

# The Canadian Entomologist.

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## JOHN M. DENTON.

It is with profound regret that we record the death of our old friend and highly-esteemed colleague, Mr. John M. Denton, of London, Ontario, who was one of the early members of the Entomological Society and always took a very lively interest in its welfare. For some months he had been in poor health, owing to an affection of the liver, but was able to attend his place of business from time to time, and to take part in the proceedings of our annual meeting in November last, when many of us saw him for the last time. In January his illness assumed a more acute form and confined him to the house. On Tuesday, March 24th, he was seized with paralysis and before midnight passed peacefully away.

Mr. Denton was born in Northampton, England, on the 19th of September, 1829. His father was a farmer by occupation, and he was consequently brought up in the country amidst rural scenes and learnt there to love and observe the beauties of nature. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a woollen draper and tailor, and spent seven years in thoroughly learning the trade and becoming proficient in all its details. For a few years he was engaged in business on his own account, and in 1855 married Miss Ann Walker, of Somersetshire, England, who survives him. He then emigrated to Canada and settled in London, and at once resumed his occupation as a tailor, having but little to begin upon except a hopeful heart and a thoroughly practical English training. By patient industry, unflinching courtesy, and unswerving integrity, he built up by degrees a most successful business as a merchant tailor, and won the respect and esteem of the whole community.

Living on a farm in his boyhood and apprenticed at so early an age, he had but little opportunity of acquiring a literary education, but by constant application and careful reading he overcame these disadvantages

and attained a more than ordinary knowledge of the subjects that interested him. Foremost among these was Entomology, which he studied especially in its economic aspects as affecting live stock, fruit trees, garden and field crops. He became an authority on these topics, and was frequently called upon to address meetings of farmers and fruit growers and give them the benefit of his knowledge and experience. His love of the farm continued throughout his life, and he devoted much of the time that he could spare from business to the cultivation of a fruit farm a few miles from London. He was no mean authority upon horses and cattle and had a considerable knowledge of their diseases and most satisfactory treatment. He was also an adept with the microscope and took great delight in searching into the hidden beauties of nature.

When the London branch of the Entomological Society was formed in July, 1864, he was one of the original members, and took a most active interest in it and the parent Society to the close of his life. He was elected Vice-President of the London branch in 1872, and President in 1878 and several years following. In 1871 he became a member of the Council of the parent Society and continued to hold office for five and twenty years; in 1892 he was elected Vice-President, but he would never allow himself to be nominated for the Presidency, though urged to do so more than once. He was also an active member of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association and gave much assistance to its work.

He was a man of deep religious feelings and of earnest but unobtrusive piety. Though a leader of the Plymouth Brethren, he never intruded his views upon those who differed from him. The writer knew him well for a great number of years, and during his visits to London often enjoyed his hospitality, but never did he hear a word fall from his lips that could wound in the slightest degree the susceptibilities of those who did not accept the theological opinions that were so dear to him. He was a good, honest, sterling man whom all respected and whom his friends loved; kind, charitable, and generous; courteous in manner, most hospitable in his home, above reproach in business; a man who is a distinct loss to the city in which he lived, and whose death creates a blank in the hearts of his friends which can never in this life be filled. To his childless, sorrowing widow we tender our deepest, sincerest sympathy.