

The Printer's Miscellany.

AN EXPONENT OF PRINTING AND ALL THE KINDRED ARTS.

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True Worth Recognized.

The Rev. James Fowler, late teacher of Natural Science in the New Brunswick Provincial Normal School, has been proffered and accepted a professorship in Queen's College, Kingston, Ontario, and left this Province in September to enter upon his new sphere of labor. While, for his own sake, we feel much pleased at his preferment, we regret that our Provincial Board of Education did not make an effort to retain the services of one so well qualified as a teacher of Natural Science. As a man of fine scholarly tastes and acquirements, an ardent student of botany and kindred sciences, one deeply imbued with the true scientific spirit of the age, Mr. Fowler is well known to naturalists in Canada and the United States.

Mr. Fowler, we understand, is a native of Northumberland County, N. B., and received his education at the County Grammar School, and afterwards at Dalhousie College, Halifax. His attention was first directed to the study of botany by the late Dr. Forrester, Chief Superintendent of Schools in Nova Scotia. After Mr. Fowler was ordained, he returned to his native county and took charge of two or three scattered congregations in that and the neighboring County of Kent, finally removing to the latter county altogether, and becoming pastor of the congregation at Bass River. Here he remained till within a short time of his appointment as instructor of Natural Science in the

Normal School in 1878. During all these eighteen or twenty years, indeed, from the time he left College, Mr. Fowler kept up a course of study in classics, in Hebrew, and various other branches, but more particularly in Natural Science, —collected plants everywhere within his reach, exchanged largely, and opened up a correspondence with the leading botanists of America. It may be stated that when he left Bass River he had not less than 8000 or 9000 species of plants mounted in his *herbarium*. No discouragements dampened his ardor in the pursuit of his favorite study, and specimens of almost every form of vegetable life in Kent County found their way into his *vasculum*—his constant companion wherever he went—his researches often revealing species new to the Province and sometimes new to the continent.

In 1879 he published the first list of New Brunswick plants ever given to the public. It contained 1069 species, all of which he had seen and examined himself. During the present year he has added a supplementary list to it containing the names of some plants discovered since the first list was published. Both lists are appended to the Agricultural Reports for 1879–80, and also to the Educational Circular.

Although, to all appearance, such zeal and labor are not appreciated as they ought to be, yet we think the day is coming when they will be; and that the result of such researches will be of incalculable value to our country, not only in a scientific, but in an economic point of view. We therefore think it a misfortune that Mr. Fowler has not been retained, more especially when his qualifications and scientific knowledge were becoming better and better known, and when Natural Science was introduced among the branches to be taught in our public schools. His well known modesty and retiring disposition naturally prevented him, no doubt, from courting that public notice which his abilities merited. Too often it is the case, that such men as Mr. Fowler are overlooked, while those with far less brains, but gifted with cheek and assurance, are favored.