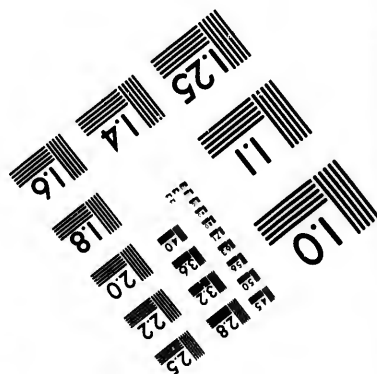
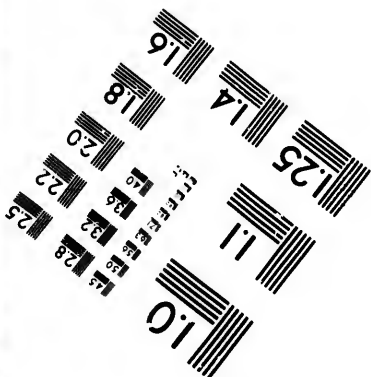
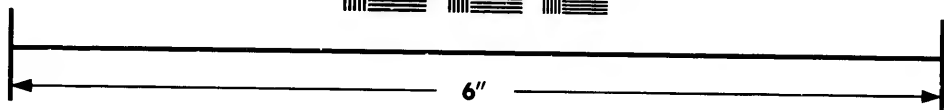
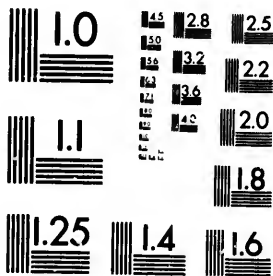


**IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



**Photographic
Sciences
Corporation**

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

18 20 22 25
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

**CIHM/ICMH
Microfiche
Series.**

**CIHM/ICMH
Collection de
microfiches.**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

© 1983

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured covers/
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged/
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated/
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing/
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps/
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations/
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material/
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin/
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distortion le long de la marge intérieure
- Blank leaves added during restoration may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming/
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.
- Additional comments:/
Commentaires supplémentaires:

- Coloured pages/
Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged/
Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated/
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached/
Pages détachées
- Showthrough/
Transparence
- Quality of print varies/
Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary material/
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Only edition available/
Seule édition disponible
- Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to ensure the best possible image/
Les pages totalement ou partiellement obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure, etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	12X	14X	16X	18X	20X	22X	24X	26X	28X	30X	32X
				✓							

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

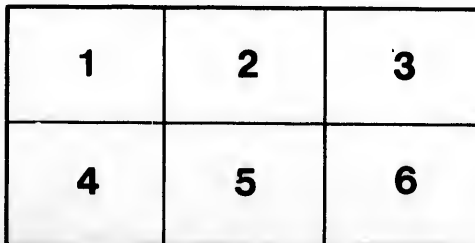
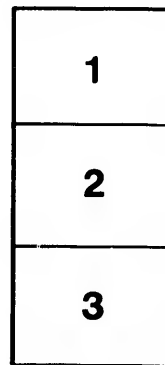
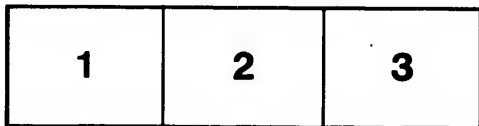
Library of the Public
Archives of Canada

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol \rightarrow (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ∇ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

La bibliothèque des Archives
publiques du Canada

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole \rightarrow signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ∇ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

errata
to

pelure,
n à



P

GI

BY-LAWS
OF THE
WESTERN DISTRICT LITERARY
PHILOSOPHICAL AND AGRICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION,

AS SANCTIONED AT A
GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT AMHERSTBURGH, SEPT. 23, 1842.

TOGETHER WITH
THE DISCOURSE DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE
OCCASION, ELUCIDATIVE OF THE OBJECTS OF THE
ASSOCIATION.

PUBLISHED BY THE UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE MEETING,
FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

SANDWICH:
HENRY C. GRANT, PRINTER.

1842.

PH

GE

BY - LAWS
OF THE
WESTERN DISTRICT LITERARY
PHILOSOPHICAL AND AGRICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION,

AS SANCTIONED AT A
GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT AMHERSTBURGH, SEPT. 23, 1842.

TOGETHER WITH
THE DISCOURSE DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE
OCCASION, ELUCIDATIVE OF THE OBJECTS OF THE
ASSOCIATION.

PUBLISHED BY THE UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE MEETING,
FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

SANDWICH:
HENRY C. GRANT, PRINTER.

1842.

OFFICE BEARERS

OF THE

Western District Literary, Philosophical, and Agricultural
Association,

FOR THE YEAR 1842.

MAJOR R. LACHLAN, *President.*

THE REV. T. E. WELBY, } *V. Presidents.*
THE HON. J. GORDON. }

JAS. DOUGALL, Esq., *Treasurer.*

R. PEDEN, Esq., } *Recording and Corres-*
} *ponding Secretary.*

THE REV. G. CHEYNE,
THE REV. F. MACK,
THOMAS PAXTON, Esq.,
DR. R. IRONSIDES,
W. ANDERTON, Esq.,
C. BABY, Esq.,
H. C. GRANT, Esq.,
DR. G. R. GRASSET.

} *Members of Manag-*
} *ing Committee.*

ural

CODE OF LAWS,
FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT LITERARY,
PHILOSOPHICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

INTRODUCTION.

ITS ORIGINAL DESIGN AND OBJECTS.

ents.
pres-
y.

THE original design and objects of the Western District Literary Philosophical, and Agricultural Association, are best described in the following extracts of the proceedings at a public meeting, held at Amherstburgh, on the fifteenth day of July, 1842 :

nag-
e.

