

late Dr. Fletcher when he heard of my finding the Narrow-leaved Spleenwort asked whether the Goldie's occurred in its neighbourhood, his own experience and that of other botanists having been to find the two together. This is not, however, a universal rule, for the two colonies of this fern found by me south of Ottawa had no Goldie's Fern anywhere near them.

The Goldie's Shield Fern is certainly a magnificent plant, and when first unfolded at the end of May peculiar by its light yellow-green colour and noble proportions. The frond is remarkably wide and more solid in texture than any other Shield Fern that approaches it in size, unless perhaps the Marginal Shield Fern. The Goldie's Fern is often 5 feet or more in height and can hold its own for mere stature with the Osmundas and the Ostrich Fern. Its width is always noticeable; I have gathered in September fresh fronds put up evidently after the fruiting season; the frond itself (on a long stout stipe) would vary from 8 to 10 inches in length and the width across from tip to tip of the lowest pair of pinnae was often an inch or more in excess of the length. Large ferns, say 5 feet high, have an extreme length of pinna of 8 inches; this would make a rhachis nearly a foot and a half wide, if the pinnae stood at right angles to the main stem; occasionally they are so placed but as a rule they incline upwards at an angle; the shape of the pinna is peculiar, being slightly curved like a scythe—as in the Holly Fern; the curving is often more plainly seen in the pinnule which is a pinna in miniature; the pinnules have a crenate or sinuous margin and taper to a point. The sori which are not very large lie rather nearer the midrib than the outer edge of the pinnule.

Another fern common in this wood is the Christmas Fern (*Polystichum* or *Aspidium acrostichoides*), an evergreen like the Prickly and the Marginal Shield Ferns. It has a somewhat peculiar habit of fruiting; the sori form on the upper part of the frond only, usually down from the apex to less than half way; these fruiting pinnae are strongly contracted, so that the green frond seems to pass from leafy below to a bare-looking narrowed and rigid spike.

The only other species of *Polystichum* found in Ontario is the Holly Fern (*Polystichum Lonchitis*); it is fairly common in the limestone region about Owen Sound and the Bruce peninsula; smaller than the Christmas Fern it has no bare stipe, the pinnae starting from the very base; the pinnae and the frond as a whole are falcate (scythe-shaped) and there is no contraction in fruiting.

All about the sloping meadows that surround the wood, as well as in it, you find thickets of the Marsh Shield Fern (*Aspidium Thelypteris*), and, somewhat sparsely growing in the middle of