

upon the same events as the subject of a paper in the section of English literature and history, but he is led to a conclusion different from that which has satisfied Mr. Gagnon. He is in favour of assigning a locality in Nova Scotia as the site of Vinland the Good, instead of Rhode Island, first fixed upon by Rafn and generally adopted by American archæologists. The learned essayist showed, in support of his theory, a Nova Scotian inscription, which is said to be in Runic characters. As many of our readers are doubtless aware, Sir Daniel Wilson has been devoted to investigations of this kind for a great many years, and this very question is dealt with in his "Prehistoric Man," long recognized as a standard work both in Europe and America. Another paper, treating of early maritime exploration around the shores of this continent, and of our own heritage in it is that of the Rev. Dr. Patterson on the first attempts of the Portuguese to establish settlements in the New World. This paper is also of peculiar interest to the student of Canadian history, as Dr. Patterson has expended much pains on the quest of traces of the Portuguese adventurers on our own coasts.

In a no less interesting, and, to most people, a more practical department of inquiry, that of Comparative politics, Dr. Bourinot has for years been profitably engaged. His writings on constitutional history and parliamentary procedure have become more familiar than household words to most of our public men. In a series of studies presented to the Society he discusses our Canadian system of government as compared with that of England, with that of the United States, and with that of Switzerland. "I deal with politics," he says, "as understood by Aristotle—the science of government and not with the politics of the common parlance of these days." And as Aristotle compared the systems of his time with each other and with his own standard of excellence, so Dr. Bourinot applies the comparative method to the best fruit of constitutional development in our day, and shows how Canada has profited by the experience of both the past and the present, of the Old World and the New. "A constitution like that of Canada must," says the essayist, "be studied in the light that can be cast upon it, not only by a conscientious study of the institutions of Great Britain and the United States, but even by going to countries like Switzerland, where a complete system of federation has developed itself in the course of centuries, and is now being worked out under racial, religious and other conditions which are deeply interesting to us in Canada." Circumstances give to these studies of Dr. Bourinot a peculiar timeliness and value. In another branch of the same general class of research, we have papers from M. Faucher de Saint Maurice and M. Alphonse Lusignan—the former treating of the Blue Laws of Massachusetts, the latter of British legislation since the days of Elizabeth. Our own history has some zealous and successful students in the ranks of the Society. Abbé Verreau, M. Benjamin Sulte, Mr. J. M. LeMoine, M. Paul de Cazes and Mgr. Tanguay have all contributed towards the elucidation of points hitherto more or less obscure. Messrs. Verreau and De Cazes both deal with Jacques Cartier, and the learned Abbé has also something to say about the founder of Montreal. Mr. LeMoine clears up some passages in the administration of General James Murray, the first British Governor of

Canada, using for that purpose original documents, to which he was fortunate enough to have access. Mr. Sulte lets in light on the early life of M. de Callières, of whose family and youthful career our historians have left us in the dark. Mr. N. Legendre gives several studies in Literature and Social Science, as well as some characteristic poems. Dr. Fréchette tells the story of Chicago before the great fire of 1871. The Hon. Mr. Marchand gives a sketch of Parisian life in the early years of the Second Empire. Mr. LeMay is tuneful and witty in a comedy, Mr. Marmette gives some fragments of a romance, racy of the soil, and the Chevalier Baillargé shows how rich his language is in correspondences of sound.

In the realm of science the list of papers makes a veritable *embarras de richesse*. In philology the Society boasts of two masters of the aboriginal tongues—the Rev. Abbé Cuoq and Mr. Horatio Hale, M.A. The latter, we regret to learn, was unable to be present owing to an accident. M. Cuoq has presented a study in Algonquin grammar—a portion of a larger work which he is preparing for the press. Mr. Sandford Fleming, in his presidential address to the third section, discusses the unit measure of time—a theme with which no one is better qualified to deal. Dr. G. M. Dawson, president of the fourth section, traces the geological history of our Rocky Mountain region from the Triassic period to the close of the Tertiary, and, in a second paper, gives its Glacial history. "Tidal observations in Canadian waters—the present condition of the question," is the subject of Dr. A. Johnson's paper. He also presents a paper by his colleague, Dr. McLeod, on "Sunspots observed at McGill College since June 1, 1888." Mr. G. F. Matthew continues his valuable "Illustrations of the Fauna of the St. John Group," of which four parts have already been published in the Transactions. Dr. Bailey presents an interesting paper by Mr. W. F. Ganong on "Southern Invertebrates on the Shores of Acadia," and Mr. Whiteaves treats of the "Maritime Invertebrates of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence."

