

the peace of 1815, and the six principal coins of King George IV. . . . The Loudon Stereoscopic Company offer a prize of twenty guineas for the best essay upon the Stereoscope—Sir David Brewster being the arbitrator. . . . The editorship of the British and Foreign Evangelical Review has passed into the hands of Principal Cunningham, of the Free College, Edinburgh. . . . The ten daily political journals of Paris have a total circulation of 161,000, viz. *La Presse* 41,000, *Le Siecle* 36,000, *Le Constitutionnel* 26,000, *Le Pays* 16,000, *La Patrie* 15,000, *Le Journal des Debats* 9,000, *L'Univers* 6,000, *L'Assemblée Nationale* 5,000, *L'Union* 4,000, *La Gazette de la France* 3,000. . . . McCulloch, the author of the Commercial Dictionary, has testified before a committee of the British House of Commons, that the cost of the public printing, and of the paper required for such printing, reaches the enormous sum of £200,000 a year, or nearly a million of dollars. . . . The Earl of Rosse, who has recently completed the largest telescope ever made, alluded, at a late meeting in London, to its effects. He said that, with respect to the moon, every object on its surface of 100 feet in height was now distinctly to be seen; and he had no doubt that, under very favorable circumstances, it would be so with objects 60 feet in height. On its surface were craters of extinct volcanoes, rocks, and masses of stones almost innumerable. He had no doubt that if such a building as he was then in were upon the surface of the moon, it would be rendered distinctly visible by these instruments. But there were no signs of habitations such as ours—no vestiges of architecture remain to show that the moon is or ever was inhabited by a race of mortals similar to ourselves. It presented no appearance which could lead to the supposition that it contained any thing like green fields and lovely verdure of this beautiful world of ours. There was no water visible—not a sea or a river, or even the measure of a reservoir for supplying town or factory—all seemed desolate. This confirms the conjectures of the author of "No More Worlds than One." . . . The Imperial Library of the Court of Vienna contains more than sixteen thousand manuscripts in the Greek, Hebrew, Chinese, Arabic, etc. languages on parchment, and nearly twelve thousand in the European languages upon paper; twelve thousand incunabula, nearly two hundred and eighty thousand modern books, more than six thousand volumes of music, and eight thousand eight hundred autographs of distinguished persons. There are besides in Vienna seventeen libraries, among which the private imperial library and that of the University are the most considerable.

CANADIAN NATURAL HISTORY.

The Ottawa Athenæum have offered the following prizes with a view to promote the study of Natural History in the Counties mentioned. They also furnish a number of suggestions for the presentation of such specimens as may be procured:

Resolved—That this Society do offer Prizes for the best collection of Insects, Reptiles, Crustaceans, Shells, Plants and Minerals, made in all or any of the following Counties: Renfrew, Pontiac, Carleton, Ottawa, Lanark, Prescott, Russell, Leeds, Grenville, Argenteuil and Vaudreuil, the said collections to be sent in on the 1st of October, 1857. The prizes to be as follows:

1. INSECTS, best collection of
 - Coleoptera and } Ex. Beetles, Earwigs, Bugs, Locusts,
 - Hemiptera. } Grass-hoppers, Tree Lice, &c., £2 10 0
 - Lepidoptera } Moths, Butterflies, Dragon Flies, May
 - and Neuroptera. } Flies, &c., 2 10 0
 - Hymenoptera and } Bees, Ants, Flies, Centipedes,
 - Diptera & Aptera. } Fleas, Spiders, &c., 2 10 0
2. Reptiles, and Crustaceans,
 - Ex. Snakes, Frogs, Protes, Crayfish, &c., &c., 2 10 0
3. River and Land Shells, 2 10 0
4. Best named collection of dried specimens of Indigenous Plants, 10 10 0
5. Best collection of Mineralogical specimens, with the name of the locality where found attached, 10 10 0

The successful collections to become the property of the Society. Any of the unsuccessful collections may be acquired by the Society upon paying half the foregoing prices.

Should the best collection under any of the foregoing heads prove palpably inferior, the Trustees reserve the right of refusing the premium.

