

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

PROF. JOHN MACOUN, F.L.S., F.R.S.C., ETC.

(DELIVERED 13TH JANUARY, 1887).

Members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Ladies and Gentlemen :

Shortly after my election last year my duties called me away to London, England, where I remain eight months. In consequence of this I took no part in the field work of the Club during last summer. That I might judge of the work of other organizations doing work similar to ours, I attended meetings of the Croydon Field-Naturalists' Club and by this means am enabled to compare our mode of procedure with theirs. With that object in view I will give my impression of a trip to the North Downs, in Surrey, on Whit Monday, May 29th, 1886.

A large party, many of them specialists, assembled at East Croydon station about 9 a.m. and took the train for Oxsted, a village to the south of the North Downs. A tunnel of great length pierces the Chalk hills and only a few minutes elapsed before we were at our station about 14 miles from Croydon. Amongst the company were specialists in almost every branch of Natural History, and although most of those present were city men I saw at a glance they were widely different from the majority of those who attend our outings and belong to our city. Without exception every man entered into the business of the day with the zest of an enthusiast and went to work with a will. After a few moments' conversation it was decided that we should separate into smaller parties and meet for lunch at Buckley Clump, on the summit of the North Downs, which is a range of chalk hills lying between the Weald of Kent and London. We now separated into smaller groups, and while some kept along the main roads others went by lanes and paths through a beautiful and diversified country, while the party to which I attached myself rambled through the woods which covered the upper part of the slope, where we collected entomological and botanical specimens to our hearts' content.

Shortly after noon we all assembled at the "Clump" of beeches, and as we lay around in the shade or sat on mossy couches beneath the trees, eating our lunch and discussing the various beauties of the landscape, gentlemen acquainted with the topography and various villages