

In the diary of his journey through Upper Canada and a portion of the Northern States, Mr. Goldie does not give us any distinctly scientific account of his observations on plants. The strictly botanical journal which Mr. Goldie kept during the journey described in this diary, was lost by fire. It contains, rather, general impressions of the aspect of the country through which he passed, the character of the people, soil, productions, coupled with observations on the weather, as the occurrence of storms, highest readings of the thermometer each day, general notes on the flora, &c. It is written in a quaint, simple style, characteristic of the man, and is of interest in comparing the country and some of its features eighty years ago with the present.

In the article published in the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*, after Mr. Goldie's return to Scotland, there is a description of over a dozen new plants, with notes on rare and ill-determined species. The conciseness of his descriptions and the acuteness with which he notices points of differences in plants, which seemed to have escaped the eyes of other botanists, places the stamp of originality and accuracy of judgment upon his work. The stately *Aspidium*,¹ named in honour of its discoverer, is a rare fern in this part of Canada. It was a great pleasure to present to Mr. Goldie's son, on his visit to St. John last summer, one of the two living specimens of this fern that I possessed.

John Goldie was born in the parish of Kirkoswald, Ayrshire, Scotland, on the 21st of March, 1793, and died at Ayr, Ontario, July, 1886, in the 94th year of his age. In early life he was a great lover of plants, and making collections and classifying these was his greatest pleasure. He served an apprenticeship as a gardener and afterwards entered the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, and there received a thorough scientific and practical training in botany. Later he graduated from the University of Glasgow, where he was distinguished for skill in language and science. In 1815, the English Government having to send an expedition to the west coast of Africa to explore the Congo River, Mr. Goldie applied for and obtained the position of botanist, conditional on his passing the required examination. Having satisfied the examiners he proceeded to join the expedition, but at the last moment was superseded through adverse political influence. The disappointment was most fortunate for him. The coast fevers of Africa were too much for the Europeans, and the expedition was forced to return to England shortly afterwards without its botanist, who had succumbed to the fever.

In the spring of 1817, by the advice of Dr. Hooker, afterwards Sir William Hooker, Mr. Goldie sailed for America accompanied by his brother-in-law, Robert Smith. By stress of weather the vessel was obliged to put into Halifax. Here he left the ship and spent several days in exploring the neighbourhood of the city and examining its flora. He

¹ *Aspidium Goldianum*, Hook.