

chiefly through the province of Quebec, but all the material thus accumulated was subsequently destroyed by fire before it could be put into suitable form for publication, so that we have absolutely no record of his work here.

Pursh was not a voluminous writer. His energies appear rather to have been entirely exhausted in laborious field work to which he devoted so much of his time, in the preparation of his *North American Flora* and in contending with his physical infirmities. His only other publication was his *Hortus Olivienensis*, a small work of seventy-two pages published in 1815.

After a labour of only twenty-one years, Pursh died at Montreal on the 11th July, 1820, "so destitute of means that the expenses of his burial and other outlays were defrayed by his friends."

"He was interred in the old cemetery on Papineau Road." There his remains lay until 1857, when the facts becoming known to Dr. James Barnston and other members of the Botanical Society of Montreal, an effort was made to secure their transfer to a more fitting resting place in Mount Royal Cemetery. This was accomplished only in part, and for twenty years all that remained of Pursh, lay buried in one of the cemetery vaults,<sup>1</sup> a failure in the realisation of the original intention which was caused by the death of Dr. Barnston early in the spring of 1858, although some thirty-five dollars had already been subscribed toward the cost of a suitable monument.

In 1877 attention was once more drawn to the matter through the instrumentality of those who had been associated with the earlier attempt, and this time more strenuous efforts were made, not only to secure a suitable resting place, but to provide a monument as well.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In the *Daily Witness* of June 7th, 1877, an editorial directs attention to this great neglect, while an article in the same issue draws attention to the renewed efforts then being made, and gives in full, a sketch of the life of Pursh prepared twenty years previously by Dr. Barnston.

<sup>2</sup> An examination of some of the original documents connected with these efforts, kindly placed in my hands by Sir William Dawson, who was president of the Botanical Society at that time, shows that the original subscribers to the monument fund in 1857, included J. W. Dawson (afterwards Sir William Dawson), Dr. Sterry Hunt, George Shepherd, James Barnston, John G. Barnston, William Workman, Jr., and Rev. A. F. Kemp, all of whom contributed in equal amounts of one pound each. The committee entrusted with the responsibility of raising the necessary funds, consisted of Dr. Barnston and Mr. Shepherd. They issued the following circular, which may prove of interest, as showing the actual progress made up to the time of Dr. Barnston's death:

"Circular of the Botanical Society of Montreal, relative to a monument in memory of Frederic E. Pursh, the celebrated botanist.

"MONTREAL, Canada East, January, 1857.

"In the course of last spring the Botanical Society of Montreal became aware that Baron Pursh, the celebrated botanist, died in this city in 1820 and was interred in the old burying ground on Papineau Road. The society immediately felt its