Mr. Macfarlane has submitted papers on milk analysis, by Mr. F. T. Shutt, M.A., F.I.C., and on that of baking powder and cream of tartar, by Mr. A. McGill, M.A. Sir William Dawson read a paper on "Food Plants from the Similkameen River and other places in the southern interior of British Columbia"—the deposits affording which are described by Dr. G. M. Dawson in the Reports of the Geological Survey, which also contain a provisional list of the plants. The paper relates to additional collections of plants from the north fork of the river, etc., which strongly tend to confirm the Miocene age of the formation. Some new and remarkable forms of Brachiopoda and Mollusca collected by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell on the shores of Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis are described in a paper presented by Mr. Whiteaves. Mr. Charles Mair, author of "Tecumseth," and whom we are proud to number among our contributors, read an interesting paper on the American Bison, its habits, the methods of capturing it, and its economic use in the North-West, with reference to its threatened extinction and possible preservation. Mr. Mair's poem on the Last Bison in our first volume was one of the finest poems that we had the pleasure of publishing. The Abbé Laflamme presented a paper on the Stratigraphy of the Quebec Rock, Mr. Tyrrell (through Dr.

Dawson) another on the Foraminifera, etc., from the Cretaceous of Manitoba, and Profs. McGregor and Coleman, and Mr. Hoffman, papers on subjects in electricity and chemistry. In one of his papers Dr. McGregor shows the results obtained by using a new apparatus which he devised for measuring the resistance of electrotypes. The other is a study of certain sulphates with reference to their density. Prof. Coleman's paper (submitted by Mr. Hoffman) is on the "Drift Rocks of Central Ontario," and Mr. Hoffman's on "A peculiar form of metallic iron found in Huronian quartzite on the north shore of St. Joseph Island, Lake Huron."

It will be seen from this survey, which covers the literary and scientific work of the sections as far as ascertained up to the time of going to press, that the members of the Society have not been idle. On the whole, the showing is as creditable as that of the average of learned bodies in the Mother Country or other parts of the world. The Royal Society is now in its ninth year of existence, and an examination of its Transactions will show that it has been anything but a failure, though, doubtless, like other institutions, it is susceptible of improvement.

THE FINDING OF MOSES.

In a collection of schoolboy essays published by a schoolmaster in *Longman's Magazine* we find the following new version of the childhood of Moses written by a lad of thirteen:—"It was not in England where all about little Moses happened, but in a place what the Bible says is Egypt. There is a big river called the Nile, runs right through the middle of it, which over-floes its bank every year regular. Likewise bullrushes and crocodiles." Then follows the account of the King's proclamation that all Hebrew boys should be cast into the river. "Now little baby boy Moses had a sister about sixteen, and a father and mother which was Jews. And Moses's mother couldn't abare to drown her little boy, so she made a cradle same as they used to make arks. Then she put her little baby in this here cradle, and carried it to the river, and put it on the water amongst some bullrushes so as it couldn't float down. And who do you think as it was that used to sit on the grass all day long watching as it didn't get loose? It was that there sister Mirium what I said he had. She was a very good young woman, and did not mind the cold grass, because she knew as she was in the right and that the King would be perhaps slain. This wicked King had a daughter, as you would think she was. She used to go out bathing same as boys, only she didn't swim. She only went in up to about her knees, and then used to put the water over her head, down her body, and then used to tell the other women and her father as she had been in. The women could not see how far she had been in, because of the bullrushes which we have seen on the wall. One morning she got undressed where Mirium was sitting on the grass, and she walked straight in up to her knees, to where the cradle was. When she saw him, she took him up to her arms, and run back to the bank shouting out as she had found a baby while she was swimming. The women all came round, and Mirium edged in among them. The lady was so pleased as she had got a baby, that she didn't get dressed till she had settled things. But it was not hers, because it was not brought. Only found. And Mirium said: 'Pharoh's daughter, shall I go and find a nurse for you?' and if the lady didn't go and say yes straight off. Then Mirium ran way fast as you, and who do you think she fetched for a nurse? Moseses mother, as had had him brought to her. And Pharoh's daughter said unto her, 'I will actshully give you wages for nursing this baby.' And so Moseses mother nursed her own little baby without laughing fear she should be found out and not get good wages."

GOLD IN THE PRAIRIES.

It is not generally known that gold is one of the products of the prairies, though washing for gold has been carried on on the North Saskatchewan river for years. The Edmonton *Bulletin* says:—"It is estimated that last season between \$15,000 and \$20,000 worth of gold dust was taken from the Saskatchewan, of which about \$6,000 was taken from the immediate vicinity of Fort Saskatchewan. Several hundred dollars also were taken from the Macleod river, a tributary of the Athabasca, about 125 miles west of Edmonton, on the trail to Jasper House. The gold of Macleod is in even lighter flakes and is of lighter yellow colour than the gold of the Saskatchewan. The skimmings of its bars are fairly rich, but it does not promise as permanent diggings as the Saskatchewan."