

THE
CANADIAN NATURALIST

AND

Quarterly Journal of Science.

THE REV. JAMES SOMERVILLE, FOUNDER OF
THE SOMERVILLE LECTURES.*

BY REV. ROBERT CAMPBELL, M.A.,

A formal memoir of Mr. Somerville was drawn up by his life-long friend, Dr. Daniel Wilkie, Rector of the High School of Quebec, in 1844, seven years after his death; while a shorter sketch appeared in the "Montreal Transcript," of the 8th of June, 1837, immediately after his decease, written by Mr. Thomas Blackwood, a prominent member of the Scotch Church.

Mr. Somerville came to Canada when only 27 years of age. and for thirty-four years he was minister of the Scotch Church in St. Gabriel Street; although for the last fourteen years of his life his connection with the Church was only nominal. Having been furnished with two colleagues, Rev. Henry Esson, in 1819, and Rev. Edward Black, in 1823, he withdrew from the active duties of the pastorate, on a retiring salary of £150, together with the £50. at that time given by the Imperial Government to ministers of the Scotch Church, in the Province of Lower Canada. He was ordained and inducted into office in 1803, by Dr. Sparks, of Quebec, and Mr. Bethune, of

* The Rev. Mr. Somerville bequeathed to the Natural History Society of Montreal the sum of £1000 to maintain an annual course of Lectures in connection with the Society, to be known as the Somerville Lectures. Rev. Robert Campbell, one of the Somerville lecturers for the present year, discoursed on the life and bequests of Mr. Somerville. We print this extract from his lecture, feeling that a sketch of Mr. Somerville's life should be placed on record in the Journal of the Society, for which he did so much.