

FIELD MEETING AT ASHBOURNE, JUNE 26, 1866.

BY invitation of the PRESIDENT, a Field Meeting of the Institute was held at his residence at Ashbourne, North West Arm, and vicinity, on Tuesday the 26th June.

The programme contemplated,—1. a visit to Downs' Zoological collection, head of the North West Arm, and thence to Ashbourne. 2. A visit to the grave of the late TITUS SMITH, eminent in Nova Scotia as a Naturalist, where the President would read a short sketch of the life of that person; thence to proceed to Geizer's hill, where a splendid panorama of the surrounding country is presented, and where the party could study the botany and geology of the district. 3. An excursion from Geizer's hill to Byers' lake. 4. The return to Ashbourne to dine, and afterwards to visit the President's private museum.

The party assembled at the Province building, where conveyances were in waiting to take them to Downs' cottage. The day was beautifully fine but intensely hot, the thermometer ranging 84° Fah. On arriving they were received with a hearty welcome from Mr. Downs, who very politely escorted them over his grounds, and showed them all the curiosities. Amongst these the principal and more imposing are a splendid young polar bear, a seal, and several deer and antelopes from southern America. The collection consists otherwise of foreign, British and native animals, birds and beasts, of rare and interesting species, all well worthy the inspection of naturalists, and of strangers visiting Halifax. After passing an hour delightfully, the party next proceeded to Ashbourne, the mansion of the President, where they were hospitably entertained, and rested for a while previously to entering upon the further business of the day.

Ashbourne is prettily situated, at an easy distance from the city, and just beyond its taxation, an advantage not to be despised even by men of science. The grounds are tastefully cultivated, and on either side, within a neighbourly distance, are neat suburban residences, and progressive improvements, which at no distant day will make the "Dutch Village," so called, one of the most delightful spots in Nova Scotia. The scenery embraces northward, a view of Bedford basin, bounded by the sombre pine-clad hills; eastward, the well cultivated fields and farm houses of the peninsula, and beyond, the citadel and the upper portion of the city of Halifax; southward is the North West Arm, the harbour of Halifax, and a grand ocean distance. The soil, which is susceptible of the highest cultivation, rests on the metamorphosed slate of the peninsula, and here and there on the surface are scattered granite boulders, large and small, derived from the glacial action of which the district has largely partaken. There can be little doubt that here as elsewhere in the metamorphic coast band, gold is present in the numerous quartz veins that make their appearance wherever the rock is exposed. Westward, and at a short distance, are the chain of lakes which help to furnish the city with a copious supply of water. These, as well as the valley of the Dutch village, have evidently