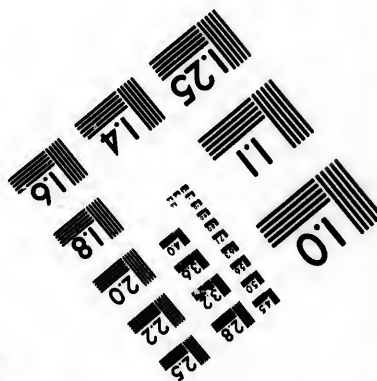
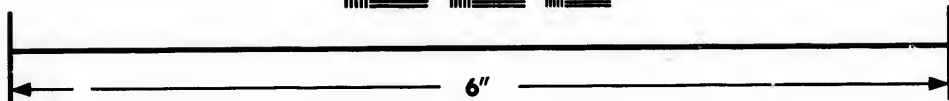
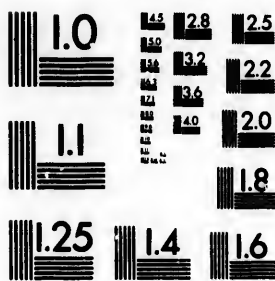


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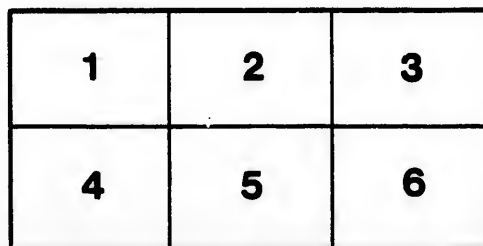
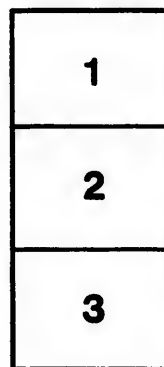
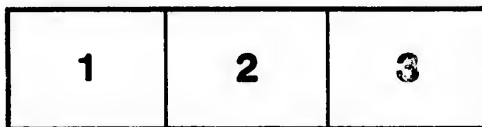
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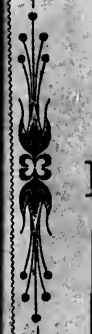
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**ANNUAL ADDRESS**

DELIVERED BY

**HIS HONOR MR. JUSTICE STREET,**

**PRESIDENT,**

BEFORE THE

**FREDERICTON ATHENÆUM,**

**16th FEBRUARY, 1852.**

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Published by Request of the Society.

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**SAINT JOHN :**

PRINTED BY HENRY CHUBB & COMPANY,  
PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.

**1852.**

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## ADDRESS.

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GENTLEMEN :

As the term of my service in the office of your President is now concluded, I am bound in duty, before I leave this chair, to address you upon our proceedings of the past year, in obedience to the 8th Rule of the Society.

It may, perhaps, be expected that I should not confine this address strictly to what the rule requires, but extend it to a commentary upon the general objects we had in view in the establishment of this Institution, and our proceedings from the commencement in furtherance of the original intention, and thus follow the example, so ably set me, by my predecessors in office; but so much has been said by them on those points, and so well said, particularly by the Rev. Mr. Brooke, in his address at our last anniversary, that there is very little, if anything, of any interest to you that I can add; and for me to go over the same ground they have so ably occupied, would not only be tedious and uninteresting to you, but a bad attempt at imitation in me. I shall, therefore, proceed at once to what is, in strictness, the object of this address, by calling your attention to what has been done during the past year, with such observations of my own thereon as occur to me in passing.

At the meeting this time last year, when you did me the honour to elect me your President, I was, from ill-health, prevented attending, which I the more regretted, as I thereby lost the advantage of hearing delivered from this chair the beautiful closing address of my Rev. friend on my left; but I afterwards had the pleasure and benefit of perusing it from the printed copy; and I think you will agree with me, that nothing more appropriate to the subjects therein treated of, more sublime and beautiful in the ideas expressed, or more elegant and chaste in the language used, has hitherto been laid before this Society; and I much fear, Gentlemen, that this address of mine, coming, as it does, in immediate succession to that, will appear to you very tame and insipid; at the same time, you must bear

in mind, that as we are not all endowed with the same power and talent for composition, you ought not to expect from every successive President an equally able and beautiful address; and I can assure you, you will find mine a very plain matter-of-fact affair.

