



THE FIRST NOVA SCOTIA CONCHOLOGIST.

Professor W. F. Ganong, A.M., Instructor in Potany, of Harvard University, has, with the co-operation of Mr. Harry Piers, of Halifax, N.S., conferred a very real service on Canadian science and science generally, by preparing a sketch of the labours of the late "John Robert Willis, the first Nova Scotia conchologist." The memorial, which consists of an introduction, a bibliographical and critical notice of Willis's published papers and his list of Nova Scotia shells, by Mr. Ganong, and a biography of Willis, by Mr. Piers, was first contributed to the seventh volume of the Transactions of the Nova Scotia Institute of Natural Science. Hitherto Willis's lists of the Mollusca of Eastern Canada and New England, though often quoted by such scientific writers as Sir W. Dawson, Dr. Stimpson, Dall, Gould, and others, have been inaccessible to students, being found in no museum or library either of the Old World or the New, and of the principal list systematic inquiry has revealed only four or five copies to be extant, all the property of individuals. It was originally published on a large sheet, and was thus little likely to be preserved. Its reproduction in the organ of the institution which he helped to found, and in the city that benefited by his life work, must, therefore, be hailed as opportune. Born in Philadelphia of an Irish father and an English mother, he at an early age moved with his family to Canada, residing for a time in Kingston, and finally settling in Halifax. In 1846 he became principal of the National School in that city, and about 1850 he turned his attention to that branch of research in which he was destined to win so marked a success. In 1854 he obtained a prize for a collection at the Nova Scotia Industrial Exhibition, and in 1855 he opened a correspondence with the late Prof. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, the foundation of an enduring friendship. His career from that date till his death in 1876 was one of far-reaching and widely recognized usefulness. He sent collections to the British Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, King's College, Windsor, and to fellow labourers like Carpenter, Stimpson, Sir W. Dawson, Sir Rawson Rawson, Prof. Cope and several other noted scientists. In 1857 he published his first known list of Nova Scotia shells. In 1863 he issued the important list now given to the world in this convenient form. In the same year he resigned his position in the National School, and took charge of the new Industrial School. In 1865 he became secretary to the School Commissioners of Halifax, and at the same time started, with the late Dr. Honeyman, the movement which resulted in the Provincial Museum, with which the latter's name was so long associated. He received many honours from foreign societies, but his poverty forced him the year before his death to part with his collection—still mainly in Halifax. He was twice married, and six children, three sons and three daughters, survive him. The enumeration of his works comprises a list of Shells (1857), of Birds (1859), of Marine Shells (1862), all of Nova Scotia; "Our Edible Mollusca," *Colonial Review*, Halifax, 1862, and Nova Scotia Shells, 1863, (privately printed list). Mr. Ganong's Memorial is issued separately, as well as in the Transactions of the Institute.

The List (1863) is printed in conformity with Willis's original, but is accompanied by foot notes, which give information as to localities or indicate the result of later research. Mr. Willis records his debt to Prof. (Principal Sir) J. W. Dawson, F.R.S., (C.M.G.), Montreal; Dr. J. Bernard Gilpin, Halifax; Thos. Bell, Esq.; P. S. Dodd, Esq., Superintendent at Sable Island; the Rev. J. Ambrose, M.A., St. Margaret's Bay, and Mr. James Farquhar, Sable Island, for specimens; and he expresses his sense of grave obligation to Dr. A. A. Gould, of Boston; Prof. Stimpson, of Cambridge, and Dr. E. Forman, late of the Smithsonian Institution. We have pleasure in recommending the Memorial, which is highly creditable to the compilers.

GEOFFREY HAMPSTEAD.

Interest has been aroused in Canadian literary circles by the appearance of a novel of Canadian authorship, entitled "Geoffrey Hampstead." The scene is laid in Toronto, and there is no lack of incident. The opening chapters are somewhat crude and seem to lack coherence, but as one reads on, a purpose begins to reveal itself, and the reader becomes interested. Mr. Maurice Rankin is clearly reserved for great things and Jack Cresswell is unconsciously passing under threatening clouds. His Admirable Crichton, Geoffrey, is evidently a man to beware of. Strangely attractive he certainly is to man as well as woman, just the sort of fellow to lure one or the other to such pitfalls of destiny as may lie in their path. His physical beauty and strength, his various accomplishments, his force of will, the mystery that surrounds him, are all elements in the magnetic influence that he exerts over friends and acquaintances. His own account of himself—the story of his mixed origin, his savage mother, his estrangement from his family—adds a romantic charm to his personality. It also serves to explain his moral perversity, though it hardly prepares us for his atrocious treachery to the woman who loved him and the man who trusted him. The author has shown

