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THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY AND ITS FIELD DAYS.

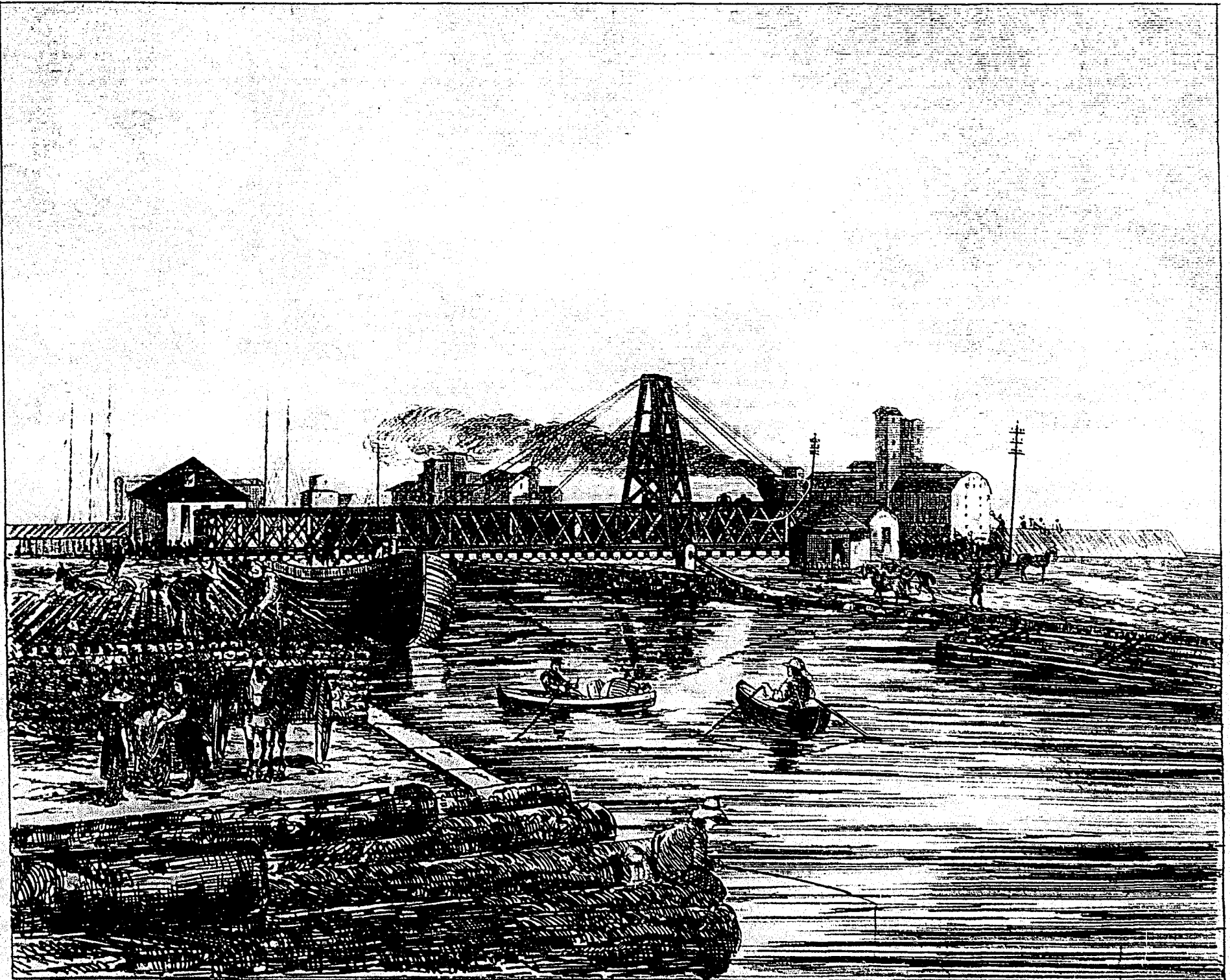
"Many a little hand
Glanced like a touch of sunshine on the rocks,
Many a light foot shone like a jewel set
In the dark crag; and then we turned, we wound
About the cliffs, the coves, out and in,
Hammering and clinking, chattering stony names
Of shale and hornblende, rag and trap and tuff
Amphiboloid and Rhyolite, till the sun
Grew broader towards his death and fell, and all
The rosy heights came out above the lawns." TEKNYSON.

The charming excursion to Montarville on the 3rd of June last, which is made the subject of two illustrations in the present number—showing both the picturesque and the comic attractions of the scene—gives us an opportunity of referring to the history of this useful society and the varied means it so persistently employs in the endeavour to carry out the highly important objects for which it was formed.

Established upwards of thirty-six years, it may fairly be considered one of the institutions of the country, and it has contributed not a little by its researches and publications to diffuse useful information as to the natural products of the Dominion both at home and abroad; and to inspire respect for the scientific opinions of its members in the eyes of the savants of Europe. But its work has been for many years of a very quiet and inobtrusive character, and it is better known as a nucleus of associated naturalists and geologists than as a popular institution. As a natural result of its growth and of the leaven of intellectual culture emanating from McGill College and similar institutions it has of late years advanced in popularity and in usefulness especially to the more cultivated of the young people of this city, and its annual conversaciones, its field meetings, and its Somerville popular lectures, are well attended and appreciated by a large number of the fair sex.

Moreover, the Society, by no means exclusive in its selections for membership, has invited ladies to join its ranks as associate members and invited them to enjoy all its privileges at a reduced fee, including daily access to the Museum, situated between the Crystal Palace and the English Cathedral. This Museum has been for some years under the charge of the scientific curator, Mr. J. T. Whiteaves, who has brought it into its present orderly, cleanly and well named condition. This places it quite at the head of any Museum in Canada, and as an Educational Museum for students in the Natural History of British North America, it is doubtful whether it is exceeded even by the colossal collections of the United States.

The Library, although small at present, is receiving special attention this year and is accessible to members. It contains some very valuable serials and society's proceedings, and it would be a most desirable issue if, instead of enlarging the



THE NEW WELLINGTON BRIDGE, MONTREAL.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR ARTIST.—SEE PAGE 370.