

noticeable feature. A fine specimen of the white owl, presented by Rev. J. Cumberland, M.A., will henceforth greet every visitor on entering the Museum. The shells have been placed in glass-covered cases and arranged according to Woodward's Manual. A number, however, are still undetermined, but will be inserted in their proper positions as soon as possible.

#### "A SWINDLING SCIENTIST."

ABOUT the 9th or 10th of November a person of pleasing address and intelligent countenance called on the Curator, announced himself as a deaf-mute acquainted with Paleontology, and wished to see the Museum. After looking over the rocks and fossils he informed the Curator that he belonged to Ayreshire, in Scotland; had studied Paleontology under Prof. Davidson, at Jermyn Street Museum, London; had arranged several collections in Canada and the United States, was now out of employment, and that Sir W. Dawson had suggested to him that he might get employment here. The readiness with which he named several specimens proved that he was acquainted with the subject. While he was writing out the terms upon which he would perform the work required a notice was received from Ottawa warning the Principal against a "swindling scientist," who had been described in *Science*, and was now in Canada, and would likely visit the Museum and Library. The document describing the scientist was shown to him. He read it, made some remarks that implied that he was the person described, then picked up his papers and left.

A notice in a Toronto paper some time after showed that he had visited the University, tried the same role and had been met by a similar caution.

#### COLLECTIONS BY THE CURATOR.

OWING to the liberal action of the trustees, the curator was enabled to spend the greater part of the months of June and July collecting along the line of the C. P. R. Having joined a large excursion party bound for Vancouver, composed of members of the General Assembly which met at Winnipeg, he enjoyed very limited facilities for collecting or preserving specimens on the outward journey. On landing at Vancouver, however, he found himself freighted with a respectable load of specimens of various kinds. A week was spent here collecting rocks, plants, shells, etc., in the neighborhood of the town and round the shores of English Bay. At Kamloops he enjoyed the kind assistance of Rev. J. Chisholm, B.A., an enthusiastic friend of Queen's, and was guided to some interesting localities by the Editor of the *Sentinel*, once a citizen of Kingston. By the way, the Editor honored the afternoon's wanderings with a couple of columns of editorial description. A day at Banff furnished a few interesting things. At Calgary, the Curator received a great deal of kindness and assistance from Dr. Lafferty, a graduate of Queen's, and was carried round to many points where interesting specimens of plants were

procured. A couple of days were spent at Brandon wandering along the banks of the Saskatchewan and out upon the prairies, collecting the peculiar Flora of the region. This visit was rendered specially enjoyable by the warm hospitality of friends well-known years ago on the banks of the far off Richibucto. At Winnipeg and Emerson special facilities were enjoyed for collecting and preserving plants and shells. Fine specimens of the latter are found in the Red River when the water is low, as it happened to be last summer. In the neighborhood of Stony Mountain vast numbers of little shells, *Planorbis*, *Limnaea*, *Physa*, etc., are seen among the grass, many of them still perfect, showing that the prairie in this region must have been covered with water very recently. The collection of animals at the Penitentiary is well worth a visit from the naturalist.

The dioritic rocks and the waterfalls of Rat Portage have attracted a great deal of attention from geologists and tourists, and the old trails and fort of the Hudson Bay Company have a peculiar interest for the antiquarian and historian. Some rather rare plants reward the botanist who toils his way over the rocks and along the ravines. The Silver Mines near Port Arthur furnish great attractions to the geologist and mineralogist. Beautiful specimens of Quartz-Crystals, Amethyst, Calcite, Arragonite, Pyrite, Mountain Tallow, as well as silver ore of various grades, are easily attainable. The display of Agates and Amethysts in the windows at Port Arthur excel anything we have ever seen elsewhere in the Dominion, but the Boreal aspect of the vegetation in the neighborhood and the chill winds from the lake make the stranger feel that winter is near at hand.

From these localities and others a good collection of materials was obtained which will add much to the attractiveness and practical value of the Museum.

#### \* DIVINITY \* HALL. \*

WE are glad to see with us again Mr. J. M. McLean, who was laid aside for a time by injuries received in a recent railway accident. His friends will be glad to know that his injuries were not so serious as many had feared.

The first Presbyterian examination for license took place on Thursday, the 22nd ult. A premium is evidently placed on scholarship by the Presbytery of Kingston, if one can judge at all by the number and comprehensiveness of the examinations required of church students. The sagacious divinity student regards the time not far distant when the Presbytery work will be a formidable rival of the work prescribed by the Theological faculty. Surely if ecclesiastical positions were secured on the same principle as positions in educational institutions, viz., according to the extent and severity of the examinations to which the graduate has been subjected a graduate of the Presbytery of Kingston ought to obtain an excellent living.