

dians, then, had their Laurentian and Huronian rocks, lying at the foundation of their geology, as monuments to their attainments in geological science. [Applause.] Coming next to the fossiliferous rocks, Canadian science had there done so much that he could not attempt to go over the ground. In the Trenton limestones, a Canadian had brought to light those beautiful stone lilies which had grown in groups or forests beneath the sea. Their Anticosti too had furnished the world with new light in geology—filling up what had been a gap between the Lower and Upper Silurian groups with many hundreds of feet, teeming with remains of ancient life. Again, while in the United States they had been talking of fucoids and trying to give names to fragments of plants, which they had found stranded among their strata, the President of the Canadian Geological Survey had shewn that they had been dealing merely with rootlets of a plant which belonged to the Devonian period in all its course from its beginning to its end. This was another point in which in Canada they were far in advance of other geologists. These were certainly most encouraging steps in the progress of Geological investigation—and those he had mentioned were not all. If he turned to the economical results of their survey—for we must go to the soil or to the rocks for our economic materials everywhere and strays—he felt bound to say that they had done more than all the United States naturalists put together. [Applause.] They had not in any of the U. S. collections such an amount of economic material as they had collected here in Montreal. If he were capable of jealousy in such a matter, he would be dreading that Canada in a few years would distance them on the other side. In the lessons he received as a school boy, 25 or 30 years ago, he was taught that Canada was almost a wilderness, and that it was principally known for its exports of lumber and fur. [Laughter.] If, 30 years ago, Canada was only known for her lumber and furs, in 1851 and 1855 she was known for something else, the records of the London and Paris Exhibitions shewing that she was there known for the abundance of her economic resources. He felt warranted in saying that during the last fifteen years no state or country on this or on the other side of the Atlantic had made more rapid progress in scientific investigations than Canada had done, during that time. After some further remarks, in which he again urged the importance of still further augmenting the Society's Collection, the learned Professor resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

The Hon. Mr. Chauveau spoke in French. He said it behoved him as president of the *Institut Canadien Français*, who had just taken possession of their rooms, in Little St. James street, to congratulate the Natural History Society, on the rapidity and taste with which this new temple of science had been erected. Professor Hall had just paid homage to the efforts and success of the living naturalists of Canada; He thought that on such an occasion the memory of those who had in their own days rendered science the best services in their power could well be remembered; and this much more so when all that had been done under the French Government was now forgotten. Mr. Chauveau then spoke at length of Charlevoix, who besides furnishing in his work many interesting details on the climate and animals of America, had one of its volumes almost exclusively devoted to its botany, illustrated with excellent plates; of Laflair, who discovered the Gin-seng in Canada and had thereby created an important trade between this country and China, and who wrote an admirable ethnological work on the Indians of America; of Dr. Sarrazin, who discovered the *Sarracenia Canadensis*, or pitcher plant, and gave descriptions of that plant and of several of the animals of Canada in the *Memoirs of the French Academy of Sciences*; of Dr. Gauthier, who discovered the *Gaultheria*; of the Marquis de la Gallissonière, Governor of New France, in 1747, of whom Kalm says that he was one of the most learned men he had met with; of Pierre Boucher de Boucherville, Governor of Three Rivers, who published, in 1663, a book entitled a True Natural History of New France, of Mr. de la Ronde, who was the first who kept meteorological observations in Canada, and of Gauthier de la Veyranderie, that intrepid traveller and discoverer of the North West territory, who gave descriptions of its animals and brought back with him that famous mongolian inscription which Mr. de Humboldt quotes as the best evidence of the Indians of America being of central asiatic origin.

Dr. Holmes, one of the veterans of the society, concluded the soirée by a most interesting and graphic history of its proceedings from its first operation, in 1827.

It dated back, he said, to about the period when Professor Hall was being taught that Canada produced nothing but lumber and furs. At that time, though they did not make any very great noise externally, he was aware there were a number of men in Canada, who, though placed in unfavorable circumstances for their cultivation, nevertheless fully appreciated the value of science and literature, and who, though they did not devote themselves to this pursuit, yet derived considerable gratification from them. One of the reminiscences of his youth related to a time when Griffintown contained but a single house, that of Mr. Robert Griffin. That gentleman used to assemble his friends—and he (Dr. H.) as a youth considered it a great privilege to be allowed to be present—to hear recitations of Shakspeare. Now, as recitations of Shakspeare even at this advanced period and in the metropolis of the world could draw large audiences, he thought Canadians were not then so very far back as Dr. Hall's books probably stated they were. [Laughter.] They had even societies at that time amongst them. He belonged to one which had existed before the Natural History Society, and which was