At the same February meeting, I perceive also, by the Minutes, our active Secretary exhibited specimens of Elastic Bitumen and Bituminous Limestone, obtained from the County of Westmorland, and favoured you with some observations in respect to the interest and practical importance promised, by finding such deposits in the soil in the vicinity of the mines of Albert County; and I still hope we shall hear further from him on this subject, particularly with respect to the composition and nature of the substance by some called Asphaltum, taken from the mines in Albert, and how far it does or does not partaké of the qualities of Coal.

At the March meeting, I was again prevented attending, by absence from the Province; but I perceive by the Minutes that our highly respected and much esteemed Member, the Venerable Archdeacon, read an elaborate paper on Ancient Books, which led to a discussion on the subject of Modern Improvements in the Art of Printing and Bookmaking. I have only lately had the pleasure of seeing this paper; and you, who heard it read, must, I am sure, admit that the subject is therein handled in that able manner that would naturally be expected, coming, as it did, from such a quarter. The Archdeacon has taken up the history of Letters from their commencement, and traced their progress down through the various inventions of man for recording and transmitting to posterity the numerous important events, and the conduct and proceedings of mankind, from the beginning down to the present time—a very interesting subject of study, and one which our Reverend friend has (in his paper) shewn affords the strongest verification of the correctness of the present version of both the Old and New Testaments, from which we take our religious creed; and that of itself ought to be sufficient to give to this paper the highest value in our estimation, independent of its other superior merits, of which it would be presumption in me to say more.

Our next meeting took place in April, when I was, for the first time since my election to this chair, enabled to attend; at which meeting Mr. Wilkinson kindly favoured us with a paper upon the exploratory survey on which he had been engaged, in connection with a proposed line of Railroad from the Nova-Scotian boundary

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to that of the State of Maine; and although the paper was not one prepared for this Society, but more in the nature of an official Report of his survey, yet it was of great interest to us all, as it afforded much valuable information on a subject on which the public mind has been extensively occupied ever since, and is still likely to be so for some time to come. Indeed, there is no subject that has, in my recollection, so much and so long engrossed public attention, and given rise to so much discussion generally, as that of Railroads in this Province. We were, therefore, the more obliged to that scientific Member, for this exposition of the subject, shewing, from practical examination of the ground, that there are no natural obstacles on that part of the line surveyed by him that may not easily be removed. He has also shewn what may be the probable cost of such a work, by calculations and estimates that may afford a tolerably safe guide to any who may be disposed to undertake it; but we must all know that it is a work far beyond the resources of this Province alone to accomplish; and if ever completed, it must be by the aid of foreign capital. Until very lately we had reason to despair of that being secured, from the want of unanimity in the public mind as to the line to be determined on, and the misunderstanding that appears to have taken place between the Colonial Minister and the authorized agents of Nova-Scotia as to the extent of assistance to be granted from our Mother Country; but the late proposed arrangement come to at Halifax by the Delegates from the three Provinces of Canada, New-Brunswick, and Nova-Scotia, and already assented to by the House of Assembly of the latter Province—and which, from what I hear, will in all probability be adopted by our own Legislature, as well as by that of Canada—indicates that a better prospect is beginning to dawn upon us, and leads to reasonable hopes of the object being attained before any great length of time intervenes. The great and certain benefits to be derived by the Province at large, from this scheme being carried out, makes it one that is well worth risking something to accomplish.