That the following directions be issued for the guidance of those who compete:

TO PRESERVE INSECTS.—Get a box made of White Pine or Spruce, fifteen inches square, and one inch deep. Line it with paper, pasted in. Transfix the insects through the breast with a pin, which drive into the bottom of the box. In the case of such insects as butterflies, moths, beetles, &c., it

is necessary to arrange the wings, feet, and feelers in the natural position before they dry. To kill insects speedily, and without impairing their value as specimens, it suffices to touch the mouth with a drop of spirits of turpentine. Insects too small to impale, may be fixed in their places by a solution of gum arabic or common paste. Keep similar insects as much together as possible, and number them distinctly on the paper underneath, beginning at the upper left hand corner. When the box is filled cover it with a pane of glass, which fix in its place with putty, having previously fastened a small piece of tallow by a pin to the bottom of the box.

Reptiles and Crustaceans are best preserved in the strongest high wines, taking care to cork the bottle closely.

For preserving plants, unsized paper should be used. Books of Botany give the necessary directions for making a Hortus Siccus. The locality where found must be carefully noted.

Mineralogical specimens must be wrapt up separately in paper, and when fragile add cotton wool, as the perfection of the angles and fractures are of great consequence to the scientific. Although the Society do not demand the scientific names, it must not be overlooked that they rigorously require the locality where found to be legibly written and enclosed in the wrapper; writing the locality on a long riband of paper, and rolling it round the specimen, previous to wrapping it, is most secure.

Shells, like Minerals, should be wrapt up separately, and furthermore, require cotton wool in addition in every case, as the edges and hinges often determine specific differences. A label should be rolled around, stating where found, and whether on land, or near, or in a river or brook. Fresh Water Mussels, technically called "Unio," are at present of great scientific interest; and as the specific differences are so trifling, as to be undiscernable except to a student, it is advisable that all specimens found by any competing collector should be preserved and sent in.

The Society, in offering the preceding prizes, do not pretend that they are proffering anything like the money value of the collections solicited, but they desire and hope, that the prizes offered, may be the means of exciting many to embark in the pursuit of science, who otherwise would never have thought of so doing, at the same time that the Museum of the Society would be enriched by their labors, for the mutual benefit of the inhabitants of the Ottawa country generally.

ECLIPSE OF THE MOON.

On the morning of Thursday, October 27th, the moon totally eclipsed for a period of more than three hours; it was invisible at Toronto owing to the weather. Professor Henry M. Harman has furnished the Baltimore American with the following calculations of the beginning, duration, and ending of the eclipse in that vicinity:—

	Hours.	Min.	Mean Time.
First contact with penumbra.	11	38.6	Oct. 24
Do. do earth's shadow.	12	37.3	Oct. 25
Beginning of total eclipse.	1	38.3	Oct. 25
Middle of the eclipse.	2	22.7	Oct. 25
End of total eclipse.	3	7.0	Oct. 25
Last contact with earth's shadow.	4	8.0	Oct. 25
Do. do penumbra.	5	6.0	Oct. 25
Duration of total eclipse.	1	28.7	
Do. eclipse with earth's shadow.	3	30.7	
Do. of entire eclipse.	5	27.4	

Digits eclipsed 17,556 on the Northern limb of the moon. The centre of the earth's shadow will approach the centre of the moon within about three eighths of the diameter of the latter. The shadow will approach from the Northeast and pass over toward the Southwest. It will be impossible by observation to perceive the beginning of the contact with penumbra. At the time of the first contact with the earth's shadow the moon will be about thirty degrees from the zenith, about ten degrees South of the cluster of stars in the head of Aries.

The moon while totally eclipsed generally appears of a bright copper color, that part under the centre of the shadow having the appearance of tarnished copper. Several instances of the total disappearance of the moon's disc are on record. In 1601, according to Kepler, it entirely disappeared. In 1642, not a vestige of the moon could be seen, though a telescope, with different magnifying powers, was used for the purpose. Also, in 1816; in a total eclipse, it could not be seen from London, even with the aid of telescope.

The appearance of the moon depends greatly upon the condition of the atmosphere. Humbolt remarks that in 1801, when not far from Carthage de Indias he observed a total eclipse of the moon, and was extremely struck with the greater luminous intensity of the moon's disc under a tropical sky than in my native North. (Cosmos, vol. IV., page 483)