Resolved, That it appears to this meeting, that while the head of the Government and the Legislature of the Province are earnestly coöperating in promoting the more general diffusion of Education, by the foundation of Universities, and improvements in our common school system, for the benefit of the *rising generation*, some decided movement should be made by the *adult*, educated part of the community towards demonstrating and practically illustrating, the inestimable value of scientific and useful information, in every station of society ; and that it is conceived that nothing can tend more to the attainment of this great *desideratum* than the institution, in the different Districts, of societies aiming at *mutual instruction* in the various arts and sciences, as well as in the ordinary pursuits of life.

Resolved, That it therefore appears particularly desirable to establish in this District, an unpretending association of the nature alluded to, as likely not only to extend and draw closer the bonds of social and intellectual fellowship among those who may become members, but, from its indubitably beneficial effects, certain

of inciting and encouraging a greater love of knowledge among the population in general.

Resolved, That in accordance with these feelings, the gentlemen now assembled have come to the determination of forming a local society having these important objects in view, which shall meet, at least, quarterly, and shall be denominated "*The Western District Literary, Philosophical, and Agricultural Club*,"* and that the office-bearers shall consist of a President, Vice President, and a Managing Committee of eight members, to be ballotted for annually, in the usual manner; together with a permanent Treasurer, and a Recording and Corresponding Secretary.

Resolved, That the diversified range of the said society's researches, like the noble scope of the first British Literary Association established in Asia, shall embrace at once "man and nature," or in other words, "what ever is performed by the one or produced by the other;" and that the only qualification required in a candidate for admission, shall be a love of knowledge, and of a patriotic desire to forward the prosperity of the Province in general, and of the District in particular, by promoting the advancement and diffusion of literary, philosophical and agricultural knowledge.

Resolved, That every member of the club shall be invited to promote the objects of its establishment, by sending in papers, or delivering lectures, on any subject within the wide range of its researches, to be read at every meeting; and that members of other Literary and Philosophical Societies in the Province, shall be invited to enrol themselves as honorary associates, and to contribute towards its literary stock. Add to which it shall be expected that the President for the time being shall deliver an annual address, embodying all such matter as he may think will tend to the well-being of the club, and the advancement of "useful knowledge."

Resolved, That with a view to the immediate or-

*The designation, "CLUB," subsequently changed to that of "ASSOCIATION" by a resolution of the meeting of the 2d of September.

ganization of the Society, every gentleman now present desirous of joining it, shall enrol his name as a member, by subscribing an obligation inserted in a book prepared for that purpose; that the first regular general meeting shall take place at Amherstburgh, on the second Tuesday of September next; and that the following gentlemen be the office-bearers of the society,* and a committee to draw up, in the interim, a code of by-laws, and adopt such other measures as may be necessary for the due regulation of the Society's proceedings, which shall then be submitted for general approval and confirmation.

Resolved, That to defray the current expenses of the institution which shall be regulated by a code of by-laws, each member shall, on admission, contribute two dollars entrance, besides two dollars annually, to be invariably paid in advance.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions shall be inserted, for general information, in the Sandwich Herald, and Chatham Journal; and that all gentlemen who from this time henceforward may wish to become members of the club, shall be proposed and balloted for in the manner usual in other similar societies.

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, the following were adopted as a code of by-laws for the regulation of the conduct of the Association, subject to revision at any future general meeting, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members.

SECTION I.

OF ITS OBJECTS.

ARTICLE 1. The Western District Literary, Philosophical, and Agricultural Association, is instituted with a view to cooperate with the Government and the Legislature, in the promotion of the more general diffusion of Education, and, as a social medium of mutual instruction among its members, demonstrating, and practically illustrating, the inestimable value of useful information in every station of society, not only with

*See list in page 2.

regard to the various arts and sciences, but the ordinary pursuits of life; and the diversified range of its researches, therefore, embrace, at once, "man and nature," or, in other words, "whatever is performed by the one, or produced by the other."

ARTICLE 2. The number of its members is unlimited; and the only qualification necessary in a candidate is a love of knowledge, and a patriotic desire to forward the prosperity of the Province in general, and of the Western District in particular, by promoting the advancement of literary, philosophical, and agricultural knowledge.

SECTION II.

ITS CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 3. The Western District Literary, Philosophical, and Agricultural Association shall consist of ordinary and honorary members.

ARTICLE 4. Its officers shall be chosen from among the ordinary members, and shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Recording and Corresponding Secretary, who, with eight other members, shall constitute a Committee for managing the affairs of the Association, with power to appoint a sub-committee of papers, from among themselves, and to make such regulations, consistent with the fundamental laws, as they may, from time to time, deem necessary.

ARTICLE 5. Five members of this Committee (of whom one shall be the President or a Vice President,) shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION III.

OF THE ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS AND MANAGING COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE 6. The President, and Vice Presidents, and members of the Committee, shall be elected annually, by ballot, at a general meeting, to be held in the month of January; and no member (with the exception of the Treasurer and Secretary,) shall be eligible to fill the same office more than two years; and one year must

afterwards elapse, before he can again be elected to the same office.

ARTICLE 7. The Treasurer and Secretary shall be eligible to annual reëlection, if willing to serve.

SECTION IV.

OF THE ELECTION AND ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

ARTICLE 8. Every person desirous of becoming a candidate for admission into the Association, may be either an actual resident, or a non-resident *land holder* in some part of the District, and must be *proposed* at a public meeting by two or more members, who shall then deliver to the Secretary a paper bearing their signatures, specifying his christian and surname, with his usual place of residence; which paper, after being read by the Secretary, shall be hung up in the reading room, or lie over, until the candidate is ballotted for.

