



NATURAL HISTORY

It is not my intention to-night to go very fully into the question of Natural History as a whole, even were I competent to do so. The subject is one of so vast and so far reaching a character that few scientists are able to grasp a full knowledge of its various branches.

I merely intend to tell you a little of what I have gathered regarding the Natural History of our own Island, about which, I regret to say, there is a great lack of information of a really reliable and scientific character. It is then with a view of trying to create an interest in nature studies amongst all classes, but especially those who may have means and leisure to devote thereto, that I have taken up this subject.

There are few civilized countries now-a-days, where so little has been done to study out their fauna and flora as in Newfoundland, and it is in the hope of directing more attention to this interesting and really important phase of our Country's Natural productions that I have selected Natural History for my theme.

I think it is almost deplorable that an effort has not been made in our schools to teach the rising generation something of this useful and pleasure giving branch of knowledge.

Nearly everyone can contribute something towards our knowledge on this head if so inclined, and I feel confident that any persons who would devote their attention to collecting and arranging specimens