

but the manifestations and exponents of the Creator's skill ; the universe is not a mere agglomeration of incongruous elements thrown together at random and without mutual dependence on each other ; order and system, even where unseen by man, prevail throughout every portion of creation. To discover this—to trace the harmony and connection pervading the whole universe is, in other words, to obtain some insight into the plans and designs of the Creator when He built up the habitable world, clothed it with a luxuriant vegetation, and peopled it with that manifold animal life which occupies every portion of its surface. From the lichens of the Arctic regions to the stately oak—the monarch of the woods ; from the coral-building polype, almost destitute of organic life or functions, to man, made in the image of his Maker, there is a gradation and order of no human or arbitrary devising, but forming an essential and fundamental element of the whole. To have lifted the veil from some portions of this wonderful order and design ; to have learned something of the true system in which the Creator has arranged His works, form the glories of modern science. Classification, which simply, in one word, embodies this idea, is now the great object of attention ; thus, the orders into which the animal kingdom is divided are based on the essential and immutable diversities which modern research has revealed, and the transfers which sometimes take place of species, or even a genus, from one place to another, in the general system, are merely the result of a further insight obtained by pains-taking laborers into this universal plan of creation.

The field of labor here opening to us is unbounded ; the objects presenting themselves for our studies are literally inexhaustible ; and he who, in earnest sincerity of purpose, devotes his attention to any one branch, however special and circumscribed it may appear, cannot fail to see new and hitherto unknown evidences of the skill and wisdom of the Great Architect, the contemplation of which will not only confer on himself the most exalted pleasure, but will add to the general stock of human knowledge.

In these fields of observation, we have in our own Province the most extensive and interesting materials for study. The shores, the forests, the rocks, of Nova Scotia, present inexhaustible stores to the student of nature. What Dawson has done for Acadian geology, may be done by any other student in any other branch of Natural Science. The object of this Institution is to stimulate the effort to follow so bright an example, and to aid and encourage the student by giving a recognized position and permanency to the results of his labors. If we succeed, in however