

Professor Lawson exhibited under the microscope several interesting *Algæ* from the pond in Queen's College grounds, including a beautiful dioecious species of *Spirogyra*, with perfect globose spores *in situ*, germinating spores, and also *Asteridia* of great size; *Chætophora elegans* in various states, the red-snow-like resting form of *Protococcus viridis*, &c.

The following papers were read, and will be printed in the Society's "Annals."

1. On the Geographical Distribution of the *Coniferæ* in Canada. By Hon. W. Sheppard, D. C. L., of Fairymead, Drummondville, L. C.

2. Description of the *Curculio*, its mode of destroying fruit, and the various means employed to check its progress. By Thomas Briggs, jun., Kingston.

3. Remarks on the species of Oak, their history, habits, and uses. By Miss Crooks-Hamilton, C. W.

4. On the Lichens of the neighbourhood of Prescott, C. W. By B. Billings, jun. With specimens.

Excursion—18th June, 1861.—The members visited the woods along the road between Kingston and Bath. The day being fine, many interesting specimens were collected. Ferns were numerous, among others *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *O. interrupta*, *Polypodium Dryopteris*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, &c. The swamps were gay with flowers: *Calla palustris*, *Arisæma triphyllum* (the Indian Turnip), *Orchis spectabilis*, *Corallorhiza innata* (the Coral-root), and numerous other terrestrial orchids, *Cypripedium pubescens*, also, but the last not in flower. Carices were plentiful. Near the Fairfield Farm several acres of dried up swamp were covered with a carpet of *Marchantia polymorpha*, abundantly furnished with stalked, spore-bearing, rayed, disks, as well as with the little shields in which the flask-shaped antheridia are contained; they were in a good state for showing under the microscope the remarkable movements, &c., of the phytozoa. Many other Cryptogamic plants were obtained, especially, among mosses, interesting fertile specimens of numerous species of *Mnium*, *Bryum*, *Hypnum*, *Funaria*, *Sphagnum*, &c. *Algæ* were in good condition, including species of *Spirulina*, *Confervæ*, and *Nostoc Mougeotia genuflexa*, *Vaucheria sessilis*, the elegant *Pandorina*, *Morum*, *Chætophora elegans*, *Tetraspora gelatinosa*, and numerous *Desmidiæ* and *Diatomacæ*. The party returned laden with spoils, a full account of which will be given in the Society's Annals. Not the least beautiful plant collected on the occasion was the *Linnaea borealis*, which was abundantly covered with blossoms on the edge of a wood,—That "little northern plant, long overlooked object, flowering early,"—which Linnaeus selected on the Swedish mountains to commemorate his own name in the annals of Science.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

[EXTRA TERM.]

(Reported for the Montreal Gazette.)

Present—The Hon. T. C. AYLWIN.

TUESDAY, 2nd July.

Cyndal Burns was next called to the dock charged with the murder of his child.

Mary Ann Burns, daughter of the prisoner, was sworn. Resided in Bolton for the last 3 or 4 years. There are nine children in the family. In the year 1859 was living in my father's house. About Christmas in that year I spent a few days in Mrs. Thompson's (a neighbour's) house. Was then in the family way. (This statement was made with the greatest reluctance by the witness, as was also that to the effect that the prisoner was the father of her child.) The child was born the night I came home from Mrs. Thompson's. There was snow upon the ground. When I was delivered, the child was taken away and placed at the foot of the bed, where it lay a couple of minutes. I heard it crying. My father came and took it with him. I told him to bring it back, and said, "If you are mean enough to make me have the child, I am willing to take care of it, if everybody does know it. He told us to shut up our G-d d heads or else he'd lick us. This was said after my mother had told him to bring it back lest he-