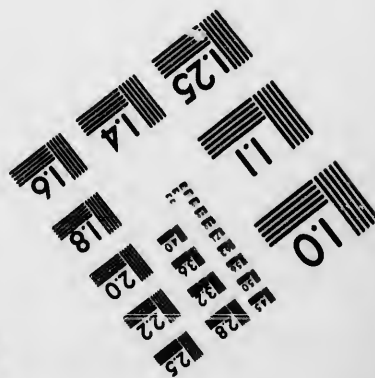
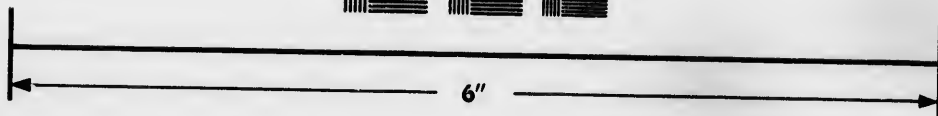
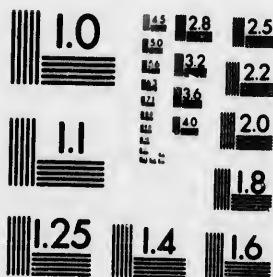


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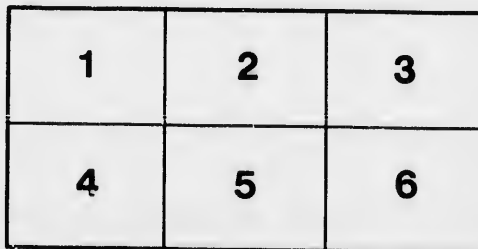
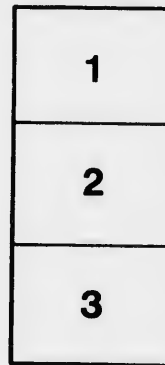
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# ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

American Association for the Advancement of Learning,

IN THE CITY CONCERT HALL,

ON THURSDAY, THE 19th AUGUST, 1857,

AT THE SPECIAL REQUEST

OF THE

**CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL,**

BY THE

**HON. CHARLES MONDELET,**

ONE OF THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LOWER CANADA.

Montreal:

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With the consent of  
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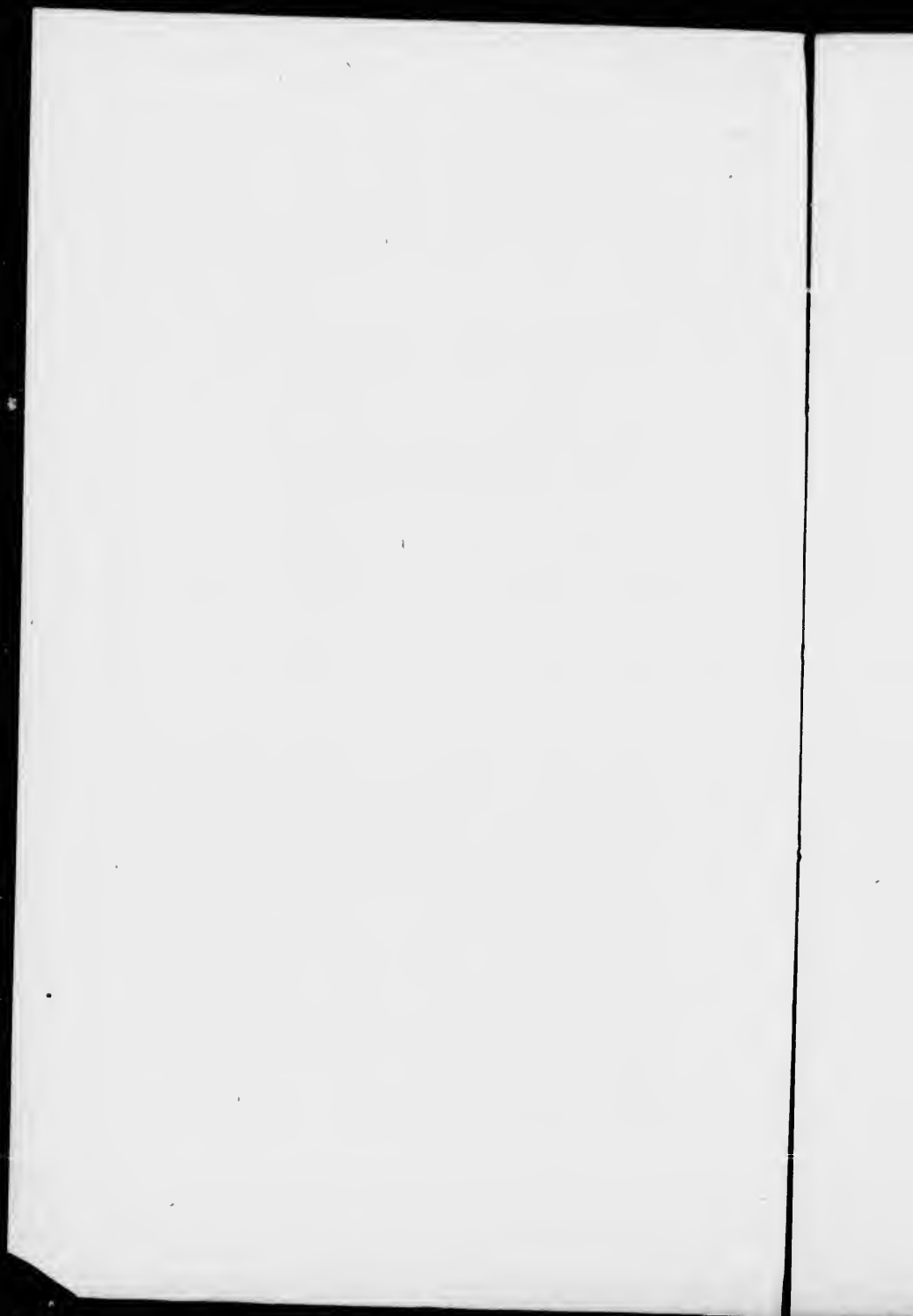
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## ADDRESS.



