

FIELD EXCURSIONS.

PLEASURE excursions to various points of attraction in the vicinity of Halifax, have of late years formed the staple of the summer amusements of its people. Obeying the prevailing instincts, but with a difference, and combining instruction with relaxation, the Council of the Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science invited the members of that body to meet at Steele's Pond, on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 3, for a cursory examination, geological and otherwise, of that portion of the peninsula embraced between the place of meeting and the Point Pleasant ferry, crossing by which the intention was to travel along the shore to York Redoubt. They were kindly furnished by the military authorities with a pass, permitting entry to the forts on the route—a privilege which proved a very interesting feature of the day's proceedings.

The geological peculiarities of the harbour of Halifax on both sides are of much interest, and through the medium of the Institute and other sources, have been often noted. On the Halifax side the rock formation is a highly metamorphosed clay slate and quartzite, probably of an age below the Lower Silurian; but all organisms, if any ever existed*, are obliterated. From the starting point, as before mentioned, onward, the strata have been much disturbed, presenting a series of short synclinals and anticlinals, sufficiently conspicuous, with erratic boulders. The surface, wherever exposed, is found to have been denuded in a remarkable manner by the glacial action of a period ever so much more recent, which has smoothed and covered it with striæ—its compact hardness sustaining, first, the enormous pressure and the gradual south-easterly movement which have caused the striæ; and next, it refers us from the nineteenth century to evidence of a period when probably no living thing existed in this ice-clad region, save such arctic animals as the seal and polar bear. It tells also of another period, when possibly under circumstances of elevation or depression, and certainly of amelioration of

*Dr. Honeyman asserts that he has found tracks of annelids on the rocks below Fort Ogilvie.

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