

# NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OF

## NEW-BRUNSWICK.

### ANNUAL REPORT—1863.

THE Council of the Natural History Society in presenting their Second Annual Reports feel warranted in congratulating the members on the progress made during the year, in carrying out the objects for which the Society was formed. The details of this progress will be briefly brought before you under its various heads.

#### MEMBERS.

During the past year 7 life, 4 corresponding and 6 ordinary members—17 in all—have been added to the Roll; and in the same period six have withdrawn, and one died.

#### PAPEES.

Ten papers have been read since the last Annual Meeting, namely:—

Remarks on Certain Theories concerning the Origin of Species—Dr. Sinclair.

The early History of the Province—Mr. Justice Parker.

The Natural Causes of Variety and Complexion in the Human Species—Dr. Hamilton.

A letter on the practical theory of Natural History—Mr. C. F. Hartt.

Observations on the Geology of the County of St. John—Mr. Geo. Matthew.

Meteorology with summaries of observations made in St. John, between 1850 and 1852—Mr. G. Murdock.

General view of the Methods of Study of Natural History—Dr. Hamilton.

Reptiles of Acadia—Mr. C. F. Hartt.

Observations on Phrenology as a Science—Dr. Sinclair.

Ocean Drifts and Currents, and their effects upon Islands far removed from Continents—T. Matthew Jones, Esq., of Halifax.

Of the above a number have been published in our Journals and the Canadian "Naturalist," and have been highly spoken of.

Mr. Murdock's paper on Meteorology is in course of being published by the Board of Agriculture in an appendix to their Report, where it will undoubtedly prove highly useful.

#### MUSEUM.

The Council have much pleasure in calling attention to the numerous and interesting additions to the Society's Collection, and to the progress made in arranging and classifying its contents. The zealous Curator has been prevented by physical disability from taking any part in this work, and for the great improvement now observable, the Society is mainly indebted to Mr. C. F. Hartt, who during the summer and autumn devoted much time and labour to the museum. Among the valuable additions to various departments the Council cannot pass

without special notice the donation by Dr. Fiske of a nearly complete set of the Anatacæ found in the Province. Mr. Hartt also has contributed a valuable collection of New England Reptiles, Molluscæ, and Marine Invertebrates, which had been carefully compared by him with the specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass., and, being now correctly labelled, will be serviceable in determining many species existing in the Lower Provinces. The Society is also much indebted to Mr. Jolly who has mounted its collection of Insects and presented a large number in addition obtained near this city. The Brazilian birds given by Mr. Ketchum have been stuffed and mounted by Mr. A. C. Otty, a corresponding member, in a manner very creditable to his taste and skill. The Curator has been enabled to make a few exchanges by which some Silurian fossils from Tennessee, and some valuable minerals from the Western States have been added to the Cabinet. As the Society has a large number of duplicate specimens of both minerals and fossils, numerous and valuable additions to the museum might be obtained by exchange, if members would make known this fact to friends abroad interested in natural science. The Council cannot conclude this part of their report without congratulating the Society on the acquisition of Mr. Hartt's very interesting and valuable collection of Devonian Fossils, from the "Fern Ledges" of Lancaster, numbering over 8,000. Through the energy of the Committee which undertook to procure funds, and the liberality of our fellow citizens, this purchase, it is hoped will not deprive the Society of any part of the small income which is so much needed for its ordinary purposes. The Council are informed that there is still about \$100 wanting to complete the amount due Mr. Hartt, but they have no doubt that means will be contrived to raise that sum without drawing from the Society's ordinary funds.

The following summary of the contents of the museum will shew what has been accomplished altogether in this department, and the list of Donations appended to this Report the additions of the past year:—

Minerals and Fossils,	10,000
Marine Invertebrates and Shells,	2,000
Insect,	750
Bottles containing alcoholic specimens,	82
Birds, (native.)	30
(foreign,)	30
Plants,	500
Total,	13,312

Also a number of antiquities and curiosities, &c., and several rare vertebrates not included in the above.

With a view of increasing the museum by objects of Natural History from abroad the Council have had a circular to the ship owners and merchants of the Province prepared, urging them to assist the Society in this object, and giving full particulars of the best means of preserving such specimens as they may be able to secure.

