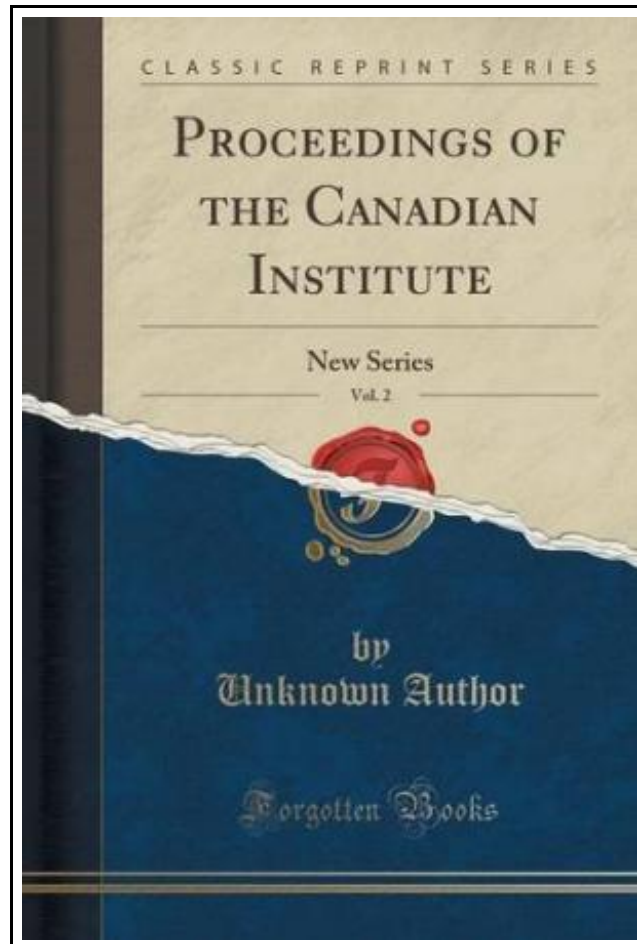


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Proceedings of the Canadian Institute, Vol. 2: New Series The scientific student, or even the mere student of science, a quite different thing, by the way, should be one who seeks truth for its own sake, indifferent to the effect it may have on his preconceptions. If we turn to the last century, we find those who were interested in the physical history of the earth readily adopting the speculations of such men as Buffon and Werner, and so captivated by their plausible theories, based on little observation, that men like Guettard and Demarest, industrious observers who gathered facts before they ventured to theorize, were utterly disregarded, although their methods and conclusions were purely scientific in spirit and have helped to build the body of real truth which was so lamentably retarded by their brilliant contemporaries. Practically the spirit of original research and of open-mindedness in accepting the results of the researches of others, is of modern origin, and such liberty of observation and thought is even yet looked upon by some as a dangerous use of our faculties. There are still those who regard the modern spirit of enquiry as an attack upon whatever old foundations may seem to constitute orthodoxy in either religion or science. But this modern spirit of scientific study covers much beside the observation of truths connected merely with the physical and natural world around us. It covers practically all knowledge which may be systematized. It is that state of mind toward all phenomena which, if we were perfectly free from bias, would not permit us to vary any conclusion warranted by the facts, in favour of our preconceived ideas...

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