

For the best Oil Painting on any original subject—A first Prize Silver Medal.
 For the second best ditto—A Second Prize Silver Medal.
 For the best original Landscape in water colours—A first Prize Silver Medal.
 For the second best ditto—A second Prize Silver Medal.

After the Prizes have been awarded, the paintings will, of course, remain the property of the artists.

The following are the conditions :—

The Prize productions to be in the English, French, or Latin language, and open to all persons residing on the continent or islands of North America.

Every Prize production is required to be accompanied by a sealed note, bearing as a superscription the title of the production, and containing the author's name and place of residence, and to be transmitted, post paid, addressed to the Council Secretary, and received by him before the 20th February next.

The Prizes will be awarded on the last Thursday of April next, at Eleven o'clock, A. M.

THE Natural History Society of Montreal, with a praiseworthy desire of encouraging the pursuit of useful knowledge in the Colonies, have offered Gold Medals for the best Essays upon any of the subjects included in the subjoined list :—

On the possibility of cultivating the Maple for the purpose of producing Sugar on a large scale ; on the preparation of the Sugar, and the best mode of refining it.

On the existence of Coal Fields in the District of Montreal or Three Rivers ; on the most probable locality of such Fields, with the modes of search.

On the destruction of Forest Trees for timber and fuel ; on the necessity of Planting for a future supply ; on the most desirable mode of raising Timber, whether in Woods, Hedge-rows or Coppices. Especial reference is made to the White Oak, Grey Ash, and the Larch and Tamarac, and on the qualities of the latter, as compared to Oak, for ship-building and other purposes.

On the practicability of Cultivating in the Canadas, the Weld (*Reseda*,) Wood (*Isatis*,) Safflower (*Carthamus*) and Madder (*Rubea*,) more especially the latter ; on Native Plants, suitable for Drugs or Dyes, especially Sumach (*Rhus*,) Blood-root (*Sanguinaria*,) Orchil (*Rocella*,) or other Lichens ; Red-willow (*Salix*,) Quercitros Bark (*Quercus*) ; on the Cultivation of Poppies and Sunflowers, for the expression of Oil from their Seeds : and, also, on the the Cultivation of Plants for Medicinal purposes.

On the Pigments discovered in the Canadas, Yellow Ochre, Indian Red, Yellow Sienna Terra Verte, Blue Earth, and others—with statements of their abundance, and their applicability to the purposes of Paint.

On the Ottawa River, the Animal Vegetable, and Mineral productions of its Shores and Streams, with descriptions of the more important Rivers that flow into it.

On the Mineralogy of the District of Montreal.

On the Botany of the Island of Montreal.

On the manner in which Hemp and Flax may be profitably cultivated in the Canadas, and whether Lee's system of preparing those materials could be adopted with good result.

On the Effects of Frost on Building Materials and on the Pavements of the Streets.

The conditions attached are :

1st.—The Essays shall be presented on or before the 20th February, 1840.

2d.—The essays may be in either French or English, at the option of the writer.

3d.—The name and residence of the Author to be concealed ; to ensure which, each essay shall have a motto, and shall be accompanied with a sealed note, superscribed with the same motto, containing the name and residence of the Author. This note will be opened only in the event of the Essay being declared worthy a Prize, otherwise it will be destroyed.

4th.—The successful Essays to remain the property of the Society.

5th.—The Society reserves to itself the right of withholding the Prize, should no one of the Essays on any particular subject appear deserving of it.

The Essays to be addressed to J. S. M'CORD, Esq. Corresponding Secretary of the Society.

The Medals will be of gold, silver, or bronze, according as the Committee, which shall be appointed for the purpose, shall report on the merits of the successful Essay.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have much gratification in acknowledging the receipt of the tale entitled " Henry Lawson," from the author of " Acquaintance with the Great," which will be published in our next number, if we can possibly make room for it, entire.

We have on hand several excellent papers, which we shall publish as soon as we find it possible.

The following are respectfully declined :—" Withered Hopes," " Ida," " Despair," " The Wildest Hour," " The Lover's Dream," and the " History of a Magic Ring." The several authors may have their articles returned, by calling at the office of the publisher.

We cannot sufficiently express our thanks to the numerous contributors who have favoured us with their assistance, and when occasionally compelled to decline the insertion of any article that may be sent to us, we trust that our friends will attribute it as much to our regard for their feelings as our jealousy of the fair name of the *Gazette*.