ARTICLE 9. The *ballot* for a candidate shall take place at the next meeting after that at which he is proposed; and he shall not be declared elected unless two-thirds of the members present be in his favor.

ARTICLE 10. Every person so elected, shall pay his entrance fee and one year's subscription in advance, and at the same time subscribe the following obligation, viz: "We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do hereby engage that we will endeavor to promote the honor and interests of the Western District Literary, Philosophical, and Agricultural Association, and observe the regulations, so long as we shall continue members thereof." After which, the President, addressing him by name, shall acquaint him, in the name of the Association, that he is duly elected a member, and invite him to take his seat.

SECTION V.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

ARTICLE 11. Persons residing in any part of the Province, besides the Western District, or in the mother country, or the neighboring American states, who may be distinguished for their literary or philosophical

acquirements, or who may have, by their writings or contributions, promoted any of the various objects of the Association, may be proposed as honorary members; the proposal being subscribed by as many as five ordinary members, and the election being subject to the same rules of ballot, as that of ordinary members.

ARTICLE 12. Honorary members shall have the privilege of attending all meetings, and proposing candidates; but shall not have the right to vote regarding, or be eligible to, any office in the Association.

ARTICLE 13. Honorary members, on becoming actual residents, or land-holders in the District, may be transferred to the class of ordinary members, on complying with the regulations prescribed for that class.

SECTION VI.

OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MEMBERS.

ARTICLE 14. Every person elected an ordinary member of this Association shall, previous to his admission, pay to the Treasurer, for the use and benefit thereof, the sum of two dollars entrance, in addition to the first year's subscription of two dollars, regulated by the January general meeting; but any person elected at an intermediate meeting, to pay only in proportion to the unexpired part of the current year, at the rate of 2s 6d per quarter.

ARTICLE 15. Honorary members are subject to no stated contributions or subscriptions.

SECTION VII.

OF THE TREASURER.

ARTICLE 16. The Treasurer shall receive all sums of money due to the Association, and pay all money due by it, and keep a regular account of the same.

ARTICLE 17. All sums of money payable on account of the Association, shall be, by order of the Managing Committee, signed by the President or Chairman of the meeting, and registered by the Secretary.

ARTICLE 18. The Treasurer's accounts to be audited

annually by the Committee, who shall thereupon report at the January meeting, through the President, the balance on hand, and the general state of the funds.

SECTION VIII.

OF THE SECRETARY.

ARTICLE 19. The Secretary shall have the management of the correspondence of the Association, under the direction of the President, as well as the charge of any books or donations belonging to it, and his duties shall be, to attend all meetings of the Association and of the Committee, and to take minutes of their proceedings and enter them in books provided for that purpose; and, also, when the Chair is taken, to read the minutes of the preceding meeting, and record them as confirmed; to give notice of any candidates proposed for admission, or to be ballotted for; to announce the receipt of any donation made to the Association, and to read all letters and papers presented to it, unless the writer of the latter happen to be present, and prefer reading it himself.

SECTION IX.

OF DONATIONS—WHETHER PLENIARY, LITERARY, OR SCIENTIFIC.

ARTICLE 20. The gradual formation of a library and museum being contemplated by the Association, every person who shall contribute, in any way, towards that desirable object, shall receive the thanks of the same, through the Secretary, and be recorded as a benefactor, and his name shall be annually read as such at the general meeting in January, in addition to being inserted in an appendix to such volumes of transactions of the society as may be published from time to time.

SECTION X.

MISCELLANEOUS—CONNECTED WITH THE FORMS OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE VARIOUS PERIODICAL MEETINGS.

ARTICLE 21. The meetings of the Association, with the exception of that in January, to be held at least quarterly, at such time and place, &c., as may be

agreed upon at the previous meeting, and be publicly advertised by the Secretary, a fortnight before hand ; and the same to be held in the evening, subject to a temporary adjournment, for the purpose of the members partaking together of the social refreshment of tea and coffee, and afterwards resuming the business of the evening.

ARTICLE 22. A special general meeting may be called at any time, by the President, at the request of the majority of the committee, or at the written requisition of any ten members, subject to the same rules as the foregoing.

ARTICLE 23. Every member to be at liberty to bring one friend with him to each public meeting, who shall be introduced to the President and Secretary, and have their names inserted in a book, to be called the visitors book, to be kept for the purpose ; and *ladies* to be equally eligible as *gentlemen* to be present on these occasions.

ARTICLE 24. All papers or lectures intended to be read or delivered before the Association, shall be publicly announced by the Secretary, at the time of notifying the meeting at which such is to take place, and on these occasions, extempore arguments, *pro* and *con*, shall be invited from such members as may have given the subject under discussion particular previous attention, or who may, on the spur of the moment, feel disposed to enter the lists, either in favor of, or opposed to, the views of the writer ; and subjects connected with the illustration of the natural history, the improvement of the agriculture, or the development of the commercial resources of the Province in general, and of the District in particular, shall be especially contemplated and encouraged ; and with a further view to this patriotic object, as soon as the funds of the society shall admit of it, topics shall be periodically selected for prize essays, the competitors for which shall *not* be limited to the members of the club.

ARTICLE 25. All papers, essays, and lectures, read before the Association, shall be considered as its pro-

perty, and be liable to be published at the discretion of a sub-committee of papers, either at length or in abstract, in a volume to be put forth periodically, at the lowest possible price, for general circulation among the members and others, and be denominated "Transactions of the Western District Literary, Philosophical, and Agricultural Association."

ARTICLE 26. On the reading of any paper, or the delivery of the lecture of the evening being announced by the President, the reader, or lecturer, shall take post at a desk on the left of the President, and continue to occupy the same until the conclusion of any arguments advanced by members present, including the writers reply thereto ; after which he shall resume his usual seat.

