

History; I will advert to the Sciences more immediately connected with it; will venture a few remarks respecting its systematic study; and endeavour to impress on the mind of my fellow members, a respects for historical pursuits, and a resolution to cultivate an intimate acquaintance, with the history of that gallant and powerful Country, of which this Province is a favourite and an affectionate Colony.

In attempting this task, I would premise, that I am but a novice in the study which I thus recommend to others; and that I chiefly aim at reducing a mass of particulars to a broad connected *outline*—which outline, I trust, by its simplicity, and by avoiding minute detail, will present something which the mind can easily catch and retain; and in impressing itself on the memory, will convey a portion of information to some of my hearers, and to others will renew studies which they had half forgotten.

HISTORY, or the account of remarkable events and transactions, was, in early ages, preserved and transmitted from father to son, from generation to generation, by *tradition*. This mode of recording great occurrences, was gradually superseded by other more direct and efficacious methods, as civilization advanced, and man succeeded in seeking out curious inventions. It seems an interesting fact, that all the tribes of men have exhibited the longing after immortality, the abhorrence of forgetfulness, and the desire to preserve the annals of their race—of which History is the result. Wherever barbarous nations have been discovered, this feature of social life has been invariably found impressed on their character. No matter how divided the tribes may have been; whether Fishers, or Hunters; whether Stoics of the woods, or sensitive inhabitants of the torrid plains; all had their cherished traditions; and many had made rude, though ingenious, attempts, at transmitting their stories of other days to solid substances, to which they could refer, as to an art for assisting the memory.

Tradition is the History of Patriarchal Life. The family circle, gathered round the winter's hearth, or under the oak of summer, listened with delight to the Sire, while he recounted his early adventures. Attention was paid to the narration, because all were interested. The maidens of the group trembled at the hairbreadth escapes, and exulted in the successes of the Protector; while the young men felt an involuntary and ardent desire, to share in similar dangers and triumphs. Succeeding generations, blended with their own stories, the principle events of their fathers; and in matters of importance, no doubt, these traditions became of first-rate authority. In the Holy Scriptures, we find, that the heads of