

and at last, the bright thought struck them, that if they could collect the eggs it would be easy to preserve them, and fecundate them by means of the milt of the male. Their first experiment was crowned with success, they persevered and were still more successful: their plan was at length brought before the notice of the Academy of Sciences, at Paris, by a neighboring medical man, Dr. Haxo. "The Academy seeing at once, the immense national importance of the two fishermen's proceedings, hastened to call the attention of the Government to it. The Government on its part, after making proper enquiries, and finding all that was said true, resolved to have the system applied to all the rivers in France, and especially to those in the poorer Provinces,—Géhin and Remy were accordingly summoned to Paris, and taken at once into the employment of the Government at good salaries; they were treated too, as men who had made a great and scientific discovery, and secured an immense benefit to their country. Many Savans vied with each other in doing them honour, and the President of the Republic and his Minister made them dine at their tables and figure at their receptions." The value of this method is not the discovery of the fecundation of the egg, for that was known to Naturalists before, but the bringing the knowledge into practical use. Their method is to preserve the eggs in boxes, placed in favorable places in streams, and after they are hatched, protecting the young till able to take care of themselves. It is computed the trouts lay nearly one million eggs, and that not above one in a hundred if left to themselves, comes to maturity,—you may, therefore, imagine, how this method would increase the supply. In this part of Canada, we are very badly supplied with fish, yet there is no lack of water,—why should not this plan be tried here? I think it of such importance, that I shall probably bring it before you in another shape."

Mr. Cottle then proceeded to remark on the beneficial influences the study of Natural History exercised on the mind, and amongst other things observed that it was well understood to promote tranquility of mind, which tends to longevity. In illustration of this, he quoted the ages of those naturalists whose memoirs have been published in the Naturalists' Library, amounting to thirty-nine—of these one lived to 90 years—eight between 80 and 90—ten between 70 and 80—twelve between 60 and 70—six from 50 to 60—two from 40 to 50 years of age.

The Lecturer, says the *British American*, concluded by making the following practical suggestions, embodying offers of a most liberal nature to our Mechanics' Institute, and which we shall hope to see its members take immediate steps to avail themselves of—he said:

"Local Museums are most useful to the enquiring Naturalist, or Archaeologist, (for even in this new country, are sometimes found relics of the antiquities of those former lords of the soil, whose race seems fast passing away, and whose last vestige, will soon be valuable), but it is with natural history that I have to do, and most gladly would I see an attempt made, to form a collection of the animate and inanimate forms of our neighborhood. A herbal of the plants of our locality might be easily formed, and is a part of the collection in which our fair friends might well assist. To dry a plant it is only necessary to lay it between sheets of blotting paper, and place a moderate weight on it—the paper should be changed each day until the plant is dry—the damp paper of to-day may be dried ready to receive the plant to-morrow—a piece of paper should be attached to each plant, with the date of the day it was plucked, and where gathered; the specimen should be in flower, and when possible, the fruit and root should be preserved—transversed and longitudinal sections of our woods would also be valuable. The specimens of an extinct creation found in our lime-stones, are very numerous and interesting—insects also abound and are easily collected, but the cabinets necessary for their preservation are expensive, still, that should not deter from their collection. Specimens of quadrupeds, birds and fish, take time and skill to prepare—and till you are able to procure a paid Curator, you could hardly find any one to set them up, except in this instance, I should be very happy to act as your Curator in arranging your collections, until you can get a better."

[The lecturer in concluding offered, in the most generous manner, to give a lot of ground for the erection of a suitable building, for the purposes of the Institute, in which the natural productions of that fertile district of Canada, could be deposited and systematically arranged. Success to so good an enterprise, and may the example be followed in other places.—EDITOR.]

#### TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON FARMERS' CLUB.

At a meeting of the Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club held at Reynold's Inn Court House, on Saturday February 26th, 1853. Present—Messrs. Hume, Bourn, Masson, Forsyth, A. McIntosh, A. J. Burnham, Richardson, Yeoman, Johnston, C. Black, Bennett, Campbell, Arnott, Phillips, G. Black, Sidey, Alcorn, Pratt, J. Wade, &c., &c. The Club was favored with the company of Mr. John Barnard, Treasurer to the South Monaghan Agricultural Society. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read,