ARTICLE 27. Any member having occasion to speak or enter into debate; shall do so standing, and address himself, in the first instance, to the President ; and no member to interrupt another speaker, except in necessary explanation, or to call him to order ; and the decision on the latter point, if doubtful, to be invariably referred to the President.

ARTICLE 28. All subjects to be open for lectures or debate, with the exception of *religion* and *politics*.

NOTICE.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE.

IMMEDIATELY after the adoption of the By-laws, detailed in the preceding pages, the President delivered a discourse, elucidative of the various objects of the Society; which being received by the meeting with marked approbation, it was moved by the Honorable Chief Justice Robinson, honorary member, and seconded by the Honorable James Gordon, and unanimously agreed, that the latter should be printed for general information with as little delay as convenient.

In accordance with this decision, united with a compliance with the subsequent vote for the printing of the By-laws, the Committee have judged it advisable, as well as most desirable, to publish the Discourse and the By-laws together, as not only intimately connected with each other, but as affording, *conjointly*, the most satisfactory and encouraging view of the laudable objects of the Association.

(Signed,)

R. PEDEN, *Secretary.*

Amherstburgh, September 30, 1842.

A DISCOURSE
READ AT A MEETING OF THE
WESTERN DISTRICT LITERARY, PHILOSOPHICAL
AND
AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1842,

BY MAJOR R. LACHLAN, PRESIDENT.

GENTLEMEN—The deliberate adoption of our code of by-laws, which has just taken place, having stamped our society with a character of promising stability and permanency, and at the same time given a regulated impetus to our future proceedings, from which much may reasonably be expected, provided the members (as I have every reason to hope will be the case,) shall continue animated with the same cordial and emulous spirit as at present, I have felt bound by the prominent position in which your kind partiality has placed me, to endeavor to show, so far, a good example, on so auspicious an occasion, by throwing together for your leisure consideration and reflection, a few desultory observations, tending to point out and illustrate the many great advantages and benefits derivable from the establishment of societies such as ours, *in any country*, but more particularly in a remote and thinly settled part of an important, young, and rising colony, like *Canada*. In, however, assigning to myself this bold introductory task, I shall have many reasons to claim your indulgence, and shall therefore still shelter myself under the sincere preliminary apology made by me at our last meeting, and which I would therefore wish to bring, for a moment, to your recollection, namely,

that "though I had not hesitated to accede to the desire of my friends that I should take the chair on that occasion, it was *not* because I fancied myself, by any means, better qualified for the duty than many whom I saw present, but because having long earnestly desired to witness the foundation of an intellectual association, such as that contemplated by us, and being anxious to do all in my power to advance so commendable an object, I also felt, that I should thereby have an opportunity of affording, in my own person, an appropriate example of what I have had some difficulty in convincing most of my friends, namely,—that to be a useful, *though unlearned*, member of a literary and philosophical society, requires neither the previous qualification of rare literary talents, or great scientific or philosophical acquirements, but simply a sincere love of knowledge and an earnest desire to seek and profit by every opportunity of acquiring information and instruction in the society of those who may be able to impart it." Nay, I even went farther, and said that "though men of learning may be required to lead the way in the more abstruse and unfrequented paths of research, so intimately were science and philosophy in one way or another united and interwoven with the ordinary pursuits and occupations of life, that, in a society aiming at *mutual instruction*, such as ours is designed to be, it is in the power of almost every reflecting, moderately educated man, to bear a part in the practical illustration of some subject or other, without any previous pretensions to what is termed classical learning."

Taking the foregoing statement, united with the genial spirit of our fundamental resolutions, which have just been read, as my creed and guide, I at once boldly, yet humbly, take my stand in behalf of so good a cause, and unhesitatingly ask you, once more, *where* is the insurmountable bar to carrying our laudable purpose into effect? And I as promptly echo—*no where!*—As well observed by more than one learned and reverend friend, at our last meeting, though our society may

spring from a very humble and unpretending origin, who can foretel what may prove the great and inestimable results? It is true, that the proposal for establishing our Society has been received with coldness and indifference by some, from whom the very reverse was to have been expected, and that others have urged as their excuse for not joining us, that they considered the thing altogether impracticable in the present state of our population and society, though it *might*, perhaps, succeed some fifty years hence!

It is unnecessary to waste time or words in speculating on the cause of the apparent apathy of the former, but admitting the latter to be the case, I would say, that if so the more desirable and commendable must be the attempt at an earlier establishment of an Association of the kind; and therefore the more will be *our* merit if we happily succeed. So, instead of being discouraged by such apathetic remarks, they ought only to inspire us with greater zeal and perseverance in the endeavor to realize the laudable object we have in view. But, gentlemen, all past experience will bear ample testimony to the fact, that neither the march of intellect, the extension of science, nor the advance of discovery, are to be measured by the tardy progressive lapse of a certain number of "*slow revolving years*," otherwise, where, let me ask, would have been the recent numerous invaluable, yet almost simultaneous discoveries in modern *Chemistry*, or the sudden development of the till lately considered infant science of *Geology*? and where, also, the rapid transition, from the first experiment to the practical application of *Gas* to all its useful and brilliant purposes? and where, above all, would have been the truly wonderful, nay, almost miraculous, results of the various successive researches directed to the employment of that versatile and almost omnipotent agent, *Steam*? whether connected with machinery, manufactures, locomotion, or navigation; that, as it were, disdainfully anticipating centuries of gradual time and space, as far as human life and distance are concerned, have at once burst upon an astonished

world in an hundred forms, and yet whose truly gigantic powers may, after all, be said to be still only in their *infancy*! Yes, let but that great desideratum, a *right earnest inclination*, or zealous emulative impulse, be once happily felt and fairly roused, and natural genius, cultivated talent, or persevering industry, and sometimes even lucky accident, will frequently overcome the most discouraging, and, till boldly grappled with, apparently insurmountable obstacles and difficulties; and, in a moment, to our own utter surprise and delight, hurry us on centuries in advance of the sluggish anticipations or calculations of the dull, doubting age in which we happen to live.

