

little distance from the mansion. Mr. Parish the photographer was on the ground, and attempted a sketch of the scene, but owing to the broken light among the trees, was but partially successful. A pleasant hour quickly passed, after which a visit was paid to the PRESIDENT's private museum, which is contained in a building erected for that purpose.

The collection of specimens gathered together in this building is varied and interesting, comprising many rare and curious forms in every branch of zoology, brought at much trouble and expense from various parts of the globe, and exhibited either in the drawers of cabinets, or in table cases which extends down the centre of the room. The foreign entomological collection, principally from the East Indies and South America; the conchological collection containing some rare land shells from New Guinea, Arroo and other Pacific islands; and especially the beautiful specimens of corals from the Bermudas—attracted the notice of the members. But perhaps the most interesting portion of the whole lay in the series of madrepore and asteroid corals, illustrating the growth of the Bermuda reefs, which is considered by Mr. Jones to be far more rapid than is generally supposed. Coal, glass bottles, recent shells, containing their inhabitants; roots of trees, &c., were here to be seen coated with a vigorous growth of coral, affording facts sufficient to prove beyond a doubt that some polyps are able to secrete their calcareous forms very rapidly in the Bermuda waters, in comparison with similar or allied species in other parts of the world, which according to some naturalists are *supposed* to take thousands of years to form a few feet of calcareous matter. The collection of Nova Scotian reptiles was also worthy of notice, as it possessed nearly every species known to the country, and in some cases species were exhibited in all stages, from the embryo to the adult. The whole collection comprises from seven to eight thousand specimens.

This ended the first Field Day of the Nova Scotian Institute, for 1866. A subsequent half hour was spent on the green sward amid the quiet beauties of nature and in merry social converse, under the influence of a delightful summer evening. Carriages then arrived to take back to the city the Members and their friends—and the party broke up, after kind adieus to the worthy PRESIDENT, by whom they had been so agreeably entertained.

W.G.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF TITUS SMITH. BY WILLIAM SMITH.
(COMMUNICATED BY THE PRESIDENT.)

At a Field Meeting of the Institute held at Ashbourne, near Halifax, the residence of the PRESIDENT, June 26, 1866, one of the places of interest visited was the grave of TITUS SMITH. Mr. SMITH resided at the commencement of the present century for several years in the vicinity of Halifax, leading a retired life and devoting nearly his whole time to the study of nature. He was one of the first observers who paid attention to the Natural History of Nova Scotia, and his manuscript notes contained in the archives of the Province, bear testimony to the careful manner in which he registered all facts, especially those relating to the botany of the country. Being employed in different Provincial surveys in the interior he had ample opportunity of pursuing his favourite study, and made such good use of his time while in the forest on these expeditions, that he was enabled to write a