considerable skill in gradually lifting the veil from his character. There is a certain power in the scene between Hampstead and Nina Lindon (Jack's betrothed), though it is not edifying to read. It is the first intimation of the brilliant half-caste's villainy. Margaret Macintosh is a pleasant picture to contemplate, and her devotion to the betrayer is full of pathos. On the whole, the *dramatis personae* are skilfully drawn and the plot is ably worked out. The author's worst fault is an elaborate straining after effect, which sometimes annoys the reader, as the interruptions of a would be sayer of clever things bore the listener to serious conversation. It is only by practised self-control that a writer learns to avoid excess, to know the moment when any addition mars, instead of improving, his work. "Geoffrey Hampstead" would have gained in many ways by retrenchment. A great deal that is introduced in description, dialogue and incident is altogether adventitious. In a novel like this, which comes under the class of Mr. Andrew Lang's "literary anodynes" (and it must have no slight merit to take rank in that category), whatever delays the natural movement of events to the predestined end, excites the reader's impatience or diverts attention to the author's mannerisms, should be carefully avoided. If the book were dull, of course, it would not matter. But "Geoffrey Hampstead" is not dull. On the contrary, it is full of life and action, and is eminently readable and entertaining. The writer of it, Mr. Thomas S. Jarvis, has good stuff in him and knows how to tell a story, and we are pretty sure to hear of him again. That his book should have come out as one of Appleton's Town and Country Library, is, indeed, a guarantee of success. The book is for sale at Brown's and Picken's in this city.

THE CANADIAN INDIAN.

Announcement has already been made in our columns of a monthly magazine which should bear this name and be devoted to the subject which it implies—being, in fact, the organ of the Canadian Indian Research and Aid Society. We have just received an advance copy of the first number (October, 1890.), which follows the lines laid down in the prospectus previously noticed. The society, it will be remembered, was inaugurated in April last. Its objects are to "promote the welfare of the Indians; to guard their interests; to preserve their history, traditions and folk-lore, and to diffuse information with a view to creating more general interest in both their spiritual and temporal progress." The officers consist of a patron (the Governor-General), a president, four vice-presidents, a treasurer, a council of sixteen members and a secretary. The last position is taken by the Rev. E. F. Wilson, of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., who conceived and was mainly instrumental in organizing the society. Mr. Wilson and Mr. H. B. Small are the associate editors of the *Canadian Indian*. Mr. Wilson's account of his visit to the Zuni Indians (whose social usages, traditions, ritual, industries and general condition some of our readers doubtless heard Mr. Cushing describe at the meeting of the British Association in this city) is the principal contribution in the opening number. The earlier portion of "My Wife and I" was published in *Our Forest Children*, beginning with June, 1889, so that to have the complete record of this "little journey among the Indians," readers will require the back issues of that periodical. What concerns the Zunis, however, begins in the *Canadian Indian*. Editorial articles set forth the objects which the new monthly is to serve, treat generally of anthropology in Canada, with special reference to the labours of Mr. Hirschfelder, and discuss the present position and number of the Indians of Canada. The remainder of the number contains a good deal of miscellaneous information on Indian industrial schools, mission work, etc. The cause, both in its humane and scientific aspects, which the *Canadian Indian* is intended to promote, is a most worthy one, one that merits the support of every true Canadian. The Rev. Mr. Wilson has been devoting himself for years, with a zeal which may truly be called apostolic, to the advancement of the Indian's welfare—that of his favoured Ojibways especially—and his latest undertaking appeals, without distinction of race or creed, to every friend of our aborigines. We would like to see the magazine at least doubled in size—so as to admit of longer signed articles from experts in Indian ethnology and philology—but its enlargement depends, of course, on the generosity with which it is supported. The price of subscription, which gives the privilege of membership in the Indian Research and Aid Society, is \$2 a year. The treasurer is Mr. W. Luke Marler, Ottawa. The *Canadian Indian* is printed and published by Mr. John Rutherford, Owen Sound, Ont.

OLD NEW BRUNSWICK.