Our next monthly meeting, which was to have been in May, had to be postponed until the 2nd of June following, in consequence of the absence of the Secretary—a postponement that, I trust, the Members will think I was justified in sanctioning, knowing, as we all do, how valuable the assistance of our Secretary is at our meetings. On the 2nd of June, therefore, we met in pursuance of the

postponement, when the Rev. Dr. Jacob gave us a paper on the relation of Morals to Happiness, a subject which no one among us—and few, perhaps, if any, elsewhere—could be found better qualified to deal with, than that Rev. Gentleman, or to make more interesting to his hearers. His high literary attainments, his sound sense of the moral obligations connected with our religious duties, coupled with his superior powers of composition, render him peculiarly fit to write upon such a subject; and I think we must all have felt that his paper was such as was expected from him. This is one of the few of our papers that the public have had the advantage of, as the greater part of it was, I believe, embraced in a public lecture, the Rev. Doctor subsequently gave at St. John, which has since appeared in the newspapers of the day; and I trust we shall be often favoured by that Rev. and valuable Member of our Society with other productions from his well-stored mind. At this meeting a Committee was again appointed to superintend the preparing and printing of the *Athenæum Almanac*; but I am sorry to see, by the report subsequently made by that Committee, that this publication has not been so successful the last year as we wished. On this subject, however, I shall have some further observations to offer when I come to that report. A sketch map of the Parish of Fredericton was also presented to this Society, by Captain Webster, Royal Regiment, late a Member of our body.

On the 16th of June was holden the regular meeting for that month, at which I was unavoidably and unexpectedly again prevented from attending; but I see from the Minutes, that Professor Jack gave a very interesting verbal lecture on certain pneumatic and hydrostatic paradoxes, illustrated by many appropriate experiments; but not being present, I can say no more on this, farther than that from the very great pleasure and interest I have so often experienced in hearing that gentleman's experimental lectures, I sincerely regret I was not able to have heard him on this occasion.

The next regular meeting of the Society should have been held on the 15th of September last; but in consequence of the Exhibition at St. John, which the Secretary was obliged to attend on behalf of the New-Brunswick Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce, our meeting was postponed to the 22nd of that month, when, there being only seven members present, we could not make a quorum for business. Dr. Robb, however, was kind enough to read to the Members then present a very able and inte-

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resting report of the St. John Exhibition, that he had drawn up for the New-Brunswick Society, which was the more interesting, as it showed, from what had been done at that Exhibition, (notwithstanding the disadvantages attending the getting it up, by the short previous notice given, and the little time allowed for preparation, as well as the inconveniently early period in the year when it was held,) what might be done at a great Provincial Exhibition, got up after timely notice for preparation, and properly and efficiently conducted, such as the New-Brunswick Society are now preparing for, to be held in Fredericton, some time in the next autumn.

At our monthly meeting in October, Dr. Robb, from the Almanac Committee, reported a difficulty that had been raised by Messrs. Chubb & Co. to publish the Society's Almanac in the extended form in which it had been previously prepared; and, in fact, declining to publish it for 1852, unless the contents were reduced to about eighty pages, on the ground that the price at which it had been previously sold reduced the sale to a number that did not pay the expence of publication, as the public preferred purchasing the old Provincial Almanac, at the low price it could be sold at, to ours, at the advanced price. This is certainly much to be regretted, and is, no doubt, very discouraging to those Members of our Society who have devoted so much time and labour to the making a correct and improved Calendar, with such astronomical calculations as can be depended on, together with other concise and accurate information on matters of general interest, so as to form a work of reference, containing more compendious information than any other publication in the Province will afford; and this done, too, gratuitously, for the benefit of the public. It does seem, therefore, extraordinary and almost incredible that, for the mere trifling consideration of a few pence, the people should reject this work for the old commonplace almanac, with the same articles copied in from year to year, and very little, if any, original information, and many inaccuracies in the scanty astronomical data it contained. The consequence of this has been, that much valuable matter has been left out of our almanac, as published for 1852, in order to reduce it to a size that can be sold at a price corresponding with the demand; but how far it will be advisable, under such circumstances, for our Members to take any further trouble in the matter, will be for consideration during the ensuing year.

