

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science.

VOL. II. PART IV.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

IN accordance with the By-Laws of this Institute, the Anniversary Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 13, 1869, at 8 p. m., when the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year :

President—J. MATTHEW JONES, F. L. S.

Vice-Presidents—J. BERNARD GILPIN, M. D., DR. LAWSON.

Treasurer—W. C. SILVER.

Hon. Secretary—W. GOSSIP.

Council—DR. DEWOLFE, F. ALLISON, T. F. KNIGHT, J. RUTHERFORD, R. G. HALL-BURTON, JOHN BELL, P. S. HAMILTON, A. DOWNS.

ORDINARY MEETING, NOVEMBER 8, 1869.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

DR. J. B. GILPIN read a paper “*On the Mammalia of Nova Scotia,*” which included the Wood Chuck (*Arctomys monax*), Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*), Jumping Mouse (*Jaculus Hudsonius*), Black Rat (*Mus rattus*), White-footed Mouse (*Hesperomys leucopus*), Hamster (*H. myoides*), Gapper’s Mouse (*Arvicola Gapperi*), Field Vole (*A. riparia*). (See *Transactions*.)

The paper was effectually illustrated by life-like drawings of each species.

In the discussion which ensued it was stated that, some few years ago, in a particular District of Prince Edward Island, there appeared a vast army of Field mice, which literally swarmed in every part of that locality, causing great alarm among the inhabitants. In such a grain growing island of small size, a visitation of these animals might be looked upon as a calamity, for the amount of food consumed and damaged by them would be very large.

A curious anecdote illustrative of the habits of the common rat (*Mus decumanus*), was thus narrated by a member. M. Challoner, Chemist, at St. John, N. B., had a glass globe containing specimens of brook trout in his window, and one morning on entering his shop perceived that three or four of them had disappeared. On searching around he observed the tracks made by the depredators in carrying off the fish. Rats had been the offenders, and they had exhibited instinctive powers akin to reason, for, to the other end of the shop, where, on a lower shelf, had been placed an unprotected jar of syrup, the tracks were traced, and ample evidence in the shape of broken fish

remains, thoroughly convinced the proprietor that the rats had dipped the fish into the saccharine mass, before eating, by way of a relish.

MR. R. S. HALIBURTON, F. S. A., read a paper "*On the Traditions of Nations.*" (See *Transactions.*)

ORDINARY MEETING, DECEMBER 13, 1869.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

The PRESIDENT brought to the notice of the Meeting the very acceptable present of the first four volumes of Agassiz's "*Contributions to the Natural History of the United States,*" the gift of P. C. Hill, Esq., a member of the Institute, and also a collection of heads, horns, &c., of Indian mammals, presented by Lieut.-Col. L'Estrange, R. A., which included a fine pair of Ibex antlers, and a head of the Indian Crocodile.

PROFESSOR LAWSON read a paper "*On the Ranunculaceæ of the Canadian Dominion.*" (See *Transactions.*)

The PRESIDENT read a paper "*On the Laridæ of the Nova Scotian Coast.*" (See *Transactions.*)

Lieut. C. B. MYERS, Bombay Staff Corps, who was present as a visitor, exhibited a fine skin of the Abyssinian Monkey, recently obtained in that country, (*Colobus Guereza.*)

ORDINARY MEETING, JANUARY 10, 1870.

J. B. GILPIN, *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

MR. H. Y. HIND read a paper "*On the Laurentian Rocks.*" (See *Transactions.*)

PROFESSOR LAWSON read a paper "*On the Laminariaceæ,*" descriptive of species occurring in different localities of the coasts of British North America. (See *Transactions.*)

ORDINARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 14, 1870.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

REV. J. AMBROSE read a paper "*On the effect of Atmospheric changes upon Animals.*" (See *Transactions.*)

Several members adduced additional facts confirming the author's views in regard to the subject.

A paper by MR. A. S. FOORD "*On Agates,*" was read by DR. HONEYMAN, F. G. S., embracing the several varieties found in the Bay of Fundy Trap formation. Several coloured drawings illustrated the paper. (See *Transactions.*)

ORDINARY MEETING, MARCH 14, 1870.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

DR. HONEYMAN, F. G. S., read a paper, "*Notes on Iron Deposits on East River, Pictou, N. S.*" (See *Transactions.*)

A paper by MR. HENRY POOLE, "*On Meteorology of the Caledonia Coal Mines, Glace Bay, Cape Breton,*" was read by MR. FREDERICK ALLISON. (See *Transactions.*)

Mr. J. ROUE exhibited a very fine specimen of the Short-eared Owl (*Strix brachyotus.*) It was taken at Devil's Island, at the mouth of Halifax harbour, in a very exhausted condition.

The PRESIDENT called attention to some examples of water-worn stones, lying on the table, which he had obtained on the shingle beach at Point Pleasant. He remarked their likeness to certain stone implements used by the Indian tribes of olden times, now obtained in the Kjoekkenmoedding of the coast, and expressed his belief that it was the custom of the Indians to search for such stones, and with little labour transform them into axes, hammers, &c., which, if a correct idea, would set aside the impression that the old Indians were a very persevering race in regard to the manufacture of such implements, supposed to be the result of months of laborious handiwork.

ORDINARY MEETING, APRIL 11, 1870.

J. M. JONES, *President, in the Chair.*

J. BERNARD GILPIN, M. D., read a paper "*On the Musquash (Fiber zibethicus.)*" (*See Transactions*) which was illustrated by several excellent coloured drawings of the animal, its lake dwelling, &c.

MR. AUGUSTUS ALLISON related an anecdote concerning the Muskrat. He was out with an Indian in the forest, when they came suddenly on the shore of a lake where two rats were running about near the water's edge. Halting immediately, the Indian made a peculiar noise with his lips which brought the animals up to the place where they were concealed, so well had the Indian hunter imitated their natural call.

The PRESIDENT read a paper entitled "*Notes on the Marine Zoology of Nova Scotia.*" (*See Transactions.*)

MR. AUGUSTUS ALLISON offered some remarks in regard to one species mentioned in the above paper. It was the *Limnoria terebrans*. It was its habit to bore more particularly into that part of the wooden wharf-piles which was at half-tide mark, and, in consequence, that portion of the piles, after the drift ice had been rubbing against it through the winter season, became fretted away, and the pile presented the shape of an hour glass.

ORDINARY MEETING, MAY 9, 1870.

DR. J. B. GILPIN, *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

MR. FREDERICK ALLISON read a paper entitled "*Meteorological Observations at Halifax, Nova Scotia.*" (*See Transactions.*)

DR. GILPIN read a paper "*On the Porcupine,*" (*Hystrix dorsata.*) (*See Transactions.*)

Dr. A. C. COGSWELL presented, on behalf of PROFESSOR MCQUILLEN, of the Philadelphia Dental College, several mounted specimens of *Trichina spiralis*.