

REPORT.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the matters and things set forth in the Petition of THOMAS BARNETT, and to report how far the Museum of the Petitioner has contributed to promote the knowledge of Natural History in Canada and on the Continent of America, and how far the science would be advanced by enabling Mr. BARNETT to establish a system of exchange with foreign countries of specimens peculiar to Canada for those of other countries, beg leave to report as follows :—

Upon consultation together, it appears that all the members of your Committee have had occasion to go through and examine the Museum of the Petitioner. They have also availed themselves of the evidence of scientific and professional gentlemen, who recently, at the request of your Committee, visited it and minutely examined its contents.

The Niagara Falls Museum has been established about twenty-five years. It is an extensive and valuable collection, and must have required a very large expenditure of time, labor and money.

It contains about one hundred and fifty native Canadian birds, from the humming bird to the eagle.

One hundred and seventy-five mammals, comprising the different varieties, from the smallest mouse to the elk and moose, to be found between Eastern Canada and the Rocky Mountains.

Four hundred and ninety specimens of foreign birds, comprehending specimens of the richest plumage to be found on the globe.

Thirty-eight foreign mammals, among which there is a fine Barbary lion.

Thirty-eight specimens of fish, one of which, the green bass, is not to be found in any other collection. Large sums have been offered for it by other institutions.

There are forty-two specimens of reptiles.

In Entomology there is a fine collection, numbering over eight thousand specimens.

In Conchology there is a large collection of specimens, packed in boxes and but partially visible, but apparently the collection is extensive and very valuable.

There appears to be a large and rich collection of eggs, but, like the shells, they are packed in boxes and but partially visible. This is a new feature in Zoology. Mr. Couper says no Museum can be complete without such a collection.

There is a collection of ancient and modern coins, from the most remote periods, which Mr. Barnett represents to be the finest in America.

There are miscellaneous articles, such as Indian antiquities, specimens of art from other countries, &c.; also a fine collection and a great variety of Egyptian antiquities, amongst which are two mummies and the remains of others, which, combined with Chinese and Indian relics, are very numerous and interesting, and of great use to schools and students generally.