

—Professor Sontag, Astronomer to the "Grinnell Expedition," in his narrative, says—"As the land adjacent to the Pole is all *terra incognita*, it is impossible to say what additions to the stores of natural science a visitor to those regions might be able to make. Certain it is however, that a new and wide field would be opened for his investigation. Everything there would be novel; and that circumstance alone would be well calculated to stimulate his attentive faculties. The difficulties which would present themselves to the investigator may be appreciated at home; but they would be greater or less, according to circumstances of which we know nothing. We know not, for example, whether the Pole is covered with open water, or icy sea, or dry land; nor do we know which of these three conditions would be most favorable for investigation. It may be presumed, however, that an open sea would be, in several respects the most disadvantageous. In the first place, it would in all probability be so deep that the ship would be unable to anchor; and the current might be too strong to permit her to keep stationary long enough to make accurate observations. In the second place, if she could not maintain her position steadily at one point, the commander would experience a new embarrassment, as the meridian must extend southwardly; he would be apt to lose that on which he approached the Pole—and consequently he would be at a loss how to shape his course homeward.

The occurrence of this strange difficulty will naturally present itself as one among many novel phenomena which will arrest the adventurer's attention, and the following observations would probably occur to him on the spot. The time of day (to use that phraseology for want of any other that would be more appropriate) would no longer be marked by any apparent change in the altitude of the sun above the horizon; because to a spectator at the pole no such change would appear, except to the small amount of the daily change of declination. Thus, not only to the eye, but also for the practical purpose of obtaining the time by astronomical observations, the sun would appear throughout the twenty-four hours neither to rise nor fall, but to describe a circle round the heavens parallel with the horizon. Therefore, the usual mode of ascertaining the time would utterly fail; and indeed, however startling may be the assertion, it is nevertheless true, that time, or the natural distinction of time, would be no more. This will appear from the consideration that the idea of apparent time refers only to the particular meridian on which an observer happens to be placed; and is marked or determined only by the distance of the sun, or some other heavenly body, from that meridian. Now, as an observer at the pole is on no one meridian, but is stationed at a point where all meridians meet, it is evident that "apparent time" for him has no existence.—*Canadian Naturalist*.

—On Monday evening last, Lieut. Col. Munro, C. B., commanding the 39th Regiment, delivered a lecture on the animals and furs of Canada, to the men of his regiment, in the regimental reading room, in the citadel. The room was crowded to its full extent, and we record with pleasure a feature of those meetings, which we most ungallantly, but most unwittingly, omitted to mention before, proving how much the interest in these lectures is extending—and that feature is the presence of the ladies connected with the officers, and many of the wives of the non-commissioned officers and men. Col. Munro's lecture was listened to with marked attention, and while its effect was highly pleasing and entertaining, we easily ascertained, from after conversation with several of his hearers, that much useful knowledge, many unknown facts, and a great amount of solid information had been communicated. He spoke in a tone of high

feeling with regard to the over-ruling power of God's providence, as manifested in all his works; pointed out the workings of that power, displayed in the care with which the meanest and the smallest, as well as the most important and greatest, insect and animal, were provided all the appliances and instincts calculated to render them thoroughly adapted to each peculiar locality and climate. The Colonel stated that ever since he had entered the army, much of his leisure time had been devoted to the study of natural history, and that, as those studies opened up before him field upon field of knowledge and information, he felt a corresponding degree of interest and excitement, until the study became a source of unalloyed enjoyment and increasing pleasure. To illustrate his subject, Col. Munro had provided a great variety of preserved animals peculiar to Canada, which enhanced the value of the lecture very much. His description of the various animals was simple and comprehensive, and the history he gave of each was replete with well arranged and extensive information.

The Beaver, especially, received great attention; and with regard to its geographical range he said, that it appeared to have been at one time co-extensive with the whole of North America, from the Arctic Ocean south to the Gulf of Mexico. The progress of civilization had, however, exterminated the animal in nearly all that portion of the continent which constituted the United States, and the settled portions of Canada. North of the Ottawa, and in the head waters of the streams which flow into the St. Lawrence below it, it is still quite abundant. They were also still quite common between Lake Huron and the Ottawa. The only feature which distinguished the American from the European beaver was, that the fur of the latter was lighter in color than that of this continent. It had at one time been an inhabitant of the British Islands. He mentioned also that the remains of an extinct species of beaver, had been discovered in Europe and America, which appeared to have been as large as a sheep. He next gave a most interesting account of the places to which beavers resort; and descanted ably and fully on the construction of their dams, their food, habits, industry, sagacity, and their mode of treating their *petites ex*, or idlers—beating, sometimes cutting off part of the tail, and driving out from among them the fellows that won't work—and their consequent easy capture by the trappers; the seasons in which they are found and caught with the fur in good order. Cartwright, he said, had found a beaver weighing 45 pounds, and that they had been caught weighing 61 pounds before being cleaned. Colonel Munro gave an excellent account of the whole system of trapping the beaver, intermingling this portion of his lecture with anecdotes, derived from trappers, of many singular habits of the animal; and concluded by noticing the particularly engaging qualities displayed by it when domesticated. The American, or Black Bear, was also well delineated, and a full detail given of its habits. The manner of hunting it; and its desperate struggles when fairly brought to bay, were well given, and well illustrated by many incidents extracted from many sources. The Racoon; the Wolverine, or Glutton; the Loup Cerrier, or Canadian Lynx; the Fisher—Black Fox, or Black Cat, of the northern hunters; and the Musk Rat, or Musquash, each in turn received a due share of attention, by histories which displayed an amount of research and industry which amply proved how delightful the study of Natural History was to their author. It has been most truly remarked, "that the pursuit of Natural History in almost any way, as a study or an amusement, is both indicative and productive of gentleness, refinement, and virtue," and we sincerely trust that Colonel Munro's lecture will have the effect of creating among many of his auditors a taste for a study calculated to produce so many pleasing and salutary results.—*Quebec Gazette*.

TABLE of the apportionment made of the Superior Education fund for the year 1857, under the authority of the act 19th Vic. ch. 54.

LIST No. 1.—UNIVERSITIES.

NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of students 1857.	1855.			1856.			1857.
		Annual Grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Annual Grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	
McGill College..	166	500	1250	1750	500	500	1000	700
To the same, for one year's salary of the Secretary of the Royal Institution, the salary of the Messenger, and for contingent expenses....		167 15 4		167 15 4	167 15 4		167 15 4	167 15 4
Bishop's College	15	450		450	500		500	500
	181	1117 15 4	1250	2367 15 4	1167 15 4	500	1167 15 4	1367 15 4