

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science.

VOL. V. PART 2.

Dalhousie College, Oct. 8, 1879.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

WILLIAM GOSSIP, ESQ., *President, in the Chair.*

*Inter alia.*

The following Gentlemen were elected Office-bearers and Council for the ensuing year:—

*President*—WILLIAM GOSSIP.

*Vice-Presidents*—Prof. JOHN SOMMERS, M. D., Prof. GEORGE LAWSON, PH.D., LL.D.

*Treasurer*—W. C. SILVER.

*Secretaries*—REV. DR. HONEYMAN, and JOHN T. MELLISH.

*Council*—DR. GILPIN, HON. L. G. POWER, J. M. JONES, ROBERT MORROW, ANDREW DEWAR, AUGUSTUS ALLISON, ALEX. MCKAY, W. S. STIRLING.

On motion the PRESIDENT was requested to deliver an Address at the next meeting of the Institute.

ORDINARY MEETING, Dalhousie College, Nov. 10, 1879.

THE PRESIDENT *in the Chair.*

A larger, than usual, number of persons were present. Among them were His Honor the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, MISS ARCHIBALD, and COL. STEWART, aidecamp.

The PRESIDENT delivered a lengthy and interesting Address, which will be found in the *Transactions*.

Mr. MORROW drew attention to an error in the published *Transactions* of 1878-1879. Appendix, page 94, Mr. JONES states that Mr. R. MORROW informs him that "Scomberesox Storeri"—bill fish—is seen on the coast of Cape Breton during the month of August. Mr. MORROW stated that he had seen them in Pictou Harbor.

DR. HONEYMAN, the *Secretary*, gave a popular and interesting description of the Geology of Annapolis County, especially that of the Moose River Iron

Deposits. This was the substance of a paper which will also be found in the *Transactions*.

His Honor the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR then made some complimentary observations on the Addresses delivered, and referred to the valuable work of the Institute, as illustrated by its Volumes of Proceedings and Transactions published. By means of its publications the Institute has been instrumental in disseminating reliable information on the Natural History of Nova Scotia in all its branches. He had just been enabled to meet the demands of Kew Gardens for information regarding the Botany of the Province, by the gift of a series of Papers published in the *Transactions*.

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ORDINARY MEETING, Dalhousie College, Dec. 8, 1879.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair*.

*Inter alia.*

DR. J. BERNARD GILPIN made some observations on specimens of supposed rude pottery found in and around Grand Lake. The specimens belong to the Provincial Museum. Their forms are so singular as to occasion a diversity of opinion regarding their character and origin. Dr. HONEYMAN, who furnished the specimens, has no doubt whatever that they were made by man, and that they are prehistoric remains. Some of them are of regular and rather elegant shape. The basis on which they have been formed are stones—quartzite or argillite. The other material seems to have been constructed by successive layers of clay (?) so that the interior of the articles have a concentric appearance—the outside is somewhat smooth. They are somewhat firm when wet, when dry they are very fragile. When the Lake has the water at the usual height they are said to be seen lying at a depth of six feet or more. Some consider them to be concretionary, or natural forms. The stony nucleus or basis is always exposed; when the form is saucer shaped it constitutes the bottom. Their mode of occurrence and other matters will be fully investigated in the next dry and favorable season.

DR. GILPIN also exhibited a drawing of an unknown mammal. It was supposed to be an *albino* dormouse. It was found at Annapolis last summer.

DR. LAWSON gave an interesting account of his investigation of a very thick deposit of diatomaceous clay found in the Lakes of Halifax Water Works. He illustrated the character of diatom structure and mode of growth on the blackboard, and by the microscope.

He also exhibited specimens of Cotton, Rice, and Palmetto which had been brought lately from the Southern States by MR. ANDREW JACK.

It was announced that Prof. DEMILLE and W. H. NEAL had been elected members.

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ORDINARY MEETING, Dalhousie College, Jan. 26, 1880.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair*.

*Inter alia.*

DR. GILPIN exhibited the Cub of a Bear, which was regarded as of peculiar interest. An account of it will be found in the *Transactions*.

Prof. LAWSON was then called on by the President to read his Paper "On Native Species of Viola of Nova Scotia."

The Paper was lengthy and interesting. It was well illustrated by means of the blackboard, and numerous dried specimens of the Viola. A conversation followed the reading of the Paper.

DR. SOMMERS also gave the substance of a Paper "On Nova Scotian Fungi." This Paper was illustrated by dried specimens.

A discussion followed.

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ORDINARY MEETING, Dalhousie College, Feb. 9, 1880.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair*.

*Inter alia.*

The PRESIDENT alluded to the death of Prof. DEMILLE, who had recently been elected a member of the Institute. He said :—

"I deem it a duty, melancholy though it be, to announce to you that by the recent decease of PROF. DEMILLE, after a short illness, the Institute has been deprived of another of its members, one of whom it may be truly said, that his loss will be deeply felt, not only by the Institutions of learning and Science with which he was connected, but generally by the community in which he lived. It is but little to say of Prof. DEMILLE that wherever he was known he was esteemed and respected. As an author he ranked high, and his works are very popular in the neighboring Republic, where perhaps they are better known than amongst ourselves—his Rhetoric has become a text book in several universities. Although PROF. DEMILLE's more intimate connection with our Institute had been somewhat recent, I have good reason for believing that he took much interest in its proceedings, and that he attended its meetings as often as his more pressing avocations permitted; and had he been spared I have no doubt whatever that his talents would have been freely exerted in its service. As it is there is only left to us to acknowledge, with humility, an afflictive dispensation which might not be averted by human wisdom; and to add to the general expression our sympathy with his family in their bereavement."

It was resolved that this tribute to the memory of the deceased be inserted in the Records of the Institute.

DR. SOMMERS gave a minute and interesting account of the Anatomy of a Seal from the Magdalen Islands.

DR. HONEYMAN then read some remarks on the Geology of the Magdalen Islands, suggested by specimens of Rocks and Minerals presented to the Provincial Museum.

Mr. FOX, who had resided on those Islands for twenty years as Collector of Customs, gave interesting information relating to the inhabitants and products.

ORDINARY MEETING, Provincial Museum, March 15, 1880.

ROBERT MORROW, Esq., *in the Chair*.

*Inter alia.*

Specimens of the Corals, *primnoa reseda*, and *Paragorgea Arborea* were exhibited from the Museum collections. These had been found by fishermen in the Halibut fishery at Little Banquereau, north of Sable Island. They were regarded with peculiar interest as being Nova Scotian products.

DR. GILPIN then read a long and interesting Paper, "On the Wild Ducks of Nova Scotia."

The Paper was illustrated by the extensive and beautiful collection of Wild Ducks in the Museum.

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ORDINARY MEETING, Dalhousie College, April 19, 1880.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair*.

DR. SOMMERS read some remarks "On a new Nova Scotia Trillium."

The specimen was found by Miss Godfrey, of Clementsport, Annapolis County, near the Victoria Bridge, Bear River.

MR. MORROW then read the first part of an interesting Paper "On the Osteology of *Salmo Salar*."

The Paper was illustrated by carefully prepared skeletons.

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ORDINARY MEETING, Dalhousie College, May 10, 1880.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair*.

*Inter alia.*

DR. JAMES WALKER was elected an Associate member.

MR. MORROW read the second part of his Paper "On the Osteology of the *Salmo Salar*."

DR. HONEYMAN then read a Paper entitled "Notes on a new Geological Progress Map of Pictou County."

Adjourned until October next.