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## THE OBSERVATORY AT ST. MARTIN, ISLE JESUS, CANADA EAST.

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FROM NOTES BY PROFESSOR CHARLES SMALLWOOD, M. D., LL. D.

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*Read before the Canadian Institute, 20th February, 1858.\**

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The following sketch of the general appearance of the building and instruments, from the pen of Dr. Hall, of Montreal, furnishes a very suitable introduction to Dr. Smallwood's account of the Observatory established by him at St. Martin, Isle Jesus.

A small wooden building, distant about twenty yards from the dwelling house of Dr. Smallwood, contains the whole of the apparatus which has for many years furnished such valuable results. A short distance from it, and on a level with the ground, is the snow gauge. Immediately in front of the entrance to the small building is a dial, with an index to point out the course of the clouds. Contiguous to the building again may be seen four erect staffs. The highest of which—80 feet—is intended for the elevation of a lighted lantern, to collect the electricity of the atmosphere, the copper wires from which lead through openings in the roof of the building to a table inside, on which a four-armed insulated conductor is placed. The lantern is made to ascend and descend on a species of railway, in order to obviate all jarring. On another pole is placed the wind vane, which, by

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\* For the wood-cuts which illustrate this paper, the Council of the Canadian Institute are indebted to the liberality of Professor Henry, LL. D. of Washington, U. S.