

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science.

VOL. IV. PART II.

Provincial Museum, Oct. 13, 1875.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

J. B. GILPIN, B. A., M. D., M. R. C. S., in the Chair.

Inter alia.

The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

President—J. B. GILPIN, B. A., M. D., M. R. C. S.

Vice-Presidents—WILLIAM GOSSIP; F. ALLISON, M. A.

Treasurer—W. C. SILVER.

Secretaries—Rev. D. HONEYMAN, D. C. L., F. G. S., and JOHN T. MELLISH, M. A.

Council—A. P. REID, M. D., J. SOMERS, M. D., A. DEWAR, ROBERT MORROW, J. M. DEWOLFE, M. D., M. R. C. S., Sheriff BELL, Prof. LAWSON, AUG. ALLISON.

ORDINARY MEETING, Nov. 13, 1875.

WILLIAM GOSSIP, Esq., *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

Dr. GILPIN, the President, read a highly interesting and instructive paper "On the Serpents of Nova Scotia."

A number of gentlemen expressed their satisfaction with the treatment of the subject, and several adduced evidence confirmatory of the view that serpents swallow their young on the approach of danger. (*Printed in Transactions 1874-5.*)

ORDINARY MEETING, Dec. 13, 1875.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair.*

It was announced that the Council had elected Lieut. HOPE EDWARDS, 60th Rifles, and Mr. LEWIS P. FAIRBANKS, members of the Institute; and Mr. WILLIAM MCKENZIE an associate member.

Rev. DR. HONEYMAN read a paper "On the Geology of Nova Scotia."

Halifax County—Glacial Period” This paper embodied the results of much painstaking original work. (*See Transactions.*)

Mr. GOSSIP gave some very interesting facts in reference to the transportation of drift by glacial or other action.

Dr. GILPIN exhibited a number of stone arrowheads, found near Lunenburg, and presented to the Institute by the Rev. J. Forrest. The Rev. gentleman who was present described to the Institute the nature of the locality in which he had found them.

ORDINARY MEETING, January 10, 1876.

WILLIAM GOSSIP, Esq., *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

Dr. J. SOMERS read a paper on “*Correspondence between the Floras of Nova Scotia and Arkansas.*” Several gentlemen made inquiries respecting the subjects treated in the lecture, which Dr. Somers readily and satisfactorily answered. (*See Transactions.*)

Dr. A. P. REID also read a paper “*On Natural History in relation to Deep Sea Fishes.*” (*See Transactions.*)

Mr. GOSSIP, Dr. REID, Mr. L. G. POWER, Mr. MELLISH and others, spoke on the subject, and gave facts showing that the cod and others fishes were formerly found in our waters in greater abundance than they are at the present time. It was strongly urged that the study of the habits of our deep sea fishes could be made a specialty with great profit to the country at large, as well as to the student.

ORDINARY MEETING, February 14, 1876!

WILLIAM GOSSIP, Esq., *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

It was announced that Mr. GEO. MATTHEWS of New Brunswick, was elected a corresponding member of the Institute.

A paper was read by EDWIN GILPIN, M. A., F. G. S., “*On Ores and Minerals from East River,*” Pictou, intended for the Centennial Exhibition. (*See Transactions.*)

A paper was also read by Mr. ANDREW DEWAR, “*On [the Atomic Philosophy—its past and present.*”

ORDINARY MEETING, March 13, 1876.

WILLIAM GOSSIP, Esq., *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

The SECRETARY announced that J. T. FRASER and ROBERT S. SKIMMINGS, had been elected members of the Institute; and that the Rev. G. PATTERSON, D. D., of Pictou; J. B. CALKIN, M. A., Principal of Normal School, Truro; and JAMES J. KERR, had been elected associate members.

The Rev. Dr. HONEYMAN continued his subject “*On the Geology of Halifax County, Glacial Period.*” (*See Transactions.*)

Mr. GOSSIP mentioned several cases of granite boulders having been found near the city, which could not have been placed in these positions except by icebergs or some similar agency.

Dr. REID, Mr. A. JAMES, Mr. DEWAR, Mr. POOLE, Mr. MELLISH and Mr. SILVER, also made remarks on the subject.

Mr. ROBERT MORROW read a short paper on the *Caribou*, and referred especially to the peculiarity of its liver and the absence of any gall-bladder.

ORDINARY MEETING, April 10, 1876.

DR. GILPIN, *President, in the Chair.*

The SECRETARY read a letter from the REV. E. H. BALL, stating that he (Mr. B.) would be unable to read his paper as announced, on account of indisposition, but that he would willingly propose to read it on the 24th inst., if able, to which the Institute unanimously agreed.

Professor LAWSON read a lengthy paper "*On the Flora of Nova Scotia.*" (See *Transactions.*) The subject was beautifully illustrated by specimens of dried plants.

APRIL 24, 1876.

WILLIAM GOSSIP, Esq., *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

The Rev. E. A. BALL read an interesting paper "*On new Species of Nova Scotia Ferns,*" illustrating his subject with numerous specimens. (See *Transactions.*) Mr. Ball's paper embodied the results of much original research.

Prof. LAWSON spoke at some length on the subject of the lecture.

ORDINARY MEETING, May 8, 1876.

J. B. GILPIN, M. D., &c., *President, in the Chair.*

The SECRETARY stated that the *Transactions* of a number of Natural Science Societies in Europe and America had lately come to hand, and that our *Transactions* were in great demand from abroad.

FREDERICK ALLISON, M.A., Chief Meteorological Agent, read his Meteorological Report for 1875. He made special reference to the semi-daily fluctuation of the barometer. (See *Transactions.*)

JOHN T. MELLISH, M. A., read "*Notes on the Serpents of Prince Edward Island.*" Besides classifying and noting the peculiarities of the Island serpents, Mr. MELLISH pointed out the geological conditions necessary to produce the existing differences between the fauna of the Island and the continent. (See *Transactions.*)

Remarks were made by Dr. GILPIN, Lieut. HOPE EDWARDS and others, on the subjects of the papers.

In closing the Meetings for the season the PRESIDENT made appropriate reference to the progress of the Institute, and suggested that if possible some Field Meetings be held in the course of the summer.

[At a subsequent meeting of the Council the Hon. Mr. GREVILLE, 60th Rifles, and Messrs. C. C. VAUX and WILLIAM HAMPTON, were elected members of the Institute.]

JOHN T. MELLISH,
Secretary.