

The subject of the prehistoric human occupation of Acadia is one of considerable interest, and although, according to the organization of our Society, it is one which properly appertains to another Section, it is really quite as appropriate to our own, and a few facts relating thereto may be acceptable.

Among the most important investigations connected with this subject, so far as New Brunswick is concerned, are those of the recognition and exploration of the shell-heaps, which are found at different points along the coast, and especially about the shores of Passamaquoddy Bay. Some of these were very fully examined by the late Prof. S. F. Baird, about fifteen years ago, and many interesting articles were obtained, which are now in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, but of which no published description has yet been made. Others were explored by a committee of the Natural History Society of St. John, and in their Proceedings is contained a very interesting account, from the pen of Mr. Matthew, of what was evidently an ancient Indian village, at the mouth of Bocabee River, in Charlotte County. In the interior of the Province, scattered relics, chiefly the coarser stone implements and arrow-heads, are of common occurrence, and with these are sometimes found such articles as pipes, pottery, wampum, net-sinkers, pendants etc., often somewhat elaborately ornamented. The coarser and finer relics, including both chipped and polished implements, are, however, promiscuously mixed together, and no facts have been observed from which, in any case, any high degree of antiquity can be inferred. An article by the author, summing up the facts upon this subject, and accompanied by photographic illustrations, is contained in the Sixth Bulletin of the Natural History Society of St. John (1887). This, it is hoped, will soon be followed by a similar article, by Mr. Matthew, upon the prehistoric relics of the coast.

The author cannot close this brief review of scientific progress in New Brunswick without some reference to work which, though not directly geological, must be of some interest to the geologist, as it will also be to other members of the Section. I allude to the advances made in our knowledge of the botany and zoology of the Province. As regards the former, much interesting and valuable work has been done by various local observers, in the way of adding to the lists of species occurring within our limits, or of more accurately defining the range of their distribution; but by far the most important contribution to the subject is that of the systematic synopsis of our entire flora, by Prof. James Fowler, and which has since been incorporated in the still more extensive and elaborate flora of the Dominion, published under the auspices of the Geological and Natural History Survey, by Prof. Macoun. A valuable supplement to the work of Prof. Fowler, which is confined to terrestrial forms, is that of Mr. G. U. Hay and Mr. A. H. MacKay, on the marine Algae of New Brunswick, and which was published in Volume V of our Transactions. An interesting and thoughtful article, showing some of the relations of our plant distribution to the climate and physical conditions affecting it, was published by Mr. Matthew in 1869, under the title "The Occurrence of Arctic and Western Plants in Continental Acadia,"¹ and a somewhat similar article, by Prof. Fowler, "Arctic Plants growing in New Brunswick," in Volume V of our Transactions.

Among important papers bearing upon the subject of our zoology are those of Mr.

¹ Can. Naturalist, June, 1869.