Be it also remembered, for our further encouragement, that some of even the most celebrated Literary and Philosophical Associations of modern Europe, have taken their rise from very humble beginnings, and that the greater proportion also sprung up rather simultaneously, than progressively, as it were, by the mere power of emulous example, among nations speaking different languages, and arrived at, by no means, the same degree of civilization; and it is a singular fact, that splendid and extended as most of these national institutions now are, there are not many that can boast of having been much more than a century in active existence.

The first continental Literary Association (more generally distinguished by the classical name of Academies,) of which any record has been preserved, was established so far back as in the eighth century, by the Emperor Charlemagne, and had for its joint object, the improvement of the language of the country, and the encouragement of a taste for polite literature. But the next, which was instituted in Italy, was founded so late as the middle of the sixteenth century, under the quaint name of the "*Academy of the Secrets of Nature*;" and that was soon followed by many others of deserved celebrity, in different parts of the same country, among which, it is most encouraging for us to notice, that one was founded at Bologna, in 1690, at the suggestion, and by the exertions of a very young man, named Man-

fred
pub
ano
my
T
that
iste
cele
com
Fra
few
also
for
ing
Por
till
?
ear
aus
the
tak
Lee
my
not
bel
and
the
Fr
hav
the
ed
enc
an
as
Ac
ga
ad
of
ter

fredi, (then only in his sixteenth year,) which, after publishing several volumes of transactions, united with another society, and assumed the name of the "*Academy of Institutes.*"

The celebrated "*French Academy*"—the earliest of that great nation's Literary Associations—dates its existence no farther back than 1635; and the still more celebrated "*National Institute,*" of the same country, composed of all the learned and scientific academies of France, was not established till 1795. The apparently few *Spanish* and *Portuguese* literary institutions, are also of very late date; the *Royal Spanish Academy*, for the improvement of the Spanish language, not having been founded till 1714, and the *Royal Academy of Portuguese History*, in 1720, and that of *Science*, not till 1779.

The more numerous *German* institutions were of earlier date, and advanced to maturity under happier auspices, and with prouder success. The *Academy of the Curiosities of Nature*, was instituted in 1652, and taken under the special protection of the Emperor Leopold, in 1687. The once far-famed *Royal Academy of Sciences*, at Berlin, including among its objects, not only physical science and mathematics, but the *belles lettres*, was established by Frederick I, in 1700, and attained a high degree of literary eminence about the middle of the 18th century, under the auspices of Frederick the Great; and various other institutions, having similar objects in view, rapidly sprung up in the other German States.

The first literary and scientific institution established in *Russia*, denominated the *Royal Academy of Sciences*, was founded at St. Petersburg, under the wise and liberal auspices of the Empress Catherine, so late as 1725, and had, in the first instance, annexed to it the *Academy of Arts*; but the latter (to the peculiar organization of which, as calculated to promote the rapid advancement of a nation, then only emerging from a state of barbarism, I would call particular attention,) was afterwards formed into a separate institution, with funds,

for the admission of no less than 300 scholars, who enter at the age of six, and remain till their eighteenth year ; and who, at the age of fourteen, are permitted to choose, as a profession, any of the following arts, to wit—*painting, engraving, carving, watch-making*, and some other arts; and of those who have obtained four annual prizes, twelve are sent abroad at the expense of the government, for the purpose of improvement, and on their return, and settling in any town, they receive an annual salary, which is continued for four years.

The Swedish and Danish Literary Institutions, are of a still later date. That of *Stockholm*, termed the *Royal Academy*, was established in 1739, by a few private individuals, of whom the illustrious naturalist *Linnaeus* was one ; and the Royal Academy of *Copenhagen* was similarly instituted, about three years afterwards.

Among the many noble Literary and Philosophical institutions now disseminated all over our mother country, and of which she has just reason to be proud, even the great *Royal Society* of London was not founded till about the middle of the seventeenth century, and that of Edinburgh, not till 1718, or rather not till 1783, when it was remodelled and regularly incorporated ; while the Royal Irish Academy dates its origin from a minor society, established in Dublin, so late as 1782. And yet, such has been the genial influence of these popular institutions, altogether independent of the different universities and colleges, that one can now scarcely name a town of moderate population in the British dominions, which does not boast of either its literary institution, or its society of arts, its mechanics institute, or its museum, besides its public or subscription libraries, and its reading rooms.

Independent of the leading national institutions just alluded to, there are a number of other important, influential public associations, devoted to the promotion and extension of various other intellectual or patriotic objects, such as the special encouragement of the *fine arts*—a term now almost exclusively applied

to painting and sculpture—as well as of the *mechanical arts*, the study and improvement of *music* as a science, and the advancement of agriculture and commerce ; as, for instance, the *Royal Academies of Arts and Music*, in London, and the *Society of Arts*, in Edinburgh; the *London Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce*, and the British Board of Agriculture ; the *Royal Agricultural Societies of London and Edinburgh*, the *Highland Society, of Scotland*, and the *Dublin Agricultural Society* ; while those who are more immediately connected with our distant Indian empire, have established, in London, a *Royal Asiatic Society*, and Museum, having for its sole object the promotion of Oriental Literature and Research.

