

the wood, especially about a woodman's path, its next of kin, the New York Fern (*Aspidium noveboracense*); the only two species of *Aspidium* destitute of chaff about the stipe, with peculiarly delicate and glabrous texture of frond. The Marsh Fern has a very short rhachis and remarkably long stipe; the lowest pair of pinnae are as long as those immediately above them, and the pinnules become strongly contracted in fruit, the margins being revolute over the sori. The New York Fern tapers both ways, the longest pinnae being about the centre of the frond; the pinnules are not contracted in fruit, the colour of the fern is pale yellowish-green, whereas that of the Marsh Fern is often bluish-green, certainly darker than the New York Fern.

Other *Aspidiums* found in this wood besides those already mentioned are the Marginal, the Crested (with its variant the Clinton's) and the Prickly. *Aspidium marginale* is easily recognized by its thick leathery frond, having the sori placed at the extreme outer margin of the pinnules. It is not common, as its preference is for rocky banks and woods, but under a group of pines in an elevated corner of the wood a few plants subsist near some glacial boulders. *Aspidium cristatum*'s choice of home is within the swamps and bogs; there is quite a striking difference between the fruiting and the barren fronds; the latter are shorter, lax and more or less prostrate, often growing outwards on all sides of the rootstock, rosette-fashion; right in the centre of these you will see 3 or 4 tall rigid fronds, the pinnae standing out almost at right angles to the rhachis and twisted round on their bases from a vertical to a horizontal position so that the under side of the pinna, with its fruiting clusters, is facing the ground and hidden from the light, while the upper sides appear to be "taking the sun"; the outline of the frond is more or less oblong, the pinnae from the base almost to the apex being practically of one uniform length. *Aspidium spinulosum* is one of the most variable of ferns, yet always easily recognized by its finely-cut frond, the lobes ending in a prickle or acuminate tip. It is quite common and one of our handsomest ferns; I saw a plant of it to-day (June 15) in a wood I have been speaking of; a tree, fallen or felled years ago, had left a stump some 3 feet high; the top of this was rotted out to a depth of more than a foot; in the centre of this natural flowerpot was growing a magnificent plant of the Prickly Shield Fern; I counted 25 fronds, most of them well over 2 feet in height and fruiting profusely. Being evergreen it is often kept by florists over the winter, in some cool damp place, and used at Christmas for foliage with carnations and other cut flowers of the hothouse.

Altogether, out of 24 species of fern that I have found in the immediate neighbourhood of Port Hope, this little wood