

met together on the 7th December, 1860, at Kingston, in particular the members of the faculty of Queen's College, deserve the cordial thanks of their scientific brethren both in the old world and in the new for having so heartily laid their hands to the work of freeing Canada from the reproach of indifference to the claims of botanical science. Besides the interest which we naturally feel as botanists merely in the birth of a new society, ready to go hand in hand with us in the accomplishment of our common great end, for us as Germans the investigation of Canadian botany possesses the peculiar interest that one of our own countrymen, the gifted Frederick Pursh, first conceived and strove to execute the very plan now proposed by the Botanical Society at Kingston. After Pursh had travelled through the (then) United States, and had written on his return a *Flora of North America*, he set out once more for the new world, this time turning his steps towards Canada. Limited as were the means at his command, he explored a considerable part of Eastern Canada, and had almost completed his very valuable collection when the fruits of so many months of weary toil fell a prey to the devouring flames. Other misfortune befell him, and on the 11th day of July, 1820, he died at Montreal, in the 40th year of his age, so poor that the charity of a few friends defrayed the expenses of his funeral. We may imagine his manes may have looked on with rejoicing when on the 7th December, 1860, forty years after his death, the exploration of Canada was undertaken once more, and the sequel promised to justify his most sanguine anticipations.

"The first meeting of the new Society was held in Queen's College at Kingston. Dr. Leitch presided, and in a genial speech set forth the object and the necessity of such an association. Universities, he thought, discharge only one half of their functions when they restrict themselves to merely communicating the existing sum of acquired knowledge. They should incite to, nay, should themselves institute, original investigations. Referring to the numerous attendance at this first meeting, he remarked the difference between the auspices under which this society was ushered into the world, and the circumstances attending the foundation of the great European learned societies, with what difficulty a handful of faithful disciples of science were brought together, and how from that handful, by dint of their steadfastness, were developed those institutions which are now the pride of the old world. After Dr. Leitch a somewhat longer address was delivered by Dr. Lawson, in whom we recognize an old acquaintance and former active member of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. The science of botany, he remarked, had been hitherto more neglected in Canada than in almost any other educated country. Up to the close of the 18th century but five botanical treatises had appeared throughout the length and breadth of the North American continent. Much improvement had since been made, but a *Flora of Canada* yet remained a *desideratum*. To collect materials for this end must be the chief function of this Society, and the report of the investigations in this Province will occupy a prominent position in the (to be) published '*Transactions*.' Dr. Litchfield, whose talent for organization was of much use in the formation of the Botanical Society of London, next occupied the attention of the meeting. He dwelt particularly on the necessity of a Botanical Garden—set forth the advantages which would accrue to Canada from its institution, and directed attention to the means already at their disposal. Dr. Leitch then passed in review what had been brought before the meeting, and after paying Dr. Lawson a well merited compliment, moved, seconded by Dr. Williamson, 'That this meeting resolve to form a Botanical Society.' This motion having been unanimously agreed to, Prof. Mowat read the proposed laws, which, on motion of Dr. Dupuis, seconded by Dr. Yates, were received, with the reservation of the right of the Council to make any desired alterations. This having also been agreed to, the Botanical Society of Canada was declared to be constituted, and it was agreed that all official communications should be addressed to Prof. Lawson, Kingston, Canada. Business over, the members repaired to a sort of *Conversazione* in the Laboratory, where were exhibited microscopic preparations, drawings and scientific works, among which the reporter of the *Daily News* observed Schnitzlein's Iconography,