

There has also just been issued a separate and very interesting volume, containing figures and descriptions of Canadian organic remains. The descriptive part is by Mr. Billings, the palæontologist of the Geological Survey of Canada; Mr. J. W. Salter, one of the palæontologists of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom; and Mr. T. R. Jones, Assistant Secretary of the Geological Society of London. The plates, which are beautifully executed, are all the works of first-rate artists, and the whole work will prove a most valuable addition to the scientific information which the geological survey has been the means of furnishing in relation to the palæontology of Canada.

In the departments of zoology and botany, the Natural History Society of Montreal continues, as in former years, to labor zealously and effectively, and in the pages of the Magazine, edited by a Committee of that Society, the Canadian student will find much valuable information relating to the zoology and botany of his country.

And here I cannot refrain from alluding to some remarks which I recollect having met with in the September number of our own *Journal*, upon the very great desirableness of having a zoologist and botanist attached to our geological survey. With the writer's suggestions I most heartily agree. Both the flora and fauna of this country have as yet received but little attention from scientific men as compared with the research and labor which have been so well bestowed upon its geological features.

The destruction of our forests, and the rapidly progressing settlement of the country, will soon render it difficult to obtain specimens, or to observe the habits of many of the wilder and rarer species of our quadrupeds and birds. With the former more especially, the destruction of their usual haunts in the depths of the forests will soon be followed in many cases by the almost total extinction of the species, and when perhaps, at a later day, this deficiency in our scientific staff has been filled up, the golden opportunity will have passed away.

I trust therefore that the members of the Institute will permit me to urge these considerations upon their attention, and that some steps will be taken by the Society with the view of bringing the matter at some future day under the notice of the Provincial Government.

Passing from this subject, I am naturally led to the consideration of our own position in respect to the aid which we receive in the shape of pecuniary support from the Provincial Government; and while I would record the grateful sense which I, in common, I am sure, with