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## INTRODUCTION.

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**THERE** is, perhaps, no class of plants more worthy of study or cultivation than Ferns.

The exquisite elegance of their fronds, the minuteness of their construction, and their lovely verdure, recommend them at once to those whose eyes seek that which is beyond the vulgar or the ephemeral.

To speak of the minuteness of their structure, perhaps, inaptly describes a class of plants, the so-called seeds of which are barely discernible to the naked eye.

It is with a feeling akin to rapture that the botanist, whose eye is well practised in nature, observes the noble forms and graceful habits of the Fern, and as he marks its wavy outline either in motion or repose, perchance, his thoughts arise to the great Creator who gave it its delicate mechanism. To those whose ideas of poetry partake of a healthy love for exercise and fresh air, the fascinating study of Pteridology offers food both for mind and body, and gives an object, the pursuit of which is capable of affording no ordinary pleasure.

Although at the height of popularity in Europe, but little is known of Fern culture in the Dominion of Canada.

More than a dozen volumes, by as many different authors, have been written on the British Ferns ;