#### LIBRARY.

The following additions have been made to the Library in volumes and pamphlets, viz. :—

	Presented.	Purchased.	Total.
Zoology	21	4	25
Botany	9	3	12
Geology and } Mineralogy }	4	7	11
General Science	21	11	32
Miscellaneous	16	"	16
Total,			96

Among these are several valuable donations. The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, with great liberality has presented 9 volumes treating of sea weeds, insects and shells, and meteorology. To Professor Stimpson we are indebted for a number of Brochures of which he is the author, and to the Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture for a large number of the 2d report on the Natural History and Geology of Maine. The Natural History Society of Montreal continues to send its publications, this year in duplicate, and the Librarian has also received all the numbers of a new magazine published at Toronto, entitled "The British American" from the publisher.

#### FINANCES.

The following extract from the Treasurer's Report will exhibit the financial condition of the Society :—

DR.		
To balance from last account		\$22.19
" Member's subscription		198.88
" Received from Mr. Matthew (discount on books.)		1.77
		<u>\$222.84</u>
CR.		
By pall for Books,		\$55.10
" Cases and Furniture for Museum,		26.5
" " " mounting Birds		30.00
" " " Stationary		32.74
" " " Pent of room		28.00
" " " Advertising		3.60
" " " Material for Museum		11.00
" " " Express charges		1.63
" " " Dr. Hamilton (subscription overpaid)		3.00
" " " Balance on hand		31.27
		<u>\$222.84</u>

Against this balance there is quite a large amount due for Books, Cases, &c., by which the income of the ensuing year is partly anticipated, so that the utmost prudence will be necessary to preserve the Society from debt, an object which the Council deem of vital importance to its prosperity; at the same time they have so constantly been made to feel the great inadequacy of the means hitherto at their disposal, properly to carry out the objects of the association, that they have been induced to make an application to the Government praying a small grant to enable the Society to extend and make more evident its usefulness. It is earnestly hoped that a Province which already devotes so large a portion of its revenues to educational purposes will not refuse a grant to an association, which, if it could fully carry out its objects, must prove of inestimable value both to the character of the Province abroad and to those pursuing scientific studies at home. Even in this early stage the museum affords great facilities for studying the geology and mineralogy of Acadia, and if it can be duly increased and arranged, will be of incalculable advantage in any future survey of this Province, which may and probably will be found requisite. In reference to this subject the Council would remark that in the adjoining Republic and Provinces, large grants are annually made for similar objects; as for instance, in Canada, the last report of the Natural History Society of Montreal acknowledges a vote of \$1000 a year to that institution alone.

In conclusion the Council cannot but observe that the Society does not number among its members a great many individuals of the community whose wealth, talents and influence would, and as the Council think, ought to contribute largely to the success of such an association; which if it were only with a view to elevate the pursuits and refine the taste of our own youths, is surely entitled to every encouragement; want of time by some, and absence of scientific attainments by others, are pleaded as reasons for withholding their support, but if these pleas are good they might be urged by very many of the existing members to the same end. In fact there are few who cannot in some way, either by pecuniary aid, literary contributions, communication with friends abroad by letter, or in travel, or by mere personal influence and countenance, promote the welfare of the Society, and the praiseworthy object which it pursues.

The Council yield to the Society the offices and trust reposed in them for the year now closed, with the fervent hope that the coming one may add to the Society's members and means at least an hundred fold.

Respectfully submitted,

**R. PENISTON STARR,**

Secretary to Council.

## DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM IN 1863.

### JANUARY—1863.

R. Hutchinson, Esq., Miramichi—Pyritious concretion from Sandstone—Point Miscou, Gloucester County, N. B.

C. M. Gove, Esq., St. Andrews—Dendrite on altered slate—St. Andrews, N. B.

### FEBRUARY.

Miss Robinson, Port Stewart—A set of Irish Marine Algae, Port Stewart, Ireland—collected by the donor.

G. F. Mathew—Mollusca of the Eocene period, Museum of Academy Natural Science, Philadelphia—Southern States.

Charles M'Lean, Lepreaux—Piece of lower jawbone of whale—Lepreaux.

Col. Charles Drury—Russian Coin.

R. Brittain—Fossil shells in shale, Mickley Colliery, England—Coral Limestone, Three Specimens Iron Ore—Felwell, England.

