

EXCURSION TO KIRK'S FERRY.

The Fifth General Excursion was held on the 17th September. The locality chosen for investigation was Kirk's Ferry, on the Gatineau River, about 12 miles from the city. The weather was perfect. It was one of our lovely Canadian autumn days, with a soft warm breeze, a bright sun, and the damp air filled with the scent of the woods. The members turned out in good numbers, and three heavily loaded vans carried the happy party from the dust of the city out into the pure air of the fields. The Chaudiere Falls first attracted the attention of the party. On account of the exceptional drought of this season, the water in the Ottawa River was so low that workmen were walking right across the river within 100 feet of the edge of the Fall, an occurrence which had never been previously recorded.

The bridge over Brigham's Creek was being repaired and one of the vans having gone by the Chelsea Road would have had a long return journey but for the low water. Owing to this, however, they were able to drive over the creek and join the rest of the party without trouble.

As the mountains were approached there were frequent exclamations of surprise and admiration at the gorgeous tints of the landscape. The vivid autumnal hues of the Maples, Beeches and Ashes, combined with the sombre shade of the Evergreens, rendered the scene one of great magnificence. Nor was the foreground less attractive. Beneath the shade of the spreading Butternut trees, which grow in great luxuriance along the Mountain Road, graceful ferns and lovely mosses find a fitting home. Bright berries and gaudy fungi, too, add to the beauty of the picture. It was with difficulty that the leader could restrain the impatience of the members till the destination was reached—about noon. Here they were led by the President to a secluded bay where the luncheon baskets were opened. In front were the wild rapids of the Gatineau, fringed by a beach of silver sand, behind rugged rocks thickly clothed with verdure—a lonely spot where some of the party chose to spend the whole day. After lunch the different leaders made up their parties and started off without delay so as to have as