches of Science and Art, was greatly enhanced by the reflection, that my invitation was a mark of friendly interest and regard for this Colonial Institute with which it was my good fortune to be thus connected, and was an evidence of the increasing interest felt at home in the advancement and prosperity of Canada.

It is the hope that our Institute may in time accomplish for this Province what the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, and other kindred societies such as the one I have just referred to, have done for Great Britain, that must animate us to perseverance and additional exertion. We may confidently look for all the encourage-