

SPECIAL MEETING.

Legislative Council Chamber, Halifax, 27th April, 1896.

The PRESIDENT in the Chair.

REV. G. PATTERSON, D. D., LL. D., of New Glasgow, N. S., having been invited by the Council to address the Institute on his investigations in relation to the Folk-speech of Newfoundland, in order that the attention of members of the Institute might be directed to this kind of research, read the following paper :--

NOTES ON THE DIALECT OF THE PEOPLE OF
NEWFOUNDLAND.

Of late years Folk-lore, by which is meant popular superstitions, tales, traditions and legends, has engaged a large amount of attention, and is now universally recognized as of great value in the study of anthropology and comparative religion. Closely connected with this is the study of folk-speech, or the words and linguistic forms of the common people, as distinguished from the literary language of the cultured classes. These, though the consideration of them may be regarded as more properly belonging to the science of philology, are yet also of interest as connected with the history and migrations, the beliefs and modes of life of the peoples among whom they are found.

Hitherto, in Nova Scotia, attention has scarcely been directed to either of these subjects. I know of no systematic attempt either to gather up the folk-lore or to discuss the linguistic peculiarities of our people. And yet we have an ample field. Our original settlers were principally French, German, English, Irish, Lowland Scotch, and Celtic,