Thus, therefore, in whatever quarter of the *Old Country*—as our beloved father-land is not inaptly termed, in America—one's lot happens to be cast, opportunities of associating with friends and neighbors of congenial minds and feelings, as well as with men of science, or superior general information, in almost every grade of society, are never wanting ; and, what is of equal, if not greater importance, wherever a youth happens to be reared, in addition to the powerful influence of local associations and examples, the inducements and facilities held out for the seasonable cultivation of his mind, or the maturer improvement of the talents which nature and education may have bestowed upon him, are altogether so abundant and accessible, as ever to ensure the *forward* march of intellect among the body of the people, at a steady progressive pace.

Nor do our American neighbors set us, in this respect, an unworthy example. For, independent of their universities and colleges, and a variety of literary and philosophical institutions, established at, or connected with, the capitals of the leading states, there are a number of minor literary associations and schools of *Arts, Industry, and Agriculture*, in many less noted towns and villages, which, united with the laudable provisions in general made throughout the *Union*, for the promotion of education in all its branches, and the

abundant and cheap dissemination of useful periodicals, have no doubt been productive of the most beneficial results. For, be it ever remembered, that if it be desirable to be zealous in encouraging the cultivation of knowledge in the densely peopled regions of Europe, it must be doubly so in an extensive, new, and thinly settled country like America—whose far-dispersed and isolated population, while struggling hard to subdue the wide-spread primeval wilderness, for the necessary purposes of agriculture, and civilized life, are but too apt to lose sight of the value of education, and allow the uncultivated minds of their off-spring to fall gradually back upon a state of rustic ignorance.

If such a remark be applicable to the United States, where the inhabitants, from being, in a great measure, dependent upon their own manufactures and resources, are naturally spurred on to greater mental exertions, it must be equally, if not more so, to the, generally speaking, still more recently settled and thinly sprinkled population of a *sheerly agricultural*, forest-clad colony, like *Canada*, as yet, mainly dependent on the mother country for every thing in the shape of manufactured luxuries and comforts, beyond the mere produce of the soil, and where towns and villages are still few and far between, and libraries and literary associations equally rare; for, notwithstanding the establishment of our colleges, and the dawning improvements in the different branches of our school system, it being impossible to have even a *common school* established every where, in situations convenient to all, the nature of the almost incessant toil attending an agricultural life, united with the isolated state of rural society, not only tends to make the parent less alive to the value of education, as regards himself, and less anxious, or rather, perhaps, altogether indifferent to the discharge of his second great duty towards his children; but, for want of encouraging examples and opportunity, gradually habituates the latter to a discreditable state of unaspiring ignorance, ending, not unfrequently, in a feeling of apathetic distaste, if not contempt, for every thing in the

shap
the
exte
hoo
A
of a
old
a p
con
tion
eve
uni
pid
dia
the
gio
cul
Pro
los
in
His
cha
Th
Ma
al,
and
Me
tric
er,
the
natu
men
in th
ticir
ders
ress
Dur
boas
It
the
soph
Col
wh
bie
phil
er,
alto

shape of acquired knowledge, beyond the guidance of the plough, which, in the course of a very short time, extends its baneful influence over a whole neighborhood.

Although this melancholy picture of the prevalence of an indisposition to cultivate the mind, among both old and young, will still be found applicable to too large a portion of our extensive Province, it is somewhat consolatory to reflect that, as far as the rising generation is concerned, opportunities for education, suited to every rank and station in society, from the learned university to the unpretending common school, are rapidly increasing and improving, either under the immediate auspices of the Government and Legislature, or the well directed influence of patriotic national or religious communities; and that besides a number of *agricultural* societies, established in various parts of the Province, associations of a literary, scientific and philosophical character have been sometime in operation in different quarters—such as the *Royal Literary and Historical Society, the Debating Society, and the Mechanics' Institute, of Quebec; the Literary Society of Three-Rivers; the Natural History Society, the Young Men's Society, and the Mechanics' Institute, of Montreal; and the Mechanics' Institutes of Kingston, Toronto, and London*; besides the Medical Societies of Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, London, and the Western District.*

*The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec was incorporated by *Royal charter*, in 1831, "for the promotion of researches into the early history of Canada: for the recovering, procuring, and publishing, documents and useful information: the natural, civil, and literary history of British North America, and for the advancement of the arts and sciences in Canada:" and it is the only association of the kind in this country which has aimed at the distinction of *Royal Incorporation*. In noticing this circumstance, it is somewhat humiliating to an *Upper Canadian*, to understand and reflect, that with means and opportunity so favorable as *Toronto* possesses, that capital should, in spite of the strenuous public spirited efforts of Doctor Dunlop, Doctor Rees, the late Mr. Fothergill, and a few others, be yet only able to boast of a solitary *Mechanics' Institute*, and a *Commercial Reading Room*.

It is proper to add, that the efforts of the gentlemen above alluded to, consisted of the actual organization, at *Toronto*, so far back as 1831, of a "*Literary and Philosophical Society of Upper Canada*," under the patronage of his excellency Sir John Colbourn, for the investigation of the natural and civil history of the colony and whole interior, as far as the Pacific and Polar seas, throughout the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdom; and also to promote the study of natural history, natural philosophy, and the fine arts; but it is generally understood that, somehow or other, this *Institution*, though of so much promise, has gradually become dormant, if not altogether extinct.

