

THE ANNUAL FIELD DAY.

The annual field day of the Natural History Society took place this year on the 30th of May, a date somewhat earlier than usual. This day was chosen in order that the members of the Royal Society of Canada, which had met in the city in the early part of the week and had ended its sittings the evening before, might be invited to share in the pleasures and advantages of the occasion. It was a happy thought which led to the proposal to ask the Royal Society to be the guests of the Natural History Society, even though the time was a trifle early for seeing the country in the full glory of its verdure, or for capturing so many specimens of insect life, or witnessing so large a floral bloom as usual. Such members of the Royal Society as honoured the Natural History Society with their presence on the occasion expressed themselves as delighted with the excursion, feeling that it was a pleasant variety in the duties which had engaged their attention during the week, to turn from the dry details of scientific symbols, mathematical processes and musty manuscripts, to look at a page of the grand open volume of nature. It was to them a happy rounding off of the series of events by which the reception committee of Montreal citizens had sought to make the first visit of the Royal Society of Canada to the commercial metropolis of the Dominion an agreeable one. And it added immensely to the pleasure and profit of the members of the Natural History Society and their ordinary patrons to have with them on their annual outing so many distinguished *savants*, who could help them to interpret better than usual the phenomena of nature.

Letters of apology from the President of the Royal Society, Very Reverend Principal Grant, D.D., and others were read, regretting their inability, owing to previous engagements and the necessity they were under to leave the city, to accept the invitation of the Natural History Society. But there were a good many of the invited guests present, among others Monseigneur Tanguay, Prof. Prescott, of the