At this same meeting, Dr. Robb favoured us with a verbal lec-

ture upon the History and Construction of the Thermometer, with many illustrative experiments, in which we all took a very lively interest. The Doctor went into a very interesting history of the first invention of this instrument, and the reasons which first led to the idea that the variations of heat and cold could be graduated and measured by such an instrument; the experiments resorted to, in the first instance to test its practicability, and the subsequent improvements upon the invention, by the use of mercury, instead of the liquids previously employed—all this was done by the learned Doctor in so scientific and lucid a manner, that, with the assistance of the experiments, it was easily understood, and afforded much information on the subject.

The 17th of November was the next meeting, at which I was again prevented from attending, by absence from Fredericton; but I find by the Minutes, that Mr. Roberts then gave an admirable paper upon the "Theory and Phenomena of the Tides," with several illustrations from maps and diagrams; and although I had not the opportunity of hearing the paper read, it has since been furnished to me; and it may well be called an admirable paper, as he has most ably treated a very intricate subject—one that has given rise to much and extensive inquiry; and indeed the Members then present seemed so strongly impressed with its importance, that a Committee was immediately raised to consider "in what manner observations on the tides of the Bay of Fundy could be most advantageously made, discussed and published for the benefit of science and commerce," who are still occupied therewith, as will be seen by the preliminary report they made at our last meeting, which I shall advert to hereafter.

At our December meeting, Mr. Gregory gave us a very elaborate paper upon the present state of our knowledge of Mental Science: in dealing with this subject, he went into a wide field of inquiry, and the way in which he has treated the several branches of it, shews great research and labor on his part, which I believe we were all fully sensible of. In the first portion of his paper he entered into a disquisition on the opinions of authors, both ancient and modern, regarding the construction of the mind, its faculties, its seat in the human frame, the sympathy and connexion between it and the body, and the causes which bring it into action; animal life, and what it results from; the nervous system, its essentiality to vital organization, and its operation upon the senses; the formation of the brain,

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and the evidences of that being the seat of the mind; upon all these points Mr. Gregory has quoted from several able writers, and shewn where they differ in opinion upon some of them, accompanied by observations of his own, and conclusions drawn therefrom. This part of his paper he seems to have considered as a requisite inquiry introductory to the more immediate subject thereof, which was the Science (if it may be so called) of Phrenology. This he has gone very fully into, and adduced the opinions and reasoning of the ablest writers who are represented as its professors, and who have exerted themselves to reduce the subject to a science, in which confidence may be placed, and reliance on its truth commanded. But for me to enter here into any discussion upon the various topics of this paper, would occupy much more time than the limits of this evening and your patience will admit of, besides extending this address far beyond its proper bounds. At the same time, I may add, that although some of the positions taken in this paper may be much questioned as to their correctness—as indeed was proved by the discussion that immediately followed—yet I believe we all agreed that Mr. Gregory was entitled to our sincere thanks for the able manner in which he had brought them before us, and for the labour and research he had bestowed upon the matter.

Previous to our last meeting, in January, we had been led to expect a paper from Mr. Robinson, but owing to some unforeseen difficulty he was unable to get it prepared, and our much valued Member, Professor Jack, at a very short notice, stepped forward, as he had often done before, to relieve us from the disappointment we might otherwise have met with; and short as the notice to him was, most ably did he do so, and thereby gave us another instance to shew how well merited was the eulogium passed upon him, as well as on his worthy colleague, our talented Secretary, by my predecessor, Mr. Brooke, last year, which, I think, we must all feel the justice of. Mr. Jack, on this occasion, gave us a most interesting extempore lecture on the Rotation of the Terrestrial Globe, accompanied by explanatory experiments, exemplifying in a very clear manner the permanency of the plane of vibration of the simple pendulum; and showing how this fact has been applied so as to furnish a *direct* proof of the rotation of the earth. The Professor, in his lecture, also, in a very concise manner, went into a history of the different theories of the ancient philosophers, as to the situations and supposed movements of the heavenly bodies and the earth; and adverted



