

that nothing but the strictest economy could have brought the Institution to its present condition. Mr. Barnett has had his son in Egypt, and other parts of the old world, collecting and sending home curiosities and antiquities of the most valuable description, and has now, I understand, a gentleman collecting for him in the East. Mr. Barnett's enthusiasm is such that he expends every farthing he receives in either enlarging his collection or beautifying his grounds. I have again and again heard him assert that his greatest pride was to make the institution worthy of the country, and that he had labored more for his country's credit whilst making the collection, than his own. The remarks in the visitor's book of many of the first naturalists of the age, lead to the supposition that they at least deem the institution provincial. I need scarcely add that the remarks referred to are couched in most flattering language. When the buildings now in course of erection are completed, and the present collection removed from the several buildings it now occupies into the one intended for its reception, together with collections now on their way from England, Australia, South America, and Egypt, the Niagara Falls Museum will be second to none in the Province. I would take the liberty of mentioning a difficulty which, to my knowledge, the proprietor of the Niagara Falls Museum has had to encounter, and in several instances failed to surmount, it is the difficulty of procuring exchanges from other museums supported by, or the recipients of Government aid or protection. The proprietors of such institutions naturally look to the want of this "notice" on the part of the Government of the country, as an implied want of respectability. This has a most baneful influence upon Mr. Barnett's success as a practical naturalist and collector. Allow me to add that when ever Mr. Barnett has been called upon to contribute to any fund for the relief of the destitute, &c., &c., he has always most nobly responded by giving the proceeds of admission tickets to his museum for a fixed time, advertising the same and calling on the public to assist him. I will only call attention to the two instances, his contribution to the fund for the relief of the houseless and destitute, caused by the St. Rochs' fire, Quebec, and the Crimean fund.

Ordered, That Professor Hincks, Mr. Couper, Mr. Routh and Mr. Price, do attend before the Committee on to-morrow.

Adjourned until to-morrow at 10 30 A. M.

Wednesday, 30th March, 1859.

The petitioner was in attendance and produced several letters from different parties on the subject of his Museum.

Professor Hincks and Mr. Couper, Naturalist, were also in attendance.

Professor *Hincks*, examined:

(By the Chairman.)

8. Have you seen the evidence respecting the contents of Mr. Barnett's Museum?
—Yes; and I have no doubt of its being a very valuable collection, and if properly arranged and named, an important source of instruction. I believe the encouragement of a taste for Natural History in a country to be a great means of advancing both its material, and its moral and social progress, and I have a very high estimate of the value of Museums easily accessible and well conducted. The evidence I have read respecting the conduct of Mr. Barnett's Museum shows it to be of a useful kind.

Ordered, That Professor Hincks be requested to proceed to Niagara Falls to visit the Museum, in order that he may be able to speak of it more fully.