

plants growing in interwoven masses, a tangle there is no unravelling.

The little Black Spleenwort I had never seen growing in its native wild before. But I recognized in it at first glance the plant that I had seen as a boy of 10 years old in the pedlar's pack of a veteran fern-hunter in Perthshire; he had lifted it out with pride to show me as part of the spoils at the end of his long day's tramp to Glen Almond. He called it the Scotch Maidenhair and told me it was getting scarce in our neighbourhood of Crieff. It has a close kinsman in the Green Spleenwort, which is found in Ontario about the Bruce Peninsula. In size and shape of frond the ferns are indistinguishable, but the stipe of the Black Spleenwort is a shining ebony at the base and dark brown above to the apex of the rhachis; in the Green Spleenwort the stalk is brownish at the base and green above. I have found both species fairly abundant about mountain torrents and shaded glens in Argyllshire and high up on the hills of North Wales.

Altogether, along about half a mile of this little stream I have found 24 species of fern. The Christmas Fern is not nearly as common about the Rideau as at Port Hope, and I have not found the Narrow-leaved Spleenwort or the Goldie's Shield Fern at all, but on the other hand the Polypody is abundant; its favorite home is on top of a shaded rock wall.

Later in July I was on a picnic excursion, to the Big Rideau, that landed on the north shore nearly opposite Sand Island. This shore at one place rises to a high cliff of exposed rock; here I found an abundant growth of the Rusty Woodsie (*Woodsia ilvensis*); it seems to enjoy exposed situations and will fill up the rock seams in tufts as dense as those of the British Parsley Fern in the slate ledges of the Lake District. A peculiar feature about it and two or three other species of *Woodsia* is that the stipe is jointed; an inch or so above the base you will see an obscure thickening of the stalk; when the frond dies it breaks off at this joint.

Just behind the shore, a good deal higher than the level of the lake, the country consists of rocky open woods, chiefly poplar and oak. In these woods I found much to interest the naturalist: the Fragrant or Canada Sumach, and on it, feeding on its leaves and breeding there, large numbers of a Chrysomelian beetle, *Blepharida rhois*; the Steeple Bush or red spiraea (*S. tomentosa*); the Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*); also, on the sun-baked surface of great weather-worn rocks, the *Selaginella rupestris*; in the shaded recesses of the rocks, the Black Spleenwort and near it the beautiful Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*); this last usually not in the rock ledges, but in stony ground a little way out from the Black Spleenwort's favorite haunt. It has much the appearance of the Christmas Fern, but the frond