

James Fletcher, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.L.S.

WE are happy to be able to begin the thirtieth volume of *The Canadian Entomologist* by presenting to our readers an excellent portrait of Dr. James Fletcher, whose name is a household word among entomologists, not only in Canada, but throughout North America, and in many parts of the world besides. Born and educated in England, Dr. Fletcher came to this country when a young man, as a junior officer in the Bank of British North America, and soon began to devote his leisure hours to the study of insects and plants. Finding the work of a bank by no means congenial to his literary and scientific tastes, he obtained a position as assistant in the Library of Parliament at Ottawa. It was not long before his talents and attainments in botany and entomology became widely known, chiefly through his contributions to this magazine and the annual reports of our Society. His first paper in the latter was an article on Canadian Burprestidae, which was published in 1878, while his first contribution to this magazine appeared in January 1880. During all the years that have followed no volume of either publication has been issued without some valuable article from his pen.

In 1878 he became a member of the Council of the Entomological Society of Ontario, and every year since has been elected to hold some office in the Society, being four times vice-president, and for three years, 1886—8, president. In 1879 he was one of the originators of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, the most successful society of the kind in the Dominion, and more recently he suggested, and by his influence and energy accomplished, the formation of the important Association of Economic Entomologists of North America.

The first official recognition of his attainments was in 1885, when he was appointed Honorary Entomologist to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, and in that capacity, though much hampered by his duties in the library, he published a valuable report on the injurious insects of the year. Two years later his present position of Entomologist and Botanist to the Experimental Farms of the Dominion was conferred upon him. In the ten years that have now gone by, he has done an enormous amount of valuable work, as shown in his annual reports and evidence before the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Agriculture, his voluminous correspondence with farmers and fruit-growers all over the Dominion, and his addresses to Farmers' Institutes and other gatherings. No one in this country has done so much as he to instruct the people in a practical knowledge of their worst insect foes and the best methods of dealing with them, while probably no one but he could have given the Province of Manitoba the information and the advice that he has repeatedly offered by his lectures, addresses, and publications on the noxious weeds of that portion of the Dominion. All his friends will, we are sure, unite with us in the earnest wish that he may long be spared to carry on his admirable work, which is of such vast importance, not only to those directly interested in the products of the soil, but to all the dwellers throughout this wide Dominion.—*The Canadian Entomologist*.