

and her family in the great sorrow which has befallen them."

As this minute briefly indicates, the much lamented late Honorary President of the Natural History Society of Montreal was possessed of a large and accurate knowledge of the facts of Biology. The thirteen years he spent in the bleak territories of Labrador made him very familiar with the Arctic fauna and flora of those northern regions. So few were the living forms to be seen in and among the barren rocks of the inhospitable tableland that a very intimate acquaintance with the species that came under notice was easily acquired.

Donald Alexander Smith had the mental equipment which enabled him to make the most of the situation in which he found himself. Born at Forres, Morayshire, Scotland, on August 6th, 1820, of a good Highland stock, Grant and Stewart blood intermingling with that of the Smiths in his veins, he inherited a fine constitution, which stood him in good stead up to his 94th year. He received a sound elementary education in his native town at a school on the Cowlair's foundation. What was of no less consequence, he had inculcated upon him in his father's house not only habits of frugality, but principles of truth, honour and integrity which laid the foundation for the illustrious career which followed. In his 18th year he set out for Canada, having received the appointment of a junior clerkship in the Hudson Bay Company's employ, several of his relatives having previously served the company. It took 50 days to make the voyage in a sailing ship. When he reached Montreal, in 1838, he was sent by Sir George Simpson, then governor of the company, to the recently-established Labrador Department, in the bleakest corner of the earth, from which the Moravian missionaries among the Eskimos had reported that foxes, minks and martens were plentiful. It was the month of September before he reached his destination, which was at Hamilton Inlet, the company having two trading posts in that district.