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# ANNALS OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

## ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY.

Towards the latter end of November, 1860, a proposal was made to organize a Botanical Society. There being no such Institution in operation in Canada, it was thought that much benefit might result from its establishment. Accordingly an advertisement was inserted in the Newspapers, requesting the attendance of all persons favorable to the proposal at a Meeting to be held in the Chemistry Class Room, in the University of Queen's College, on Friday Evening, 7th Dec., 1860. In order to explain more fully the object of the Meeting, the following statement was inserted in the Newspapers, simultaneously with the advertisement referred to:—

Her natural resources have enabled Canada to take a conspicuous place among the British Colonies as a cultivator of natural science and useful art. Our Colony is as yet far behind in the race in regard to one department of useful knowledge, that which relates to her, indigenous vegetable productions. In Britain, Botany is a universal pursuit. Some persons follow it merely as a favorite amusement, which affords the most healthful combination of physical and mental exercise,—a stream of thought that may be most pleasantly followed, through the meadows and woods, in the rosy time of the year; others pursue it as a scientific study, which unfolds the mysteries of life, as they are displayed in the varied phenomena of growth and reproduction; while a large number are engrossed with it as a science, whose relations to the useful and ornamental arts enable man to render tributary to these the products and forces of nature. In countries like Canada, whose inhabitants are wholly occupied in industrial production and trade, Botany is not apt to be pursued for its own sake. As a scientific pursuit, it is chiefly inviting to persons of leisure and taste. But its relations to industry are so important that no civilized land can allow it to fall into neglect without suffering thereby in its material interests. In England, and France, and Belgium, and Prussia, it will not be believed that a great agricultural and timber-producing country, like Canada (young as it is), is pushing on its industry in ignorance of the very science by which that in-

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