

CAPTAIN J. GAMBLE GEDDES.

It is our painful duty to record the loss of another active member of the Entomological Society of Ontario. At two o'clock on Good Friday morning, April the 3rd, Captain J. Gamble Geddes died after a few days' illness, brought on by a severe cold. He was born in Montreal in 1850, and educated there. When a young man he entered the service of the Molsons Bank and was for some time attached to the office in London. He at once joined the Society and became an enthusiastic member. In 1874 he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the London branch; in 1875, Vice-President; in 1876, President. He left London on his appointment as manager of the agency of Molsons Bank at Millbrook. Here, living in the country, he devoted most of his leisure time to the collection and study of insects, applying himself especially to the Lepidoptera. In 1880 he left the Bank and was appointed Aide-de-Camp and Private Secretary to the Hon. John Beverley Robinson, during his term of office as Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Being fond of society, of handsome presence and devoted to music, he became a great favourite among the social circles of Toronto, among whom much of his time was accordingly spent. He did not, however, abandon the pursuit of Entomology, but succeeded, by correspondence and exchange, in addition to the captures of his own net, in forming a large and valuable collection of butterflies from all parts of the world. This he sold to the Dominion Government, and it now forms the nucleus of the collection in the Geological Museum at Ottawa. He made expeditions in 1883 and 1884, to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, as far as the Rocky Mountains, in quest of butterflies, and added much to the knowledge of their geographical distribution and habits. On several occasions he visited England, and spent some time in Germany and also in Bermuda. Wherever he went he made the acquaintance of the leading Entomologists and added to his stock of knowledge.

His first contribution to this magazine was in 1874, when he wrote No. 14 of a series of articles on "Some Common Insects"—"The

Common Cockchafer," C. E., Vol. VI., p. 67. His subsequent papers were the following :—

"List of Diurnal Lepidoptera collected in the Northwest Territories and the Rocky Mountains in 1883," C. E., XV., 221; XVI., 56, 224; XVII., 120; one hundred and twenty-six species were enumerated.

"Euptoieta Claudia," C. E., XVII., 60 (1885).

"Notes on Three Small Collections of Diurnal Lepidoptera, made in 1886" [These were made in Newfoundland, the Kamanistiquia River, Lake Superior, and Hudson Straits], C. E., XVIII., 204.

"Some Notes on the Genera Colias and Argynnis whilst alive in the Imago State," C. E., XIX., 166 and 230 (1887).

"Notes for Collectors visiting the Prairies and Rocky Mountains," C. E., XXI., 57 (1889).

"Colias Chione," C. E., XXI., 59.

He also contributed the following articles to the Annual Reports of the Society :—

"Some Remarkable Captures in Ontario," 18th Report, 1877, page 21.

"On Some of the Collections in England and the German Empire," 22nd Report, 1891, p. 31.

"Insects Collected in Bermuda during the Winter of 1894," 25th Report, 1894, p. 25.

In addition to his love for Entomology, he took a great interest in Philatelics, and formed a large and valuable collection of postage stamps. He was an accomplished musician, and usually sang in the choir of the church that he attended; he was also a member of the Philharmonic Society of Toronto. He belonged to the Masonic Order, in politics was a strong Conservative, and in religion a member of the Church of England. His wife, who was a daughter of the late Edward C. Jones, of Toronto, died a little more than a year ago. The untimely death of Capt. Geddes was no doubt hastened by her loss. They have left two little orphan girls, aged three and five years respectively.

The writer, who knew him intimately from his boyhood, deeply deplores his loss, and his grief is shared in by a very large circle of relatives and friends.