

AUTUMN FIELD DAY.

For the first time in its history, the Natural History Society this year instituted a new departure in its annual excursions, by providing an Autumn Field Day. The Society, however, is under great obligations to Mr. Gibb for causing it to adopt such a popular course, since it was his earnest and most cordial invitation to accept the hospitality of his country residence, that brought about such a result.

The Field Day was held on the 29th of September. The excursionists, to the number of one hundred twenty, proceeding to Abbotsford *via* the Canada Pacific, and there found a most hospitable welcome and an abundant provision for all their wants. Immediately upon arrival the various announcements for the day were made, after which the party had abundant opportunity to inspect the large and valuable orchards in the immediate vicinity, where, thanks to the energy of Mr. Gibb, a centre of fruit culture is gradually being built up, which is destined to produce an important influence upon the fruit industry of this Province. Mr. Gibb himself has a large number of important varieties of Russian apples, and also a valuable collection of ornamental and forest trees, the adaptability of which, to this climate, he is endeavoring to determine.

After a bountiful lunch, the excursionists distributed in various directions under the leadership of Sir Wm. Dawson, Prof. Penhallow, Mr. Holden, Mr. Gibb and others. The largest party proceeded to the summit of Yamaska Mountain, whence a most extended view of the surrounding country was obtained, and where Sir Wm. Dawson delivered an address upon the peculiar geological features of the vicinity.

The collections made were chiefly geological, although a number of interesting botanical specimens were brought in, amongst others various species of *Lycopodium*, *Agaricus*, *Aster*; a number of ferns and *Geranium Robertianum*. On re-assembling at the house, addresses on the Natural History of the locality, were made by Sir Wm. Dawson and Prof. Penhallow, and a vote of thanks tendered Mr. Gibb by Prof. Bovey.

The day was fine, notwithstanding a snow-storm on the summit of Mount Yamaska, and the party returned to the city with the feeling that it had been a day of much pleasure and great profit.