

Rev. Mr. Brunet, then Professor of Botany, and the writer were sent to Washington to make arrangements with the Smithsonian Institution for the purchase of such a collection. This was arranged with Dr. Baird, and a number of specimens were afterwards received, but we have no knowledge that material was regularly forwarded in accordance with the Catalogue contract. However, with what the University now possesses in this Department and its collection of Birds' Eggs, with a fair representation of the Orders of Canadian Insects, students can pass their leisure profitably in the room. In an adjoining room will be found Dr. Taché's collection of Ethnological forms, which are very interesting as exhibiting the modes of life and early history of the Indian tribes of Canada. The indefatigable exertions of the late Rev. Mr. Brunet made the Botanical collection the best in the Dominion; in fact, it is now a reference of no mean order. The arrangement of plants are in accordance with modern classification and nomenclature, and the genera and specific names properly and intelligently placed. If the present Professor will only watch over the Herbarium as our late esteemed friend Brunet did, then it will exist to be useful for generations to come. We may add that the University possesses a magnificent collection of philosophical apparatus which are not, probably, equalled on this continent. The authorities had, from the beginning, an eye to matters of this nature as an intelligent means of advancing the knowledge of young men entering their classes, and, indeed, similar institutions in this country should endeavor to imitate Laval, and procure material of like nature, in order to keep pace with this advanced age of enquiry and thought.

#### THE BETSIAMITES MUSEUM.

On the North-shore of the Lower St. Lawrence, almost opposite Father Point, a large, good salmon river, called Betsiamites, enters salt water. It is about ninety miles below Tadousac and two hundred from Quebec. The

Hudson Bay Co. occupy a post here, to trade with the Indians who generally reside near the river, as they claim it by right. There is also a Moravian Missionary residence, where the Gospel is propagated among the tribe. Through the influence and energy of these clergymen a Museum of Natural History objects has been erected—the collection being kept in a separate building. We wish to speak of this collection in order to show what can be performed by determined exertion. Here then, we say, that on the North Coast of the Lower St. Lawrence, in a place, to a great extent, only frequented by Indians, the devoted missionaries have erected a Museum to educate the savage. We were astonished when we visited it, as we did not expect to see such things on the verge of the Labradorian coast. But we know what these missionaries mean by this exhibition, and the result of forming a collection of Natural objects before the semi-savage eye is a grand idea, brim-full of good results. The collection is extremely good, being the product of amateurs. There are quite a number of specimens from France. We believe this is the first English notice given of the above collection.—C.

#### OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

We have before us Transactions Nos. 1 and 2 of the above named Club, from 1879 to 1881. An institution of this nature was wanted in the City of Ottawa, the surroundings of which are prolific in objects of scientific research. We are cognizant of the valuable paleontological work done by the late Mr. Billings in the Ottawa Valley, and furthermore mention, with pleasure, that there are other Billings' following his footsteps. These facts should stimulate the closet naturalists connected with the Geological Survey to go to work for undiscovered material; it would certainly be creditable to the discoverers, and add laurels to the Department. It appears, however, that it is not the way in which these learned gentlemen wish to obtain honour. We believe that many