to the length of time the world was kept in ignorance (by religious bigotry and the persecutions of the Inquisition) of the true system of the universe, shewing by his sound argument that the present well established doctrine of the earth turning on its axis, and thus causing the apparent diurnal revolution of the sun, moon and stars, is, independent of actual observation, much more consistent with reason, than that they all move round our comparatively small planet. He then went into explanatory remarks on the proofs, by actual discoveries, which have established the present system of Astronomy. Indeed, I think he could not have hit upon any subject more interesting to us all; for what can be more sublime and beautiful, or more attractive to the human mind, than the contemplation of these great works of the Creator, on which, let reason have its natural sway, unshackled by prejudice and bigotry, and how near the truth it would lead us, even without the aid of exact observations! What awful reverence and admiration these works ought to produce in the feelings of all the right-minded of mankind, for the great Almighty Creator! and yet to what a depth of barbarous ignorance and error, prejudice may plunge the world, even while there are living those who see the truth, but dare not proclaim it, for fear of the persecution and oppression which bigotry threatens, when it has its sway.

This is most forcibly shewn in the progress of the science of Astronomy. We know from well authenticated records, that the doctrine as to the motions of the great heavenly bodies and the earth, now so well established and proved by modern discoveries, was adopted in very early ages; for, that celebrated philosopher, Pythagoras, about 500 years before the time of our Saviour, propounded it to his followers and to the world. He, it is supposed, adopted this theory from the information he obtained from the Priests and Magi of the East, among whom he resided for many years, and on this, and by the exercise of his own powerful reasoning, he was led to frame the system which he then promulgated, and continued to teach while he lived. His immediate followers embraced and propagated the doctrine of their great master; but as they could not support it by any very convincing arguments, and had, moreover, no means of testing its truth by actual discoveries through the inventions that modern art has since produced, the opponents to the theory succeeded in imposing upon the ignorance and prejudices of mankind, and in crying it down. It was then abandoned by the world for many ages afterwards, during which lapse

of time we find no science to have been wholly neglected, and the subject became involved in uncertainty by the whimsical hypotheses of philosophers, studying only to gratify their own vanity, by inventions of their brains, independent of facts and experiments.

Copernicus, in the 16th century, rose like a brilliant star, to disperse the mists and clouds of falsehood and error that were misleading the world, and conducted it back to the truth. His great reasoning mind, it seems, after deep reflection, led him to adopt the Pythagorean System as the true one: but yet bigotry and religious persecution so prevailed, that he dared not teach or propound it to the world until about the time of his death; and even then, the opposition to it continued so great for years afterwards, that it was not until subsequent philosophers, by means of the telescope and the philosophical reasoning of the great Newton, finally set the question at rest, that it became acknowledged as the true doctrine.

But, Gentlemen, I must stop this train of thought, and get back to the more immediate purport of this address, having already, I fear, made a greater digression than your patience may approve of. At this same January meeting, the Committee on Tides made a preliminary report, from which it appeared they had been in communication with Captain Shortland, of the Royal Navy, (the officer conducting the survey of the Bay of Fandy and coast of Neva-Scotia,) and also with His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, on the subject. The former had pointed out the measures he considered necessary to be pursued, to attain our object; and the latter had expressed a great willingness on his part to afford every assistance in his power to further the inquiry, and had recommended a statement to be drawn up for him, and also one to be laid before the Legislature. Upon this report, the Committee were continued to pursue this course, and we now wait for their farther report thereon.

I have now, I believe, gone through all matters of any moment that have come under our consideration during the past year, and I take this opportunity of calling the attention of the Members to a part of the 2d Rule of our Institution, which provides that "all written communications which shall be laid before the Society, shall become part of its property." This rule seems to have been very much overlooked, as I believe that most of our Members from the commencement, who favoured us with papers on any subject, have, after reading them to the meeting, taken them away; and I believe very few of them have been kept (as I think it was originally intended they

should be,) in the place of deposit for the literary contributions belonging to the Society. Our rules, in all other respects, I am happy to say, seem to have been respected and adhered to. All subjects, excepting two, are open to us for discussion, either in written papers, submitted by Members, or verbal lectures.

