

## FIELD DAY.—INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

THE Institute of Natural Science, pursuant to notice to its members, had an interesting Field Day, on Thursday, the 24th, August.

It happened on this occasion that pressing avocations on the part of some, and absence from Halifax on the part of others, prevented a general attendance; but fourteen gentlemen assembled, making a fair representation of the Sections which compose the Institute. They left for Grand Lake by the 8 a. m. train, and commenced explorations on their arrival at the Wellington Station. These were chiefly Geological, led by the Rev. Dr. Honeyman, the Honorary Secretary of the Institute. Several places were visited, where the smooth surfaces of the Lower Silurian, or even Lower Rocks, were exposed, and the glacial striation very plainly marked, the direction of which was S. 30°. W. by compass, with some slight variation caused probably by erratic movement of the abrading glacier, by which the country at one time must have been entirely covered. This course differs somewhat from the more plainly marked striæ of Point Pleasant, close to Halifax, where with slighter variation, it is about S 30°. E. The Lower Silurian is here, (coasting the Grand Lake,) entirely metamorphosed clay slate, penetrated by small bands or veins of quartz. It is the Gold district. Onward, on the opposite side of the road, at a short distance, is the remarkable phenomenon of a *knoll* of carboniferous conglomerate, the remains possibly, of a carboniferous beach, lying on the upturned edges of the older strata, the intervening formations being all absent; but this being left, shows the changes our solid earth must have undergone during the past, almost unlimited, period of its eventful history. Other places were visited of Geological interest. Indications of travelled drift were frequent—syenite, greenstone, porphyries, and further onward, amygdaloid and other trap,—all serving to illustrate the conclusion of Dr. Honeyman, of their passage in one direction from the Cobequid range, in another from the region of Blomidou, and the Trap District of the Bay of Fundy.

Dr. Sommers, of the Botanical Section of the Institute, made an interesting collection of plants for his herbarium, assisted by other members of the Institute.

The Zoological Section had very little to do in the way of observation or collection, so far as wild nature was concerned. Some beautiful butterflies disported in the summer sunshine. The snakes, frogs and toads made themselves very scarce on this occasion.

In this way the time passed, until near 1 p. m., the party arrived at Oakfield, the extensive estate of Colonel Laurie, where they were met by the hospitable proprietor, and conducted to the top of his mansion, to view a splendid panorama of the surrounding country, embracing the

Grand Lake and other waters, in a ring of deciduous forest, forty or fifty miles in circumference. The estate is admirable for situation—apparently a peninsula bordered by the Grand Lake, and with the improvements that have been made, presenting a landscape eminently English in its aspect of green fields and cultivation—a worthy example to the Province at large. Col. Laurie's herd of domestic cattle, chiefly pure Devons, were a pleasing sight to all present. They are just admirable, and Nova Scotia will greatly benefit by their introduction. They ought to be, and are probably, well known to our Agricultural Associations, and to farmers and graziers throughout the country. It is a well recognized fact, that the Devon breed, of which Col. Laurie has so largely availed himself, is unsurpassed both for beef and the dairy, by any other description of horned cattle.

We shall not attempt to do justice to the generous hospitality with which Col. Laurie and his excellent lady welcomed the Institute. Suffice it that all were highly gratified. At length, in accordance with precedent, after the thanks of the Institute were accorded, through its representatives present, to Col. Laurie and Mrs. Laurie, for the attention so graciously bestowed, such of the members as had treasured observations on the route were called upon to give them utterance; when Dr. Honeyman produced a geological map of Nova Scotia, and showed therefrom very conclusively, by the evidence of stubborn facts, that during the glacial period there must have been an ice movement in the direction of the Atlantic coast, from the Cobequids on the one hand, and the Trap district on the Bay of Fundy on the other, each perceptibly traced, and to which were owing the travelled boulders, drift material and clay, now settled along the shores of Halifax Harbor, and the southern coast, etc.—probably the estate on which they stood owed its formation to such deposits. Several other members also made observations on matters with which they were conversant, and the guests arose.

After a further ramble through a shady avenue of trees to the beach of the Grand Lake, where a beautiful view was afforded of the entrance to the Shubenacadie, leave was taken of the generous host and hostess, and the Institute returned to town by the 7, p. m. train, well pleased with the day's excursion, the beautiful weather being an additional charm.

W. G.