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THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

BY THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE DRAPER, C.B.

Read before the Canadian Institute, January 9th, 1858.

Honored by being a second time placed in the position of your President, it would ill become me to dwell upon what you have so generously overlooked: my want of adequate fitness for the discharge of the duties of that office. I will thank you, however, for the testimony you give that you believe in the sincerity of my desire for the success and advancement of the Canadian Institute, and will endeavor to derive greater confidence in myself for the future from this sanction and approval on your part of that which is past, and will here borrow, as not wholly inapplicable, the language of Montesquieu on a somewhat similar occasion,—“Soit que vous m’ ayez fait justice—soit que j’ai séduit mes juges, je suis également content de moi meme—le public va s’aveugler sur votre choix— il ne regardera plus sur ma tête que les mains savantes qui me couronnent.”

It is a highly gratifying circumstance, that, notwithstanding the commercial difficulties of the past year, the Report of the Council for 1857 affords as great proof of satisfactory results as did that of 1856; and the continued success of the Journal of the Institute, the accession of new members, the numerous donations to the