The two excepted subjects, you are aware, are those mentioned in the second of our Rules, which requires the "President always to prevent the introduction of any matter repugnant to the spirit of Christianity, and all religious or political controversy;" but, in excluding religion as a subject for discussion, it is not to be for a moment supposed that we think lightly on that subject, or are profelytes to the modern doctrine, held in some places, for excluding it from public institutions for the education of youth; but as the object of our Society is to promote general literature and science, and as it is open to all denominations of Christians who may be disposed to lend their aid to that object, and to become Members, if duly elected; and as our Members hitherto have not been confined to any one denomination in particular, to introduce for discussion questions on religion would only lead to controversy and disunion, without a chance of producing any real good, and thereby disturb that harmony and kindly feeling it is so necessary and advisable should always be maintained amongst us. The same reasons will equally apply in support of the exclusion of political subjects; I therefore think it a very wise and judicious provision introduced by the framers of our constitution to exclude both those subjects; and I am happy to find no attempt has been made by any one to infringe upon the rule, or to make any alteration therein.

We have had many and various subjects brought before us since our first association; but there is one that I am sure would have great interest for us all, and (though not excluded) has not, as far as I can recollect, yet been touched upon by any one of our Members in the papers they have from time to time favoured us with—I mean that of the Fine Arts. It is true that in a new country like this we have as yet but few or no means or facilities for their cultivation, as little or nothing has yet been done, either public or private, for their encouragement; but I am satisfied there is sufficient natural talent in the bud, in this Province, that only wants to be drawn forth by the sunny rays of cultivation and encouragement, to make it burst into blossoms worthy of admiration anywhere. My attention was called to this subject by a passage in a singularly beautiful address

delivered by Mr. Sheriff Bell, of Glasgow, to the Athenæum of that place, in which he says, in alluding to the Fine Arts, "I fear that it is something of a reproach to us that we have scarcely as yet manifested a sufficient sense of the importance of these arts as a mighty engine for softening and elevating the character of the people. It is, indeed, impossible, in this point of view, to overrate their power. The Fine Arts speak a universal language; they belong not to any one nation, they are human, and nothing that is human is foreign to them; they are fettered by the peculiarities of no idiom; they have not to contend with the limited meaning and feebleness of words. A perception of the beautiful and the grand in art is equivalent to the possession of another sense, for it supplies a new power of reading and apprehending the beauties and sublimities of the natural world." I have quoted this passage from Mr. Bell's address merely to show the forcible manner in which he points out the importance of this subject to the people of the world at large, and not confined to any particular country; and, therefore, as applicable to us as to others; and he has in the most beautiful manner, in the same address, very clearly illustrated the truth of this his position. I therefore hope that in the course of the ensuing year some of our Members will turn their attention to this subject, and favour us with one or more papers upon it; for although we have, I fear, but few, if any, specimens of the higher order of the productions of these arts in this Province, for any of us to have access to, yet we have some very able works upon the subject in our libraries, to which we can refer, and from which any one, possessing the knowledge and experience that, I think, some of our scientific and professional Members must have, might gather such additional information as would enable him to give us a very interesting paper upon it; and the oftener it is brought before us, the more we discuss and consider it, the stronger shall we be impressed with the importance and necessity of some exertion being made to afford means of instruction in, and encouragement of, the study of the Fine Arts in this Province, side by side with the other branches of science.

I would also recommend to us all the more frequent introduction of papers upon Agricultural Science and its different branches, than we have yet had; there is no other subject (I may say) in which we are all, in a general sense, so much interested; and as it is one to which several of our Members have turned their particular attention, and in which they are well versed, they could occasionally give

us papers on some one or more branches of it, containing most useful information, and which would be highly instructive. Although it may sometimes happen in this matter, as in most others that may be brought forward, that among our Members some (from the nature of their studies and occupations in life and scientific experience,) such as our valuable Secretary and Professor Jack and others, may possess more extensive knowledge of the subject of a paper than the party himself who produces it; yet, as he generally, in preparing it, looks much into the works of the best writers, he not only increases his own information, but often gives rise to some new ideas in the minds of those most conversant therein, which leads to interesting discussions and general advantage to all.