But, alas! even these bright spots in our otherwise clouded horizon—and they, too, with few exceptions, confined to the leading cities of the eastern division of the Province!—only render the prevailing “darkness visible” the more apparent; and may not inaptly be compared to the solitary verdant *Oases* that meet the weary eye of the traveler amid the wide-spread, cheerless Arabian desert. And so little has a taste for either useful or ornamental literature been hitherto encouraged or cultivated, that, leaving out of the account works on Canada published in England, Canadian publications, beyond the ephemeral sphere of a newspaper, are yet almost unknown, if we except a volume or two of legal reference, a treatise on Canadian Agriculture, one or two works on our topography and embryo statistics, two or three abortive attempts at magazines and reviews, and that lately commenced meritorious agricultural periodical, the *British American Cultivator*, to which every true British Canadian farmer is bound to give every encouragement and support. Among the few remaining flowers of Canadian literature, however, one delights to bring to recollection the poetic merit of a *Moody*, and the still more versatile talent of a *Richardson*—of the latter of whom, the Western District, and Amherstburgh in particular, has reason to be proud. But here closes our scanty catalogue—whereas, I am fully persuaded that were the influential members of the community in every district to set the example of cultivating a taste for literature and useful information, not only would the lamp of education and the torch of knowledge be ere long found shedding their united genial light over every populous town and thriving village, but penetrating into every sequestered *shanty* in the lonely wilderness! And, therefore, should the humble efforts of our society be happily found conducive to so truly desirable a consummation, we shall on that account alone ever have just cause to rejoice at its establishment.*

*It is gratifying to be able to add that while this little pamphlet is going through the press, the Provincial Legislature have evinced their willingness to encourage

as
th
th
hu
Al
yo
mc
Is
ha
las
pro
un
ne
en

gre
bin
spi
mu
un
era
de
mu
for
po
for
est
dir
the
we
an
an
for
jec
tur
be

lite
hist
lega

To return from this pardonable—because instructive as well as inviting—digression, to the contemplation of the immediate laudable purpose of our Association, and the prospect of its ultimate realization, through the humble agency of unlearned individuals like myself: Allow me, as a preliminary step, to bring once more to your remembrance the encouraging spirit of our fundamental regulations, as read this evening, particularly the 1st, 2d, 4th, and 5th, coupled with the quotation which I have been led to make from my opening remarks at our last meeting; and bearing these in mind, let me now proceed to demonstrate, that however bold, and albeit unscholastic, the latter observations may be, they are nevertheless, based on sound observation and experience.

In the first place, then, be it remembered, that our great aim is the general pursuit of knowledge, combined with an endeavor to create and nourish a *social* spirit of inquiry and research, not only for our own mutual benefit and instruction, but, by the power of united precept and example, for that of the rising generation, and that therefore one great leading object, independent of the gradual foundation of a library and museum, and what may, in time, be reasonably hoped for, in the form of lectures and essays on scientific and popular subjects, is the accumulation and concentration, for future dissemination, of isolated, useful and interesting *facts*, tending, either by their novelty to the direct increase of our stock of local knowledge, or on the one hand, to illustrate and confirm, little known but well grounded information, or on the other, to expose and confute erroneous, though received opinions, on any matters within our reach. Setting aside, then, for the present, all the more abstruse and learned subjects—though I do not, by any means, despair of future aid in even these departments of research—it may be asked what are the legitimate objects of investiga-

literary labor, by granting £250 in aid of Major Richardson's forthcoming history of the late war, and a similar sum towards the publication of a work of legal reference, now in press in Lower Canada.

tions, in which the unlearned gleaner may bear a useful part. I answer :

1st. Every thing partaking of the character of *statistics*, whether connected with our noble Province at large, or our fine, but little valued and much neglected district, and its component parts, in particular.

2d. Personal memoirs, or local, historical, and chronological sketches, tending to furnish hereafter, a valuable, unbroken chain of materials, towards a correct general history of the colony.

3d. Topographical or other descriptive notes of the natural features of any part of the province or district, but more particularly of the latter. And

4th. Detached memoranda, or more elaborate details regarding the progressive or existing state of agriculture, trade, or manufactures, in different parts of the country, and descriptive accounts of new or improved mechanical or other inventions, but more particularly of those connected with the implements of husbandry.

Under the first of these interesting heads, might, for instance, be classed, independent of general statistics : 1st. Sketches of the first settlement and progressive improvement of every or any township, town, or village in the district or elsewhere, with comparative tabular views of the gradual increase of their population up to the present time. 2d. Descriptions of the original wild natural features, compared with the present improved or cultivated aspect of different parts of the country, combined with interesting anecdotes of the first settlers. 3d. Enumerations of the various crops and other productions that have from time to time been introduced into the parts described, the average yearly quantities raised, the prices obtained at different periods, and the markets to which sent. 4th. Meteorological diaries, showing the range of the thermometer, near to and remote from, the great lakes, with notices of the wind and weather, and other natural phenomena, illustrative of the climate and seasons, either for a complete year, or a series of years.

Under the 2d, equally interesting and important head,

may be included : 1st. Biographical memoirs of illustrious or remarkable individuals, in every station of life, without distinction of nation or color, in any way connected with the history of the province. 2d. Sketches of the reputed origin and first settlement, and now evidently rapid decline of the various Indian nations or tribes, of which, only disjointed remnants are now found scattered over various parts of Canada, and who are generally regarded by us as its aboriginal inhabitants ; together with comprehensive synoptical views of the several dialects or languages in use among the different tribes ; and—though last, not least—3d. Memoirs or narratives of any of the warlike operations, or military exploits, of which either the province at large, or particular parts of our own district, may have been the eventful scene.

Under the 3d head would be gladly received, descriptive memoranda of the natural or geological features of particular or remarkable parts of the country, which would be rendered still more acceptable and valuable if occasionally accompanied by specimens of any peculiar soils, and of such rocks or other minerals, such as iron ore, &c., as may attract attention. Also, accounts of any remarkable natural curiosities or phenomena, including observations on the supposed periodical rise and fall of the great lakes, descriptions of any minor lakes, or of other smaller inland reservoirs, such as unusually extensive marshes, the source and course of our rivers, and the situation of remarkable springs, particularly those of a mineral character.

