

The witnesses describe the Museum as containing excellent specimens from foreign countries of mammalia, and particularly of birds, of which there are some very rare and rich specimens; but they state, that it is principally a Canadian collection, and the more valuable on that account. The number of skeletons of various animals is large, and exhibits the gradation of classes.

The collection of reptiles is very good, an important branch of Zoology, particularly in Canada, where so little is known of them.

There are the remains of two specimens of the gigantic mastodon, which are particularly interesting; the tusk of one measures nine feet in length.

There are also several specimens of living animals, among which are two buffaloes, male and female, which Mr. Barnett has had for fifteen years.

Professor Hincks states, that, notwithstanding the favorable impression made upon him by the evidence of the other witnesses, which he had perused previously to his recent visit to the Museum, at the request of the Committee, the collection exceeded his expectations. He represents the number of valuable objects as great; that they appear to be carefully preserved, and displayed in an instructive manner, and that the extent of the collection is such as to excite surprise at its having been formed and thus far sustained by private enterprise. He considers the Niagara Falls Museum as a most useful and interesting institution, affording great public benefit, and deserving of encouragement, as a source of widely diffused and valuable instruction. He adds that a portion of the animals, birds and other creatures of this country are very beautifully exhibited, accompanied by good and valuable specimens from other countries. Professor Hincks was particularly impressed by the size and beautiful exhibition of some of the principal species of Canadian birds and mammalia, greatly exceeding in some instances what he himself had been able by great exertion and expense to procure for the Museum of the University of Toronto, under his care, shewing at once the advantages of many years prolonged exertions, and the skill and taste displayed by Mr. Barnett.

Dr. Ryerson states that he was surprised at the extent and the variety of Mr. Barnett's Museum in Natural History, especially in some of the largest species of Canadian birds, and some fine specimens of our forest animals. He thinks that every possible encouragement ought to be given by the Legislature to an undertaking of this kind, which, from its very nature, can very rarely be undertaken, and cannot be adequately remunerated, though of great permanent interest and value to the country.

Dr. Ryerson also concurs in the views and opinions expressed by the other witnesses.

The witnesses are unanimous in declaring that the building which now contains the Museum is much too small and too frail to hold securely or to exhibit to advantage so instructive and valuable a collection. Mr. Couper, who has visited all the Provincial Museums, and has made this branch of knowledge for several years his particular study, practically and theoretically, states that progress has already been made with a new building which Mr. Barnett has begun to construct, that it is well adapted for the purpose, being large and substantial enough to hold the present collection in good order and safety. He says that the plan for admitting light is something novel to him and different from any he has ever seen for such purposes, and he deems it a most admirable one.

Mr. Routh states that when the present collection is removed into the building in progress of erection, together with the specimens now expected from England, Egypt, Australia and South America, the Niagara Falls Museum will be second to none in the Province.

Professor Hincks also says that the new substantial appropriate building is