

Following closely upon the award of the Bigsby medal, McGill University, through the initiative of its Graduates Society, has added one more to the list of honorary degrees worthily bestowed, by conferring upon Dr. G. M. Dawson, at its last convocation, the degree of Doctor of Laws.

We have just received from Mr. F. J. Hanbury a portrait sketch, reprinted from the *Journal of Botany* for December, 1890, of the late James Backhouse. Mr. Backhouse was chiefly known for his monograph on the British *Hieracia*, though his explorations in various parts of Great Britain and his close and accurate knowledge of the British flora, gave him great pre-eminence, especially in connection with the work instituted by his father, James Backhouse, sr. Mr. Backhouse died at West Bank, York, England, on the 31st August, 1890.

An interesting little pamphlet has recently been placed in our hands by Mr. Henry Mott. It is the "Objects and Constitution of the Botanical Society of Montreal." This Society was organized March 28th, 1855, under the direct inspiration of Dr. James Barnston. Its officers for the year 1856, embraced such names as those of Sir Wm. Dawson, Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, J. G. Barnston, Dr. James Barnston and Rev. Alex. F. Kemp. The Society was short lived, and it is a matter of regret that it could not have been perpetuated.

The local committee have just issued a little pamphlet in connection with the forthcoming meeting of the Royal Society of Canada, which contains much useful and interesting information. The larger part of the publication is devoted to the Royal Society itself, its organization and work up to the present time. There are also articles dealing with the Zoology and Botany of the immediate vicinity, as well as information more directly applicable to the immediate requirements of visitors during their sojourn in the city.