Under the 4th general head, in addition to the accumulation of valuable descriptions of new or improved mechanical inventions,—which would be rendered still more acceptable if accompanied by *plans*—and what may be gleaned connected with agriculture under the division of statistics, might be embodied a series of descriptive lists of the various productions of the different townships, with the relative proportions of each ; accounts of the successful introduction of any new crops, or of improvements in the raising of any old

ones, with details of the progress and results of experiments made in attaining the latter object, whether connected with the choice and treatment of seed, the proper preparation of the land by any peculiar mode of tillage, or the application of manures best suited to particular vegetable productions. In fact, every thing leading towards the introduction of an improved system of husbandry, adapted to the various soils and range of climate in different parts of the Province. Also, similar details connected with the rearing of improved breeds of cattle of every description, including the amelioration of what may be termed our native breeds; in treating of the latter of which, it might be interesting to endeavor to trace back our *reputed* native *Canadian stock* to their source. Under the divisions of trade and manufactures, may be concentrated much acceptable general information, as well as more particular details, relative to the various existing articles of import and export trade, but especially the latter, furnished by different parts of the country, including any local staple commodities, which might hereafter prove of greater importance, whether the produce of the soil, or the manufacture of its inhabitants; together with hints on any other subjects, holding out encouragement for the introduction of additional productions or manufactures at all likely to prove beneficial to the country hereafter, either as articles of home consumption or export trade. And thus, let me add, in the present unfortunately dormant state of our district *Agricultural Society*, our labors, as a minor, congenial association, will *not* be without value; though, as I have already stated, I would look forward with far greater satisfaction to the thorough revival of the former, and to the *Literary and Philosophical Association* proving of essential subsidiary service to the cause of agriculture, by becoming the scientific *theoretic* nursery of many of the *Agricultural Society's* extended *practical* operations.

But these, gentlemen, are only a few of the numerous and discursive themes which present themselves to

our view, as so many prominent, inviting features in the almost boundless intellectual landscape around us ; for, with an ample and diversified scope, embracing "*whatever is performed by man or produced by nature,*" there are a thousand acceptable subjects, independent of abstract literature, philosophy, or science, which need only be touched upon to become interesting to a society aiming at *mutual instruction*, and the greater part of which require only well directed industry, and what is termed good common sense and observation, instead of any effort of learned talent, to be engaged in with satisfaction and success. Be not then, I entreat you, by any means discouraged, even though the fruits of our labors may, for a season, be few and uncertain ; but let us, one and all, lay our shoulders lustily to the wheel, and recollecting that it is for the benefit of the rising generation, as much as ourselves, that we are called into action, let each inquire within himself, and among his immediate friends, in what way he can contribute his little mite—be it even the *widow's mite*—towards our general stock, and he will find there can be little doubt of a prosperous ultimate result. For you may depend upon it, that if you yourselves are found to be in earnest in your patriotic and instructive efforts, there will, in the end, not be wanting among our friends and well-wishers—far beyond the pale of our limited society—liberal, learned, and scientific individuals, who, when opportunities offer, will be happy to be contributors to the commendable objects we have in view, by either presenting us with appropriate donations, or transmitting to us valuable tracts, on interesting and desirable subjects, or by delivering, personally, at our meetings, occasional popular lectures on some useful or ornamental branch of the sciences, or mechanical arts ; and thereby, as I have already expressed a hope would be the case, enable our Society to partake, at times, of the character of the *Mechanics' Institute*—a class of popular associations, which have, of late years, been productive of a vast degree of good

in the mother country, and which, I trust will, ere long, also extend their genial influence over Canada.

One word more, my friends, and I have done with this unmerciful trespass on your patience. If there be still among us any individual who, from a conscious sense of a deficiency of what is termed classical education, feels dismayed at the apparent formidable title of "*Literary and Philosophical*," assumed by our society, let me entreat you to throw aside your fears, and enter boldly, and zealously, and energetically, upon whatever you may feel best suited to the natural bent of your inclination and talents, and be assured that gratification and success will more or less crown your efforts; and if further encouragement be still wanting, let it be borne in mind, that many of the brightest ornaments of British learning, and some of the most successful promoters of the arts and sciences, were not only men of humble origin and defective school education, but altogether self-taught, in the strictest sense of the word—and who, till their powerful, yet hitherto uncultivated minds were, perhaps even at a late period of life, applied to some engrossing, congenial pursuit, were altogether unconscious of possessing talent at all superior to their surrounding friends and companions:—and of these, did time permit, a most interesting and instructive list could, with very little trouble, be presented to your contemplation. Nay, more, it may be added that many a triumph in the abstruse sciences, as well as in the elegant and useful arts, in some instances, tending to the very perfecting of the most intricate and potent combinations of mechanical power, have been the result of lucky accident, at times when the fortunate and agreeably surprised, but till then, perhaps, despairing discoverer, was probably in pursuit of some minor, or even different object.

Such, gentlemen, being the inviting, diversified prospect before us, it is impossible but that some feature or other will be found to strike home to the understanding, feelings, taste, observation, or experience of some individual among our patriotic little band; and therefore,

ever bearing in mind the observation of the historian Clarendon, that "*there is no art or science too difficult for industry*"—let me at once conclude this lengthened appeal to your energies in the emphatic language of the late Marquis of Hastings, while addressing the assembled members of a collegiate institution in India: "Dare you, when the meed is thus displayed to you, dare you refrain from contending for it, since refusal to make the effort, must argue either a soul too grovelling to appreciate the object, or an internal consciousness of despicable destitution of means! I will not, I cannot, I do not, suspect that any one whom I am now addressing is capable of shrinking from the exertion. Should an ingenuous doubt of powers intimidate any of you, let him take courage; let him trust that he will find in himself energies on which he has never yet ventured to calculate. The struggle will give you strength.—*Strive—and succeed!*"

