

"In August the nettle has performed all its functions for the year, even to the production of seed, so that, although upon being cut down it will disappear for that year, the pest is not at all injured in productiveness for the next season. The fallacy of recommending August cutting of these weeds must be apparent to everybody. The madman in the poem is made to say to the soldier as to killing his enemies—

Kill a fool's head of your own;  
They'll die of themselves if you let them alone.'

And this is quite true of the enemies of the farmer at this season. The first cold night acts quite as readily in destroying the above-ground growth as the most careful cutting. Hence the jury inflicted by August cutting is more apparent than real."

In dealing, therefore, with perennial plants of this kind, as found in pastures, the only plan is to bruise them when they first appear, and again whenever they re-appear, and their permanent destruction will be ensured at a quicker rate than generally supposed.

### Botanical Society of Canada.

We are glad to see that an influential meeting, called by public advertisement, has recently been held in the city of Kingston, to consider the propriety of establishing a Botanical Society. The Rev. Dr. Leitch, Principal of Queen's College, was called to the chair, and opened the proceedings with a perspicuous and eloquent address. The learned Principal was followed by Professors Williamson, Weir, Mowatt, Litchfield, Yates, Stewart, Lawson, etc., who pointed out the advantages which such a Society, in connection with a Botanical Garden, would offer not only in the vicinity of Kingston, but in the British Provinces generally. The interests of Botanical science would thus be protected in an extensive region of country, which hitherto been too much neglected, but which promises to all zealous cultivators an abundant harvest. The resolution to establish the Society was carried unanimously, and a code of Laws its government agreed to, and a considerable number of gentlemen entered their names as members. The Society consists of four classes, viz: 1. Honorary Members; 2. Fellows; 3. Annual Subscribers; 4. Corresponding Members. The subscription of Annual Members is \$1.00. Members generally will enjoy certain privileges, such as an exchange of plants; information

relative to their habits, mode of culture and economic uses, &c.

As the proceedings of this Society, if properly sustained and carried out, cannot fail to influence favorably not only the Horticulture but also to a considerable extent the Agriculture of Canada, we subjoin without abridgment the able and interesting address of Professor Lawson, who is ready to furnish all particulars of the organization and objects of the Society, and the manner of carrying the letter into effect.

#### PROFESSOR LAWSON'S ADDRESS.

Dr. Lawson pointed out the peculiar sphere in which the botanist is called to labor, the range of his studies, and the means required for their pursuit. It is of great importance that at the outset the real object of our proposed Society should be understood. The establishment of a Botanical Garden and other appliances must be regarded as secondary to the great object of the Society, the prosecution of scientific botany. Botany is at a low ebb in Canada, at a lower ebb than in most civilized or half-civilized countries on the face of the earth. At the close of the eighteenth century only five dissertations on botanical subjects had been published by the whole medical graduates of the great continent of America. Since then the indefatigable labors of such men as Michaux, Torrey, Harvey, Curtis, Boott, Engelmann, Tuckermann, Sullivant, Lesquereux, and especially of one whose name and fame rise above all the rest, Asa Gray, have brought our knowledge of the botany of the United States on a level with that of the best botanized countries of Europe. The Flora of Canada has also been elaborated since then by one who still presides over the destinies of botanical science, not in England alone, for his authority is recognized wherever the science is pursued. But during a period of nearly thirty years very little has been added to our published knowledge of Canadian botany. Information respecting our indigenous plants must still be sought for in the work of Sir William Hooker, issued from the Colonial office in England in 1833. That work, founded as it necessarily was, on dried specimens carried home by passing travellers, afforded to the botanical world an admirable example of how much could be made out of slender material when in good hands. Unimpeachable as a work of science, unsurpassed in the whole range of botanical literature in the accuracy and beauty of its illustrations, the *Flora Boreali-Americana* afforded the means of developing still more fully a knowledge of the Canadian Flora. The North American Flora of Torrey and Gray, and the Manual of the Botany of the Northern States, offered additional temptations to the pursuit; but advances have not been made commensurate with the advantages that were offered: we have