

I.—*A Review of Canadian Botany from 1800 to 1895.*<sup>1</sup>

## PART II.

By D. P. PENHALLOW.

(Read June 21st, 1897.)

The history of botanical progress in the 18th century closed with the memorable work of the elder Michaux. It was therefore peculiarly fitting that the beginning of the 19th century should see his important contributions to the botany of this continent essentially continued by his son, François André, who made a distinct advance upon the work thus admirably laid down, in his *North American Sylva*, a work which, until the last few years, has stood unrivalled, and which has placed the author's name high in the list of eminent botanists.

Following close upon the labours of the elder Michaux there came one whose deep interest in the flora of this region had been aroused by essentially the same influences that led his predecessors, Kalm and Michaux, to undertake a labour which at that time was fraught with enormous difficulties, and which, while it seemed to greatly enrich the science they loved so well, and for which they endured so much, brought to them no gain beyond the reward which springs from the consciousness of a duty nobly conceived and as nobly discharged, and the enduring approbation of their fellowmen. I refer particularly to one whose work was one of the most important elements in the progress of botany in the early part of this century, not only in Canada, but also in the United States, and the close of whose life of toil and suffering among strangers was invested with a pathetic element which yet makes the place of his death and burial of more than ordinary interest to those who cultivate the science of plant life.

Frederick Pursh was born at Grossenhayn, Saxony, in 1774, and educated at Dresden.<sup>2</sup> In his account of the motives which led him to undertake his memorable work, he says :

"Among the numerous useful and interesting objects of natural history discovered in the vast extent of the new continent, none claim

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<sup>2</sup> Mr. James in the *Journal of a Botanical Excursion*, says he was born at Tobolsk, Siberia, but as he gives no authority for this statement, and as I have been unable to confirm it, I have adopted the data given by Pritzl as the more trustworthy. (Pritzl, *Thes. Bot. Lit.*, 1872, 254.)