I also beg, Gentlemen, to make another suggestion for your consideration. This is now the fifth anniversary of this Society, and as yet no part of any paper or lecture that has been produced before us, except an annual address of our President's, has been published, or in any way recorded, so as to be referred to, either by Members or any one else, for any information on the different subjects brought forward; and as it cannot be supposed that any one of us can retain in our memories all that is worthy of note in those papers, from merely hearing them once read, it does not appear to me that we carry out our professed object, that of promoting literature and science. Heretofore, all the benefit to be derived from our productions has been confined to ourselves; and we therefore subject the Society to a charge of selfishness, in not promulgating among the public at large some of the knowledge derived from our proceedings. What I would, therefore, suggest for your consideration is, whether it would not be advisable to appoint a Committee to take up all the papers that have been produced, and make a brief extract from each, under the different heads of what may be thought interesting to the public, so as to form one moderate-sized volume for publication, as a small but useful work of reference, the sale of which, at a reasonable price, would, I think, in time repay the expenses of publication, which our funds will afford to meet in the first instance. I throw this out merely as a subject for discussion, not presuming to offer any dictation or decided opinion of my own upon it; and if this suggestion should be adopted, it will form a beginning of what may be hereafter followed up by a continuation of the same kind of work at future periods.

We must all deeply regret that during the past year we have been

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deprived by death of one of our most valuable and distinguished Members—one who, from the first formation of our Institution to the time of his decease, took a warm and (so far as his physical infirmities would admit of) an active interest in our proceedings, and was a liberal contributor to our stores. He was always, when in Frederickton, a punctual attendant at our meetings, unless prevented by ill-health; and although his deficiency in the use of his hands prevented his favouring us with any effusions of his well-stored mind, yet his high literary attainments and extensive general knowledge made his opinions highly valuable to us, on most subjects. His loss, however, is not merely to us, but to the Province at large. During the many years that he filled the highest judicial station in this Province, he was an ornament to the Bench; his brother Judges had all the greatest respect and deference for his legal knowledge and judicial opinions, and felt great confidence in the assistance they derived therefrom, and his administration of justice commanded the respect and insured the confidence of the public at large. As a man, he was an example of pure integrity, a sincere and devout Christian, a staunch supporter and adherent of his Church, of extensive but unostentatious charity, and a high-minded gentleman, who mixed in and encouraged all rational society and innocent amusements. His loss, great as it is to us and the Province, must be doubly felt in the community in which he lived, and no doubt will be long deplored. He has left most munificent memorials of his love for his Church, and his charitable feelings for the rising generation in the Province, by the liberal bequests he has made for the support of the former, and for aid to public schools for the education of the latter.

Notwithstanding the admonition of His Honor the Chief Justice on a former occasion, when in this chair, supported as it was by the subsequent observations of the Rev. Mr. Brooke, in his address at the close of the last year, our meetings for the year past, I am sorry to say, have not been more numerously attended than before. I cannot but feel, however, that anything I might say in support of their remarks on that head would come with a bad grace from me, having been so irregular in attendance myself. Nevertheless, I am not disposed to think our Society is on the decline, from this circumstance, or that there is any want of interest in or desire to keep it up, among the present Members; for, when we consider that the hour of our meeting (though best, perhaps, for the convenience of the majority) is still one which interferes much with the domestic habits and comforts of some of

us, together with the distance many have to come—and that often in bad weather—and also taking into consideration that the Society is composed of persons who have various other calls upon their time, and which must often require their immediate attention—our benches have, upon an average, been as fully occupied as we could reasonably expect. We may therefore, I think, fairly look upon our vessel (as reported of her last year by my Rev. friend, Mr. Brooke,) as still in safety, and beyond the danger of being stranded upon the shoals he then seemed rather to apprehend. The cheers we then gave for holding on our course have not been so met, by the proceedings of the past year, as to discourage us from renewing them on this occasion, seeing that we still proceed with every prospect of fair winds and fresh breezes, which, I trust, will continue to carry us on in the same harmony and happy association which have hitherto prevailed and governed our course.

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