

A BOTANICAL EXCURSION TO "THE CHATS."

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. R. B. WHYTE JAN. 28, 1892

Mr. Robert B. Whyte gave an account of a botanical excursion he had taken with Mr. R. H. Cowley to the Chats Rapids, Falls and Island during the past summer. The address was illustrated by a map of the county of Carleton showing part of the Ottawa River, upon which the various places mentioned were pointed out. The Mississippi River divides south of the Chats Island, one branch flowing straight north, and the other called the Snye, flowing east, and emptying into the Ottawa River at Fitzroy Harbor. The interest attached to the Chats is not only on account of the many plants found there; for just at the northern point of the island a series of wild rapids begins, which ends near Fitzroy Harbor in a lovely waterfall of thirty feet. This extends right across the river, and is of great beauty, being a succession of falls with wooded islands between them. Indeed Mr. Whyte thinks it is the prettiest fall in Canada. Some years ago the construction of a canal was started on the north side of the rapids, and nearly half-a-million of dollars were expended on it, but the rock was found to be so hard that the builders decided it was not worth the trouble, and gave it up. This is the original Laurentian rock which forms the islands at the falls, and from there runs down past Galetta and Perth to the St. Lawrence. Near the proposed route of the canal there was formerly a horse tramway from Pontiac to Bristol, but it is now almost in ruins. About twenty-five years ago Mr. Whyte took a trip on this railway, and was then struck by the profusion of wild flowers of all kinds which lined both sides of the track. On this occasion Messrs. Cowley and Whyte took the train to Arnprior, from which place they proceeded by steamer. The water was too shallow to land on the island, but through the kindness of Mr. Cowley's brother, they were set down about a mile from shore, and rowed in a small boat to land. Here they met Capt. Cowley, who accompanied them in a walk along the north shore, a beach formed of shingle and broad flat stones, amongst which they found some of their most interesting specimens, a previously unrecorded Aster and the shrubby Potentilla, with yellow flowers, which would be well worthy of cultiva