

little distance from the mansion. Mr. Parish the photographer was on the ground, and attempted a sketch of the scene, but owing to the broken light among the trees, was but partially successful. A pleasant hour quickly passed, after which a visit was paid to the PRESIDENT'S private museum, which is contained in a building erected for that purpose.

The collection of specimens gathered together in this building is varied and interesting, comprising many rare and curious forms in every branch of zoology, brought at much trouble and expense from various parts of the globe, and exhibited either in the drawers of cabinets, or in table cases which extends down the centre of the room. The foreign entomological collection, principally from the East Indies and South America; the conchological collection containing some rare land shells from New Guinea, Arroo and other Pacific islands; and especially the beautiful specimens of corals from the Bermudas—attracted the notice of the members. But perhaps the most interesting portion of the whole lay in the series of madrepore and asteroid corals, illustrating the growth of the Bermuda reefs, which is considered by Mr. Jones to be far more rapid than is generally supposed. Coal, glass bottles, recent shells, containing their inhabitants; roots of trees, &c., were here to be seen coated with a vigorous growth of coral, affording facts sufficient to prove beyond a doubt that some polyps are able to secrete their calcareous forms very rapidly in the Bermuda waters, in comparison with similar or allied species in other parts of the world, which according to some naturalists are *supposed* to take thousands of years to form a few feet of calcareous matter. The collection of Nova Scotian reptiles was also worthy of notice, as it possessed nearly every species known to the country, and in some cases species were exhibited in all stages, from the embryo to the adult. The whole collection comprises from seven to eight thousand specimens.

This ended the first Field Day of the Nova Scotian Institute, for 1866. A subsequent half hour was spent on the green sward amid the quiet beauties of nature and in merry social converse, under the influence of a delightful summer evening. Carriages then arrived to take back to the city the Members and their friends—and the party broke up, after kind adieus to the worthy PRESIDENT, by whom they had been so agreeably entertained.

W.G.

---

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF TITUS SMITH. BY WILLIAM SMITH.  
(COMMUNICATED BY THE PRESIDENT.)

AT a Field Meeting of the Institute held at Ashbourne, near Halifax, the residence of the PRESIDENT, June 26, 1866, one of the places of interest visited was the grave of TITUS SMITH. Mr. SMITH resided at the commencement of the present century for several years in the vicinity of Halifax, leading a retired life and devoting nearly his whole time to the study of nature. He was one of the first observers who paid attention to the Natural History of Nova Scotia, and his manuscript notes contained in the archives of the Province, bear testimony to the careful manner in which he registered all facts, especially those relating to the botany of the country. Being employed in different Provincial surveys in the interior he had ample opportunity of pursuing his favourite study, and made such good use of his time while in the forest on these expeditions, that he was enabled to write a



concise history in manuscript of Nova Scotian Forest Trees, and Shrubs, which contains much valuable information. He retained a vigorous intellect even to extreme age and by a kindly disposition manifested to those around him gained the good will of all. He died at his residence in the Dutch Village, a small-farm house on the borders of the forest, which had been for many years his home, and according to his wish was buried in a picturesque spot in the pine woods overlooking the calm waters of Bedford Basin.

The following letter was written by his brother, resident in the United States, in answer to enquiries made respecting his early life:—

“ WATERTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY,  
March 10, 1850.

“*Dear Sir,*

“Yours of the 4th ult., came duly to hand, in which you inform me that the friends of my late brother are making arrangements to publish his *writings*, and ask me for such facts as memory can furnish relative to his parentage, the character and standing of his father, his motives for leaving the United States and adopting Nova Scotia as his final residence, and his position during the American Revolution. Also, indications of character, and predominating attachment to particular branches of science manifested by my brother in early life; also for his correspondence with me. The latter has been wholly of a very domestic character, and very few of his letters remain in my possession, having been transmitted to a sister of his and mine, residing at a distance, and who now like him is numbered with the dead. On the general subject of your enquiry, the information must necessarily be limited, about fifty-four years having passed away since I last saw my brother; but such information as I have here to give, obtained from my father and some of his early friends, added to what memory can supply on the subject of your enquiry, will be most cheerfully communicated. Indeed it is a source of gratification that the gentlemen you name, should give so distinguished a mark of consideration to the memory of one so very dear to me, the constant companion of my childhood, and to whom I feel indebted, for the early inculcation of the principle ‘that knowledge is better than fine gold.’

“ I shall speak in the first person in naming recollections of our ancestors, who at an early day emigrated from England and settled on the Connecticut River, in South Hadley, county of Hampshire, and now state of Massachusetts. The first of whom I have any knowledge, was my grandfather, generally known as Deacon John Smith, who was born about the year 1690, and was by occupation a farmer. During much of his life theological considerations engrossed almost the entire public mind. The settlements too were surrounded with tribes of hostile Indians, so that procuring the necessaries and comforts of life, and guarding the frontier against the inroads of the savages, left little time for literary pursuits. Neither have I any knowledge of his tastes. He held the rank of a captain in the Frontier Guards, and occupied for most of his life the position of Select-man; (three officers bearing that title being elected by the inhabitants of the town, to whose hands was committed the public concerns of the town); he was considered a man of strong common sense. My father who was his fourth son, was born June 4, 1734. Of his early history I know but little. His constitution was not strong, and having an ardent desire to study, he fitted for college; but the war with France of 1756 coming on, and the French having brought many of the Indian tribes into their interest, the utmost vigilance was required to protect the inhabitants of the frontier. My