C. K. Fiske, M. D.—Native Aquatic Birds, (24) Collected by A. C. Otty.

H. C. Preston, M. D.—*Limulus Polyphemus*—West Indies.

### MARCH.

C. R. Matthew, et coll.—Ripple Marked Sandstone, Lower Carboniferous Bed—Norton, K. C.

J. N. Moore, et coll.—*Lacerta Agilis*, Land Lizard—Oil Works, Lancaster, St. John.

A. R. Ferguson—Piece of Iron, (Meteoritic)—Bathurst. Upper Silurian Fossils—Dalhousie.

### JULY.

Geo. Matthew, Esq., et coll.—Waterscoop from an old Indian Camping Ground—Harris' Cove, Hampton, K. C.

### AUGUST.

G. F. Matthew—Mammals, Reptiles, Fishes and Insects, collected by donor—Harris' Cove, Hampton, K. C.

### NOVEMBER.

S. S. Littlehale—Copper Ore, Union Mine, Collected by James Littlehale—Copperopolis, San Joaquin Co., Ca.

G. C. Carman, et coll.—Snake—Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

J. Howe, Esq.—Flying Squirrel.

Edward Allison, Esq.—Head Dress, Calabash and Castinet—Demerara, South America.

O. G. Harbell—Salamander, Fish and Frog, Lily Lake; Brook Trout and Young Salmon Trout, Loch Lomond, 2nd Lake; Perch, Terren Lake.

C. R. Matthew—P. aster Stands for Minerals.

Mrs. Whipple—Shells, (200 specimens,) Bottle Alcoholic Specimens, Jaw of Shark. Collected by Capt. Whipple—Lisbon.

H. DuVernet, et coll.—Snake and Salamander. Gagetown, N. B.

C. F. Hartt—80 species Marine Insects, collected by A. S. Packard, Me. Insects do. donor, Native and Foreign; Pipefish, Ch na. Set of New England Shells and Marine invertebrates, named and arranged; collected by donor, et al. Maine and Massachusetts. Set of New England Batrachians, named and arranged; collected by

donor—Cambridge, Mass. Seven specimens of New England Turtles, of three species, named and arranged; collected by donor—Cambridge, Mass. Reptiles, Insects and Shells; collected by donor—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

J. W. Hartt, and —. Seaman—Fossil Tree Sigillariae with stigmara roots. Collected by donor—South Joggins, N. S.

E. C. Jolly—200 Insects. Collected by donor—New Brunswick.

R. P. Starr—Several butterfly, moths, etc. In part collected by a lady at Sussex Vale—New Brunswick.

Chipman Skinner—11 specimens Reptiles, 6 specimens Insects. Collected by donor—Nova Scotia.

R. Brittain—5 specimens Fossils, 2 do. Concretions, 2 do Minerals. Collected by donor—Lesmahago and Limerick. Gas Carbon, Gas Works Collected by donor—St. John

Rev. Wm. Elder—Galena and Barytes—Fry's Island.

P. A. Scott, R. N.—Fishes. Collected by donor—Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia.

### DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

From the Author.—The Naturalist in Bermuda, J. M. Jones, Esq.

C. F. Matthew—Petrefaectenbunch of Dr. F. A. Schmidt.

R. Jardine, Esq.—Third Report of Board of Agriculture.

Smithsonian Institute—Smithsonian Report of 1860 and 1861; *Nereis boreali americana*, Part 1, 2 and 3; Synopsis of North American Lepidoptera, Part 1; Synopsis of North American Coleoptera, Part 1; Synopsis of North American Neuroptera, Part 1; Monograph North American Diptera, Part 1; Cheilist of North American Shells; Lectures on Mollusca; Catalogue of Publications; Eulogies on Felton, and Hon. S. A. Douglas.

From the Author, W. Srimpsom—Shells of New England; Crustacea and Echinodermata of Pacific Shores of North America; Notes on North American Crustacea, in Museum of Smithsonian Institute.

Papers published by Boston Natural History Society, American Journal of Science, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

Reptiles of North Pacific exploring Expedition; Prodomus descriptionis anamallium evertbratorum, &c.

Dr. Dawson—Flora of the Devonian Period in North Eastern America.

Natural History Society of Montreal—Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, one year to October, 1863—the last 5 numbers in duplicate.

Holl Adam, Toronto, C. W.—The British American, Nos 1 to 9.

Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture 25 Copies 2nd Annual Report on the Natural History and Geology of Maine.

L. B. Botsford, M. D.—Antiquity of Man, Sir C. Lyneil.