

Montreal had at last succeeded in founding a building like this, which besides answering better than any previous building for the requirements of the Society, would also prove an ornament to the city. He could inform them, on behalf of the educational and literary bodies with which he was connected, that they viewed the erection of this building with the greatest pleasure, and were greatly gratified that at length the labours of the Montreal Natural History Society had met with such a reward as was witnessed in the opening and inauguration of this hall. He was one of those who believed that the material progress of a community depends principally upon its intellectual progress; and he thought this was the general opinion. When such was the fact the inauguration of this building ought to be regarded by the community as an event of no common occurrence. He had been glad to hear that the names of Canadian men of Science and their labours were so well known and appreciated in the United States, and he was certain that the audience would listen with renewed interest to the names of a few Canadian scientific men, names it would not be out of place to recall on an occasion like the present. (Applause.) Hon. Mr. Chauveau then read the following brief biographical sketches:—

Michel Sarrazin, Royal Physician and Correspondent of the Academy of Science, appears to me to have been the person who occupied himself most with Natural History in Canada. He was a native of Nuyts, in Bourgoyne. His skill as a surgeon was proverbial. In 1700 he wrote an anatomical description of the beaver, which was read in 1704 by Pitton Tournefort; also, in 1721, his anatomical description of the muskrat. It appears that so far he had had the modest sum of 600f., “without any reward from those whom he served,” because he was “the only doctor in the whole country.” The Dictionary of Natural Science, 6th vol., says that his work is the most complete in existence. He also employed his attention with other animals. The academy demanded from him information on the botany of the country, and I have reason to believe it was this that led him to discover *Sarracenia Canadensis*. He died at Quebec in 1734.

Gauthier, also a physician at Quebec, was known to have greatly occupied himself with Botany. Of him I have nothing better to tell than what Ribaud has already said.

The Marquis Galissonniere (Governor from 1747-49) appears also to have attended very much to Natural History; and Kalm