

is published at Hanover, and the article in question is from the pen of the chief editor Dr. Berthold Seemann, whose "*Reise um die Welt*," is well known to German readers, while his history of the palm trees and other works are no less popular in England. Dr. Seemann returned only a few months ago from an exploration of the Fiji Islands, and the members of the Botanical Society of Canada will accept it as a high compliment that his first literary production on his return to Europe should be an appreciative comment on their labors. The wise counsel which Dr. Seemann gives as to the management of scientific societies will be appreciated by other similar institutions in the Province as well as the Botanical Society. The Society is indebted to one of its Fellows, Mr. John Machar, A. M., for the following translation, in which the spirit of the original is well preserved :

"THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.—Were the Spanish adventurers, who, after a bootless quest for imagined treasure, cried out in their disappointment 'Aqui nada,' to visit Canada now, after the lapse of three hundred years, they would probably see cause to choose another exclamation than the one which, if tradition is to be believed, gave to a land of so great promise so unpropitious a name. In every direction signs of prosperity and progress meet the traveller's eye. Steamships of prodigious size and power maintain a regular and rapid communication with the ports of the old world. Railroads traverse the country in all directions. The white sails of countless vessels enliven the great inland waters, and what was ere while regarded as the daring feat of a reckless Indian to shoot the rapids of Lachine in his birch bark canoe is now part of the daily route of Canadian steamboats. With the aid of the ever-increasing Teutonic element, surmounting the obstacles afforded by the early circumstances of the country, * * * Canada marches on with giant strides toward a prosperous future. Edifices, which can challenge Europe to surpass them, adorn the streets of new cities, arisen as if by magic from the soil. The bridges spanning the Niagara, the Ottawa, and the mighty stream of the St. Lawrence, are with reason counted among the wonders of the world. Science, now pioneer, like, striding on in advance of the arts, now, singularly enough, straggling behind with halting step, has found here a congenial home—a hearty welcome. To this the rapidly rising universities, the well-known school system, the *Institut Canadien*, containing in itself the germ of a national academy, the Natural History Society of Montreal, amply testify. And now to this noble array a new union has been added, under the name of the Botanical Society of Canada—a union to which we can extend a hearty welcome, not as botanists alone, but even as Germans.

"Between the inhabited parts of North America and the inhospitable regions of the Arctic circle there lies a broad belt of land, which has hitherto been to the botanist almost a *terra incognita*. In Canada, therefore, a Botanical Society has for its operations a most extensive field, whereon many a (new) plant buds, blooms, and withers unnamed, unknown—whereon many a species attains its northernmost limits, and awaits the hour when some savant shall record its discovery in the annals of the science."

"Such facts as these, more even than that of ninety-three members having given in their adherence to the society on the very day of its foundation, encourage us to hope that in this new body we may expect something more than one of those ephemeral unions of local savans, who exhaust all their strength in the production of annals which are never read by the learned, whose perpetual contentions as to who shall fill their petty offices make them the laughing-stock of their fellow-citizens, and whose scientific investigations, because they do not come under the notice of the general public, are seldom conducted with the care exercised by those who know that their papers will not only, be read beyond their own locality, but perused with interest by the learned of other lands. We in Europe will watch with interest the progress and the labors of the Canadian society, and we shall ever be curious to learn the result of each new expedition into the unknown region. The very circumstances of the infant society afford a sufficient guarantee that it will never degenerate into a mere inert local club. Its mission is one in which the whole botanical world is interested, and all the gentlemen who