

the French sent an expedition to Cayenne to make observations on Mars. From these they deduced a distance for the sun of between 80 and 90 millions of miles. In modern times, with the aid of superior instruments and better methods, a nearer approximation has been obtained. Halley was the first to suggest observations of Venus, and these were made in 1761, and afterwards in 1769. These observations were not fully reduced till 1824 when Bessel obtained from them the figures that have done duty so long in our Astronomy, 95,370,000. The transit of Dec. 8th 1874 was observed with all the skill that science could command. The results have not yet been fully announced but they gave between 92,570,000 and 93,000,000.

The day on which the recent transit occurred was unfortunately stormy in this vicinity, but we are glad to learn that excellent observations were made at Ottawa, Cambridge and other places. We may expect, as the result of this most important astronomical event of the 19th century a very near approximation to the correct value of the celestial unit.

The Acadian Scientist.

A. J. PINEO, General Editor.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., JAN., 1883.

THE ACADIAN SCIENTIST is the official organ of the Acadian Science Club. Owing to the increasing membership of the Club throughout Canada and the United States the publication of such a periodical has become a necessity as a means of bringing widely separated members into communication with each other, of conveying information in regard to the work of the Club from Directors to Students, and of bringing the society to the notice of such as may be in a position to participate in the benefits it confers. In the selection of matter for our columns the interests of the Club will therefore receive prominent consideration. From time to time lectures germane to the subjects of study will be published, as also notes and in-

struction in regard to the work. As it is of the utmost importance that the members should collect and study specimens illustrating the work of the text-books such full instructions will be given in regard to collecting and preserving objects of natural history that the beginner will find them ample for his work and more practiced collectors will doubtless find in them some useful hints. Indeed we shall aim to make our paper of such a character that no working naturalist can afford to be without it.

We hope that Teachers also will find our little paper of value to them in the discharge of their professional duties. As the officers of the A. S. C. and many of its members are identified in one way or another with teaching interests, hints and practical suggestions in regard to the teaching of sciences will occasionally appear.

We hope also to make our paper of interest to every intelligent reading man and woman. As all such are interested in the progress and latest discoveries of science, we believe that they will find the synopsis of scientific news that we shall give from month to month to be of advantage to them especially if they have not the time or opportunity to read larger and more costly scientific periodicals.

In short we hope to so conduct our paper that it will pay expenses at least, and that by its humble means there may be awakened a little deeper popular interest in the study of Nature's works.

We are a little ahead of time with this issue, for while it is our January number we hope that it will reach our friends by the 20th of December. We send it out early as there have been some important changes made in the course of study of the A. S. C., and it is desirable that the revised statement should come to the notice of members and those who contemplate joining the Club before the beginning of the new year. In making our bow, therefore, it becomes quite in order for us to wish the Members of the Club and our readers generally, the compliments of the Holiday Season, which we do most heartily.

The *Acadian Scientist*, at its present merely nominal subscription price, is the cheapest publication of its kind that we know of, yet in order that it may be brought to the notice of as many as possible of those to whom its contents would be of interest, we have concluded to offer some inducements in the way of premiums to those who will work in obtaining subscribers for us.

We have on hand a large and fine stock of *minerals*, the accumulated results of years of collecting, not for the present purpose, but from pure love for the work. We have specimens in beautiful crystallizations from Part-ridge Island, Cape Blomidon, Cape Split and various other points of the North Mountains—localities familiar in name to every student of mineralogy in America—as well as from many places of less note in N. S. and other countries. We have also a limited stock of land, freshwater, and marine shells, tarfishes, crabs, etc. of Nova Scotia and other places.

The above we intend to distribute among those who get up clubs as follows: To every one sending us a club of five subscribers with \$1.25, we will send post-paid fifty cents worth of specimens; for ten subscribers we will send one dollar's worth and so on.

We make this offer for two reasons: Firstly, and principally in order that we may secure a large circulation; secondly because we believe that some by means of this will obtain the specimens and be led to engage in the study of them and other works of Nature who would otherwise not do so. Here is an excellent chance for young naturalists to add some fine specimens to their cabinets. In most villages one could in few hours obtain not five subscribers only, but fifty, for at the mere trifle that is charged for our paper very few would refuse to take it. The person getting up the club would then be entitled to Five Dollars worth of specimens, which would make an excellent addition to or beginning of a cabinet. Send on a club of five and get the premium, and we are sure that you will be so highly pleased with it that you will make an effort to secure more.

We shall send minerals unless shells, etc., are preferred and ordered.

This offer holds good until March 1st 1883.

ARTICLES RECEIVED: "How to Study," "An Excursion to Blomidon," Rise and Fall of the Trilobite," "Wayside Rambles" No 1, "Winter Work for Naturalists" etc.