A book of various interest to those who love to hold converse with the past is Lieut.-Col. William T. Baird's "Seventy Years of New Brunswick Life." A native of Fredericton, Col. Baird has been an observer of events for more than half the period since the province was organized, and with some of the most stirring scenes in its policy, he has been himself associated. Many of the reminiscences in his book are, indeed, connected with military affairs, as for more than half a century he has held command in our valiant little army. There are many passages in the volume that are of real historic value, as they give the testimony of an eye-witness to events of moment in the life and growth of the province. Others are of purely local concern, though interesting as suggesting contrasts between the present and the past, and marking stages in our social and institutional development. One of the personalities of

his early years that Col. Baird distinctly recalls is the courier who made the trip monthly between Fredericton and Quebec—in winter, on snowshoes or with dog and toboggan. He also recalls the executioner, a well-known character, a coloured man named Lowden, tall and old, who repaired sleds and toboggans, and so was on familiar terms with most of the young people. He had a team of trained fox-hounds for hauling his loads of lumber, which surpassed horses in swiftness. Col. Baird tells us of other and more reputable celebrities—of some of whom, such as Col. Cole, of the 15th Regiment, the late Hon. L. A. Wilmot, as well as the author, portraits are given. The great fire, the boundary troubles, the Orange riot of 1847, the movement of troops westward during the "Trent" excitement, the beginnings of regular steam navigation and railway building, and the controversies and agitations that preceded the formation of the Dominion, are among the themes of his personal reminiscences. In 1863 (January 1) the author received his commission as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Battalion Carleton County Militia, and later in the same year was appointed Deputy Quartermaster-General for New Brunswick. He was Paymaster of Military District No. 8, Dominion of Canada, from Confederation till 1887 (twenty years) and Superintendent of Stores at St. John from 1879 till the latter date. His portrait represents him as a hale and handsome man, who bears his age lightly, and looks remarkably well in his military uniform. "Seventy Years of New Brunswick Life" is published by George E. Day, St. John, N.B.

Mr. Sladen Back Again.

Mr. Douglas Sladen and his family, after their long journey of twenty thousand miles, before going down to New York will rest a month in the Windsor Hotel at Montreal, famed as one of the most luxurious on the continent. They have been busy since they left San Francisco. On their trip up to Vancouver they visited the boom cities of Puget Sound, Seattle, Tacoma, Port Townsend and Anacostis; and, after leaving Victoria and Vancouver, stayed off at the comfortable little Mountain Hotel at Hamson Springs, for the sulphur baths and the trout fishing; at North Bend to see the salmon rush on the Fraser and the Indians scooping them out of the water; at the Glacier House for the big game and the big peaks and glaciers of the Selkirk; at Donald on a fine reach of the Columbia midway between the Rockies and Selkirk; at Golden City to go up the Columbia to its head waters in the Columbia Valley; at the lower lake (Windermere) there were some Cowboy and Indian horse races going on, and Mr. Sladen received a novel tribute to his reputation in being elected to act as judge in the horse races. He shot a fine goose with his rifle from the steamer, which was duly stopped for this succulent addition to the table. Then he went to Banff for a week at the Springs and the Rocky Mountain scenery, and at Laggan to visit the beautiful little glacier, Lake Louise, where the C.P.R. are erecting a chalet hotel for next season. He only spent an hour at Winnipeg, having visited it on the former journey, and was unable from illness to stay off at Gleichen, where an imposing display of Blackfoot Indians on horseback had been called out to meet him. His next stoppage was Rat Portage, to steam up the Lake of the Woods, made notorious lately by the uprising of Flatmouth and his Ojibway Indians. From Rat Portage he went to Nepigon for a week's fishing, and from thence for another week at Peninsula, where he had a fresh surprise in catching some very fine speckled trout in Duncan's Creek, one of them being the finest fish caught on the north shore of Lake Superior this season. From Peninsula he went to North Bay to camp out at Trout Lake, six miles away. Here he had capital sport in four days' fishing, taking to his own rod 100 lbs of black bass, pike and pike, besides losing about 50 lbs. more by tackle giving way when the fish came to the top of the water.

Mr. Sladen told a reporter that the Windsor at Montreal reminded him of the C.P.R.—American enterprise without American servants, and that, taken all round, it was the most comfortable hotel he had ever been in, away ahead of the Palace at San Francisco in every respect except cubic capacity. We may add that the *DOMINION ILLUSTRATED* has acquired "Lester, the Loyalist," the most important poem that Mr. Sladen has written, for its Christmas number.

Miss Ella Walker.

The Montreal friends of Miss Ella Walker will be glad to hear of her continued success abroad. She had the distinguished honour of being chosen by the board of professors of the Royal College of Music, London, to fill the principal part at the annual operatic performance given by the students of that college. The opera selected was Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutte," and Miss Walker's appearance secured the most flattering criticisms of the London press. The occasion is one of the musical events of the year, when the musical *élite* are on the alert for a new voice of promise. Among the many eminent musicians present were Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir John Stainer, and both of these gentlemen predict a brilliant future for Miss Walker. Miss Walker's portrait appeared in this journal last year.