*Mr. Mayor, Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the American Association—Ladies and Gentlemen.*

IN responding to the call I have received from the City authorities, to address the distinguished Association which they have the honor to entertain this evening, I beg leave to throw myself upon the indulgence of all, for venturing to do so, in a language which I am not as familiar with, as I am with my own. My reason for addressing in the English language, the present enlightened *re-union*, is that numbers of those whom I have the pleasure of meeting, are from foreign lands; it is but reasonable, therefore, that I should give preference to the language the generality of them are known to speak.



The 12th of August, 1857, is an auspicious day for Montreal. The bright sun of literary and scientific genius is above our horizon, its genial heat has been felt, its reviving powers are every where, producing their salutary effects. The citizens of this growing commercial metropolis, are alive to the importance, in so many respects, of such a meeting of distinguished *savans*. They hail, as they anxiously awaited, their advent amongst us. They have held out a friendly hand to them. They have given them a hearty welcome, a cordial welcome certainly, to which our distinguished visitors are so highly entitled. In thus giving expression to sentiments universally entertained, let me not be guilty of exaggeration or hypocrisy. We feel from our hearts, and at the same time, our minds reveal to us, the interest we have, the great, the immense results we anticipate. Were we in the middle ages, dealing with men deep in theories, though superficial in practice, the feeling would, no doubt, be widely different; perhaps there would be no feeling at all. But, in our times of progress, of go-ahead-way of doing business, theorists, unpractical theorists are not likely to win golden opinions, for having subjected their brains to a process which they are to derive no other satisfaction from, than that of having made discoveries not even

useful to themselves. The squaring of the circle, and the philosopher's stone, have puzzled, dried up, and probably turned many brains ; scholastic discussions on subjects which never could interest, and much less, benefit mankind, have engaged the attention of lofty minds, and caused loss of time and labor. Worse than all that, not a few men of genius, in thus plunging into such useless abstruse studies and discussions, have oftentimes, drawn after them, in the dark paths of prejudice, superstition, and consequent thereupon, hatred and persecution, crowds of ignorant devotees. Such times are not our times, they are by-gone times. What we want now, are results, and results are at hand everywhere.

Indeed they are. Whether scientific men have been engaged in devising means more economically to minister to the wants and comforts of the household, or extend the power of action among the great human family, the results are equally important, equally successful. This is not an occasion that would justify my going into minute details ; it is neither my purpose nor my object. To such men as those who honor us with their presence, I need but make an allusion to the numberless improvements which practical theorists have brought about.

On a larger scale, prodigious results have been obtained. Genius has evoked the ideas from the depth of as it were divine lore, and practical minds have carried out, what inspiration had handed over to them to work upon. Railroads, telegraphs, exploring expeditions, rapidity of conveyance of all kinds, miracles of every imaginable description, crowd upon our minds, leaving us hardly time to contemplate actual achievements, ere we are startled at results still more extraordinary. The pyramids of old, have been to past generations, the theme of admiration! Are they not thrown into the shade, when we cast our eye on the Menai Bridge, and glance into futurity, there to scan if possible, the results of the now triumphantly progressing telegraph, which I trust, will so closely connect Great Britain and the United States together, that they will become as if wrapt up in one and identical atmosphere of thought, of mind and of fraternal love, and fused into a natural and indissoluble state of union. And our own Victoria Bridge! What incalculable benefits do we not anticipate from such a stupendous undertaking! The immense, the immeasurable results, gentlemen, springing from the practical application of steam and electricity, surpass, far and wide, all others, save, ah, yes! save the all powerful results of the

invention of the art of printing, and the influence it has had, still has, and forever must have, upon the destinies and the welfare of nations: secure liberty as it has, to Great Britain (and to ourselves of course), and to the gigantic Republic her offspring, causing despotism to tremble in its strongholds, from which it would extend all over Europe, were it not for Great Britain, whose cause to-day, is the cause of European liberty; the art of printing, I say, the forerunner and the parent of the liberty of the press, and of freedom of thought and conscience, is carrying out the design of the Divine Maker who has created man a free agent.

