

would, therefore, endeavour to give some account of the origin of the Society and the proceedings that led to its formation.

When a student at Trinity College, Toronto, he began the collection and study of insects. At that time there were no available books on the subject. The first work that gave him any assistance in naming specimens was Gosse's "Canadian Naturalist," a delightful work giving an account of observations made in various departments of natural history during each month of the year in the eastern townships of the Province of Quebec. In the Canadian Journal there were published excellent short descriptions of the more conspicuous beetles found in the neighbourhood of Toronto by Wm. Couper, a printer by trade. These were supplemented by lists furnished by Prof. Croft, of the University of Toronto. Kirby and Spence's "Entomology" and Westwood's "Modern Classification of Insects" were published about that time and afforded the first scientific aids to the knowledge of insects. Through the kindness of Prof. Croft, the speaker had access to the library of the University of Toronto, which contained several rare works on entomology. He was also permitted to consult the books in the library of Parliament, which, at that time, was located in Toronto. In these libraries he spent much of his leisure time in laboriously transcribing descriptions of Canadian insects, which, for the most part, had to be translated from Latin and French, and also in making copies of illustrations. These difficulties can hardly be realized by students at the present day who have such an abundance of literature upon every department of natural history. Such works as Comstock's "Manual for the Study of Insects" and Mrs. Comstock's "How to Know the Butterflies" would, at that time, have been treasures indeed. However, there is no doubt that the difficulties encountered helped one to build upon a sound foundation and to acquire a more complete knowledge than could be attained by attempting to hastily read a superabundance of publications.

At the suggestion of Prof. Croft, the speaker made the acquaintance of Mr. Wm. Saunders, of London, who carried on at the time the business of chemist and druggist on a moderate scale. The acquaintance thus formed soon ripened into a mutual friendship and esteem which has continued unbroken to the present time.