styled the Literary and Philosophical Society of Montreal. This society lasted for a year or two; the members got tired of it, the meetings were not attended, and it was broken up. Some slight collections made by it, however, formed a germ for the subsequent organization of the Natural History Society, which commenced its operations in the year 1827, on the 12th of May. To give it stability, it was determined that one of the leading objects should be the formation of a collection illustrating Natural Science. To one who, like him, had been engaged in originating the Society, it was exceedingly gratifying to witness such a museum as was displayed in this building to-night. [Applause.] The Society met at first in a small room, over a bookseller's shop in St. Paul Street, and remained there for several years until their collection became too large for their room. They then removed to a building—now thrown down—between the Banque du Peuple and the Montreal Bank. They remained there for several years, and then they purchased the building from which the Society had just now removed. At the meeting at which the Society was finally organized on the 16th May, 1827, there were 26 members present. Of these there were now only three living in Montreal—the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, Hon. Judge McCord, and himself. There was one other of these 26 original members who was now living in Upper Canada. Whether there might be others still living, who had left the city, he was not aware.

—Mr. Nettle, Superintendent of Fisheries for Lower Canada, during his visits of inspection to the rivers and stations in the Gulf, was struck with the appearance of large quantities of a very fine silky cotton-like substance, growing most profusely on the occupied lands below. The specimens gathered by Mr. Nettle were much admired in Quebec; and he forwarded a small portion to the Board of Works at Toronto. In due course a reply was received from Mr. W. Hutton, Secretary to the Bureau of Agriculture, stating that the sample had been submitted for examination to Professor W. Hincks, of University College. The Professor pronounced it to be *Ephedra Augustifolia*, the fine showy willow plant of our Canadian forests, and proceeds as follows: The plant is as I stated; it is often called "French Willow Herb," and is exceedingly common in Canada, perhaps especially Eastward. The substance is obviously far more valuable, as a textile material, than the silk-weed or any other native with which I am acquainted; and a sufficient specimen ought to be submitted to experiment, in order to test its quality. After all, it may not be so cheap, nor yield so well as cotton, but if found less valuable for other purposes, its fitness for paper would well deserve trial.—From the *Quebec Chronicle*. [Specimens were forwarded to England, but the opinion expressed there as to the economic value of the material for paper has been unfavorable.—Ed. U. C. Journal of Education.]

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—The northernmost paper in the world is the *Tromsø Times*. It is printed at Tromsø, a little island village of about 4000 inhabitants on the coast of Norway, at three degrees within the polar circle, and is a four-paged semi-weekly sheet, with only two columns on a page, about the size of a quarto book form. The style of type is the Gothic.

—The Academy of the *Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres* has recently filled two vacancies in the list of its corresponding members. Mr. Lepsius, a savant of Berlin, well known by his researches on the Egyptian language, and Mr. Max-Müller, professor of Sanscrit, in Oxford University, were elected.

—It appears that a great grand daughter of Jean Racine, the celebrated French tragedian, is taken care of by the *Société des Auteurs Dramatiques*. She is a boarder in a convent at Blois, and in the annual report made by Mr. Mélesville, on the proceedings of that philanthropic institution, it is said that the descendant of the great poet shows herself at the same time worthy of her lineage and of the kindness of the society.

—It appears that centenary jubilees of the birth of great poets are to become a fashion. The Germans are preparing to commemorate the birth of Schiller, on the 10th of November next. New and splendid editions of his works with engravings by the best artists of Europe are now in course of preparation and will be published about the time of the great German demonstration which like the Burns celebration will extend to America where Germans and their descendants are at least as numerous, as the sons of Scotland.

The terms of subscription to the "Journal de l'Instruction Publique," edited by the Superintendent of Education and M. Jos. Lenoir, will be five shillings per annum and to the "Lower Canada Journal of Education," edited by the Superintendent of Education and Mr. John Radiger, also five shillings per annum.

Teachers will receive for five shillings per annum the two Journals, or, if they choose, two copies of either the one or of the other. Subscriptions are invariably to be paid in advance.

4,000 copies of the "Journal de l'Instruction Publique" and 2,000 copies of the "Lower Canada Journal of Education" will be issued monthly. The former will appear about the middle, and the latter towards the end of each month.

No advertisements will be published in either Journal except they have direct reference to education or to the arts and sciences. Price—one shilling per line for the first insertion, and six pence per line for every subsequent insertion, payable in advance.

Subscriptions will be received at the Office of the Department Montreal, by Mr. Thomas Roy, agent, Quebec; persons residing in the country will please apply to this office per mail, enclosing at the same time the amount of their subscription. They are requested to state clearly and legibly their names and address and also the post office to which they wish their Journals to be directed.

GENERAL, DANIEL & Co., Steam Printing Establishment, 4, St. Vincent St.