

natural history in the Dominion, whilst in England every town of any size has its "naturalists' club" and field days are a common thing. We hope the day is not far distant when each of our Canadian cities will have its naturalists' club. The Natural History Society of this city does a good work, but many of the subjects discussed at its meetings are beyond the comprehension of beginners in science. We think it would be a good thing if a society were formed that should bear to the Natural History Society of this city the relation that exists between a lacrosse club and its second twelve.

The 31st Convention of the Society of American Civil engineers was held in this city from June 15th to 18th inclusive. Men of note from all parts of the continent were present, and papers on important subjects were read and discussed. We hope to give a more extended account of the proceedings of the Convention in our next issue.

J. T. D.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

The 17th of May, 1881, will be a day long memorable in the annals of English literature, as that on which the Revised Version of the New Testament was at length put into the hands of the public. Yet to expect anything like the results that came from the original translation of 1611 is out of the question. The earlier version was, to a great extent, the cause of the English language taking and retaining a certain shape. The present version simply seeks to leave undisturbed the impression produced by the old. Those who have studied the comments of the leading papers, know to what an amount of hostile criticism the Revision has been submitted. The Revisers have been blamed by one authority for doing what is accounted them as a merit by another. In fact the Revision has suffered a fate similar to that of the picture exposed to the criticism of the market place. This treatment, however, was only to be expected, and it will be some time after the first excitement produced by its appearance is over, before anything like a consensus of opinion upon it will be arrived at. Meanwhile gratitude is due to the Revisers for their boldness in printing the New Testament in paragraphs like other books, and for distinguishing the poetical from the other elements of the work. The use of italics to mark words, required by English idioms though not separately expressed in the Greek, is perhaps a mistake. Much difference of opinion has been expressed as to the value of the Appendix containing the unadopted suggestions of the American Committee. The *Literary World* (Boston) believes that "there is no more acute, more scholarly, more exact criticism in the book than is to be found in this Appendix," and the *Athenæum* allows that "the general excellence of the suggestions of the American revisers is undoubted, and they ought not to have been so often neglected." On the other hand, the *Saturday Review* thinks that the Revisers "have shown excellent taste in rejecting many suggestions of the American Committee which would have tended to modernize, and therefore deform, the work