Gentlemen, we meet here on common ground. We are citizens of a great, of the greatest of all Republics—the Republic of Letters and Sciences. We are all brothers. Our device, our *mot de ralliement*, is *Union, Fraternité*. It is under the banner of that Republic, that men of all countries, of all nations, welcome one another, and cheerfully sit down side by side, either at the scientific or the festive board. Men who could not work together in the Councils of State, wherein they represented governments in their political action, far as the poles asunder, fraternise and obtain results which under no imaginable circumstances, ever could be realised. Thus, we

have the Prince Consort of our beloved Lady the Queen, who, though prudently keeping himself aloof from political strife, still occupies a prominent position in the prosecution of scientific objects, and we all know the results. No one more than myself, feels how happy such a man must be, as the husband of the august lady who is the model Queen, the model wife, the model mother, the glory of free Britain, the pride of her sex, a good woman—God bless her! Still, such bliss does not, cannot honor him more than being, as he is, the patron of science, since, as such, he can do more in that way, than he ever could effect in any other, surrounded even, as he is, by the very halo of the eminent virtues and the regal influence of her whose glory it is to be the chief magistrate of a constitutional Government, and the Queen of a free nation.

If we look at home, gentlemen, we have reason to congratulate ourselves with regard to our own position in that respect. In this very room, what a diversity of origins, of political and religious opinions! How different the ideas, the education, the habits! Still, are we not all cheerfully and usefully brought together? Do we not feel happy in being so assembled? Do we not, with one mind, anticipate the most beneficial results from the joint and harmonious pro-

ceedings of the distinguished men who honor our city with their presence? Indeed, I am sure we are all of one sentiment; there is as to that, no difference of opinion. And here, permit me again to say, that such a gathering forcibly reminds us that we are all brothers; we are all of one family; we have one common father, who not only claims, of right, our love, but who expects, as he has commanded us, to love one another, work and pull together, tending as we all are, to one and the same end.

Such is our duty. What is our interest? Our interest is to respond to the call which is heard from all parts of the world. The true interests of mankind—peace and prosperity, the Arts and Sciences, intellectual progress of all and every kind and description, every consideration, every incentive, call aloud for a universal co-operation in the great work the Association, now assembled in Montreal, are engaged in. It is a gathering of masons—freemasons to all intents and purposes. Yes, freemasons—brothers in one common cause—that of philanthropy—having one common object in view: the bettering of the human family. We, citizens of prosperous Montreal, have an interest, a great interest, in intellectually advancing, elevating, perfecting our moral condition. The commercial standing of

this fair city, is unrivalled in the British possessions of North America : let us strive to place our beautiful Montreal, on a par with any city, in intellectual, literary and scientific merit. The meeting of the *savans* here, is an encouraging prognostic. It is for us to appreciate the blessing, and profit by it. We have military men of fame and renown ; we have Scientific representatives of various countries ; we have among us, as it were, England in Canada, and England in the United States, we should behold, were we not deprived to-day, of the presence of her distinguished Minister at Washington. We are moreover, represented ourselves, by several of our most prominent and distinguished men. We have cause to rejoice, fellow-citizens ; we may well be proud of our city, since it has been, this year, selected for the holding of the sittings of such a Congress. I would not venture to say, that it will add to, but I am sure it will sustain, the pre-eminent position Montreal occupies in more than one respect. The Association has adjourned ; and when the distinguished individuals who have come amongst us are gone, a kind and lasting remembrance will be cherished by us all, of the pleasant and profitable intercourse it has been our good fortune to have with them. A noble example has been set ; let it not be lost

upon us, and especially upon our rising youth, whose ardent and honorable aspirations after distinction, may on this felicitous occasion, as I hope and trust it will, receive an impulse which will lead them to usefulness and fame.

It is time I should close this address, which if in no wise a scientific one, has, at least, one merit,—that of being the unaffected expression of what the heart sincerely feels. I hesitated before I determined on accepting the invitation the Corporation of this great City, have honored me with, and for which I beg leave to offer them my respectful thanks. My mind and my heart suggested a different line of action. The heart prompted me to speak; the other to remain silent. I yielded to the suggestion of my heart. That must be my apology.



