## THE

## CANADIAN NATURALIST

ĄND

## Quarterly Journal of Science.

## NOTES ON A JOURNEY THROUGH THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY, FROM MANITOBA TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE.\*

BY A. R. C. SELWYN, F.G.S

Director of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Having during the past summer made a rapid journey through a very considerable portion of the north-western territories of the Dominion, I thought it would perhaps be interesting to the Society to hear a brief account of how we travelled, and what we met with in those distant and as yet but little explored regions. If in relating my experiences I should refer to matters with which doubtless many members are already familiar, either from personal experience or from having read the narratives of previous travellers in the same region, my excuse must be that without doing so, I should probably have little if anything to relate which has not been dwelt upon and described, either by Palliser, Hector, Blakiston, Bourgeau, Hind, Milton and Cheadle, Butler, Ross or Grant, and is consequently more or less known to all who have read the interesting and detailed narratives which have been published by these travellers in the north-west.

The explorer of these vast western regions, so appropriately designated by Captain Butler *The Great Lone Land*, leaves behind him hotels, railroads and stages, as well as all other ordinary facilities for travel. He is thrown entirely on his own resources; and therefore before starting has to provide himself with everything requisite for the subsistence, transport and shelter of himself and his companions during the entire journey.

<sup>•</sup> Read before the Natural History Society, Jan. 26th, 1874.