

THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW.

LETTERS.

TORONTO.

May 10th, 1894.

Dear Editor:—

A few days ago I received No. 3, Vol. 1, of your periodical, and I have looked over it with great pleasure, and must congratulate you and the fair editors on favoring the public with such an interesting and neat journal. It, however, forcibly reminds me that I must be growing old, for while a resident of the "Limestone" City, I knew you and the editors as simply small children, and now you have budded, yes even bloomed into writers and caterers to the public.

I am much pleased to see that you are students in Natural History. This is not to be wondered at, as your father has always been a devotee to the study of birds, plants, &c., in fact, my herbarium is indebted to several good specimens collected by him. Your articles on the Crow Blackbird and Wood Pewee are good, and I trust we will frequently have the pleasure of reading descriptions of the various birds from your pen.

I regret to state that I have neglected the study of Botany for some years past. Still some of the younger students look up to me as a father, and frequently refer specimens to me to have them named, and now and then I take a tramp to the woods with these young folks. Last Saturday I was out with a company of ladies and gentlemen, but just as we reached the glen we were in quest of, a thunder storm greeted us. The more enthusiastic of the company braved the storm, being determined not to return home with empty vasculum. The more discreet, and among them your humble servant, repaired to a greenhouse having large beds of lovely, tender

lettuce. How we did long for sal's, sauces, &c., to have a feast on this verdant plant, for which we have to pay large prices in the city at this season of the year. In an hour the enthusiastic botanists returned, looking like drowned rats, but sure enough they had collected a large number of specimens. Among them were the *Cardamine rhomboidea* (spring cress), *Saxifraga Virginensis*, (Early Saxifrage), *Polygala paucifolia* (Fringed polygala), *Trillium grandiflorum*, (Large white Trillium or Wake Robin), *Trillium erectum* (Purple Trillium), *Uvularia Sessilifolia* (Bellwort), *Viola cucullata*, (Common Blue Violet), *Viola Canadensis* (Canadian Violet), *Viola pubescens* (Downy Yellow Violet), *Dentaria diphylla* (Pepper root), *Asarum Canadensis* (Wild Ginger.) The Hepaticas were gone, and only odd specimens of Spring Beauty were left.

Although still raining, and being nearly six o'clock, there was nothing for it but to face the music and make for home. We had to walk a mile before we reached the Davenport street cars, and wet as we were, we were pleased to get out of the rain. We hummed along in the Electric car to Bathurst St., expecting to transfer to a city car, but we found the track torn up and no cars running. Still the beautiful rain was coming down steadily (and I tell you that it was a wet rain), and we were fated to walk another mile, how delightful. It was all right for the gentlemen, but very tiring for the ladies, as their skirts were wet and heavy. Still these botanical fair ones were made of the right metal, and arrived home feeling quite fresh. On enquiry next morning, I found that none of them felt the worse for the outing.

Knowing that your time must be