

your minds with the interest of the subject, as it relates to the Indian tribes. Mr. Kane was fortunate in having so able an expositor of his collection as Dr. Wilson; and I may add that Canada is fortunate in having an ethnologist so well fitted to lead in this department. Surely, some of our members might contribute something to this great subject. Specimens relating to it are not often laid before us. We received, however, last year, through the Bishop of Montreal, a curious ancient urn, which excited much interest. I have since been in correspondence with the gentleman who made known the discovery, and hope to obtain further information and specimens. On the return of his Lordship, who possesses the original notes on the subject, I trust this interesting relic will be figured and described in our Journal.

Plants afford as many local attractions as animals, but I shall occupy less time with the subject of Botany than with that of Zoology. A very large herbarium has been collected by the oldest living member of this Society, Professor Holmes; and as we now have it arranged by Professor Barnston, in the Cabinet of McGill College, it affords an invaluable means of reference to the student. Dr. Barnston is now engaged in preparing a catalogue of this and his own collections, which will, I trust, be published under the auspices of this Society; and it will then be for subsequent collectors to add to this already extensive list such species as may still remain undiscovered.

The Canadian Botanist should not, however, content himself with the mere determination of plants. I cannot doubt that much remains to be done in investigating the uses of native plants not now applied to practical purposes in the arts or in domestic life; and that as Canada becomes more populous, and agriculture less rude in its practice, the cultivation of many neglected plants fitted to contribute to minor practical uses, will be undertaken. Nor should our forests and the means for their preservation and restoration to such an extent as may be desirable for shelter and for the supply of wood, be neglected by scientific men. Rich gleanings, applicable to Canadian practice, may be made in this direction, from the expedients employed in European countries; and in a country in which one-third of the soil should probably remain in forest to supply the permanent demand for fuel and other uses, this subject is of great practical importance.

Another subject less practical, but profoundly interesting, is the geographical distribution of plants, so ably expounded by De Candolle, and on our side of the Atlantic by Professor Gray.