father on that occasion was a volunteer. After that danger subsided he entered Yale College, and I think in 1765, having given much of his mind to theology, he went after leaving college as a missionary, and spent I think, two or more years with the Six Nation Indians, now Central New York. On his return in 1768 he married a Miss Nash, to whom he had been engaged seven years. My brother Titus was the first child by this marriage; he was born in 1769. After my father's return from the Indian country he followed preaching for a time as an itinerant, often in the open field, and to audiences of many thousands. Finding his health giving way, yet thinking he might attend to the duties necessary in a small parish, he settled in West Suffield in Connecticut, but was soon driven from the pulpit by bleeding at the lungs and a diseased liver. On retiring from this field of labour he commenced the study of medicine, which he pursued with all the energy that his low state of health would permit. About this time his attention was attracted by a theological treatise written by Dr. Glass, of Scotland, and also a work entitled "Theron and Aspasio," written by Mr. Robert Sandeman. His mind was forcibly struck by what he deemed the unanswerable truth contained in these works. He opened a correspondence with Mr. Sandeman, which resulted in the removal of that gentleman to America. A church was soon after formed at Dunbury in Connecticut, called a Sandemanian Church, to which place my father removed. Mr. Sandeman after forming several churches finally died at my father's house in Dunbury. My father had fully imbibed the theological opinions of Mr. Sandeman, and had accepted an appointment of a presiding elder over one of these churches. This religious sect was remarkable for putting literal constructions on the bible. Although my father entered deeply into the feelings that produced that revolution that resulted in a separation of the colonies from the mother country, yet believing as he did that duty required him to render obedience to existing powers as being ordained by God, he declined taking an active part in the revolution, and sought for and obtained leave from Congress to remain neutral, on his word of honour to do no act to aid or assist the enemies of his country; but nothing is more vividly impressed on my mind than the great energy with which I have heard him undertake to foretell that the American Revolution would under Providence raise up a people and nation that would afford a refuge for the oppressed and distressed of every nation; that by the disconnection of church and state religion would be left free, and the volition of the mind being untrammelled would open a new era in the world. About the year 1779 my mother died leaving four living children, of whom I was the youngest having been born in Feb., 1777. In 1785 my father was called by a church formed at Halifax to preside over them as an elder. He located himself on a farm in Preston. In the month of Oct. 1795, I left home for the United States, and have not since visited that country. My brother Titus became an early reader under the teaching of his father. At four years old he read English books with facility. He had at a very early age the advantage of a good private school kept by a Mr. Daniel Humphrey, a graduate of Yale College. At seven he had made considerable proficiency in Latin, and at twelve could translate the most difficult Latin authors, and had also made good progress in the Greek.

"In early youth he evinced no desire to mingle in the amusements of children, but always sought the society of those from whom he could derive knowledge. His earliest desires appeared to be to perfect himself in a knowledge of languages, Latin, Greek, German, and French. He was more attached to biographical history than any other reading.



“As it was the constant practice in my father’s family that one should read and the rest hear,—when the book was in a foreign language, it fell to his lot always to be the reader. Often have I listened with pleasure to hear him read the Commentaries of Cæsar from the Latin text, which he did with great facility. He became early attached to mathematics and astronomy, in which he had early made some proficiency, owing perhaps to a constant cause always operating with him—that was an entire absence of desire to engage the mind in the ordinary amusements that too often draw the mind from the matter in hand. I think it may with literal truth be said of him, that from two years of age he was never known to cry and seldom to laugh. I never saw him angry, and seldom much elated. With an even temperament he pursued whatever he undertook until it was accomplished. About the year 1790 or 1791 my father was furnished by Governor Wentworth with a complete set of the botanical works of Linnæus.

“From this time until I left home, much of the flowering season of the year was devoted to botanical studies, of which his father also was passionately fond.

“From that period onwards for more than half a century I have no personal knowledge of his progress; but what may not the mind of man accomplish when the key to knowledge is obtained and the storehouse unlocked, and nature’s works are placed in view of an eye that is not diverted or drawn aside by the countless trifles that beset us on every side. Titus had in early childhood lived a few years in the City of Newhaven; while in that city the most of those who visited his father’s house were men of letters, and disputations on religious subjects were common.

“From this place his father removed to Long Island on the Sound, nearly opposite the city of New York, and soon after into the city. You enquire as to scenery, and the habits of those with whom his early life was passed. There is nothing remarkable in the surrounding scenery of either of the places of his early residence, neither was he made for a painter or poet.

“Matters of fact—things of real life, and not of imaginary, claimed the greatest share of his attention.

“He was always liberal, setting no very great value on wealth, except so much as was necessary to supply the ordinary wants of life. He thought but little of high birth or titles of honour; I think he only valued men by their knowledge and goodness. I regret that it is not in my power to give you more information, and you will also perceive that much that I have written is from imperfect memory. Only my dates may be wrong, but the story is near the truth. Should anything else occur to you in which I can render service, you have but to make your wishes known. Be pleased to present my kind regards to the family.

“I am, Sir, very respectfully,

“your obedient servant,

“WILLIAM SMITH.”