

## OBITUARY

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REV. GEORGE W. TAYLOR, F.R.S.C., F.Z.S.

The subject of this memoir was born in Derby, England, in 1851, and came to Canada when he was twenty-five years of age. He settled in Vancouver Island and studied for the ministry under the Rt. Rev. George Hills, D.D., Bishop of Columbia. He was made a deacon in 1884, and ordained to the priesthood in 1886. His first clerical charge was Cedar Hill, a few miles out of Victoria, and his next a parish in that city, where during his charge a church was built. After some years of active service in the Columbia Diocese, he moved to Ottawa and there founded the Church of St. Barnabas. This was after the death of his wife.

After a few years in Ottawa, for the benefit of his health he moved back to British Columbia and bought some property on Gabriola Island, a large island off Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island. Here he resided for a short time, looking after his young family and devoting his spare time to the study of shells and insects, continuing the work, in this line, that he had taken up on his arrival in the Colony.

From Gabriola he moved to Wellington, near Nanaimo, and became rector of the church there; this charge he retained until five years ago, when he was appointed by the Federal Government, Curator of the Marine Biological Station at Departure Bay. He was largely responsible for the establishment of this Station, chose the site on Departure Bay, and had the building of the Station left entirely in his hands. He held this position until his death.

Mr. Taylor died of paralysis on August the 22nd last, and was buried in the cemetery at Nanaimo. He leaves to mourn his loss, a married daughter and three sons. The funeral service was read by a dear friend of the deceased, the Venerable Archdeacon Scriven.

For several years prior to leaving Wellington, I believe he conducted the services there without any recompense in the way of a stipend, and after the move to Departure Bay he

carried on a Sunday service in a school building about a mile away from the Station, whenever possible, until failing health prevented.

In 1881, Mr. Taylor was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He had been for many years a Fellow of the Zoological and Entomological Societies of England, and fifteen years ago was elected a Corresponding Member of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. All these societies have been benefitted by his labors. In 1887 he was appointed Honorary Provincial Entomologist of British Columbia. About six years ago, a B. C. Entomological Society was formed, and of this he naturally became the President.

Soon after his arrival on Vancouver Island, he gave attention to the attractive and then but little known fauna of the Pacific Coast, for in the preface to the Toronto Check List of Insects, which was published in 1883, Messrs. Brodie and White speak of him as a collector to whom their thanks were due, and at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, held in London, Ont., October 15, 1884, Mr. James Fletcher presented, on behalf of Mr. Taylor, a collection of *Diurnal Lepidoptera* to the Society. On this occasion Mr. Fletcher said "that although Mr. Taylor was but a new member, he had already done good work." In the report of this meeting, the first contribution by the Rev. G. W. Taylor to the annals of the Society appears. It is entitled "Notes on the Entomology of Vancouver Island." In the "Canadian Entomologist" for the same year (Vol. XVI.) other papers written by him will be found. In the Annual Report of the Entomological Society for 1887, he published a very interesting account of Mount Finlayson, in search of *Chionabas gigas*, Butler. It was during the period of his second residence in Vancouver Island, that he became a constant contributor to the pages of the "Canadian Entomologist." In the volumes of that magazine numbered from XXXVI. to XLII., inclusive, no less than eighteen papers from his hand appear. His last contribution, entitled "On Some New Species of *Mesoleuca*," is given in the number for March, 1910.

Of late years Mr. Taylor gave much attention to the *Geometridae*, especially those belonging to the genera *Epithecia*, Curtis, and *Mesoleuca*, Hubner. Of these he described

and named many new species. The whole of his collection of Geometridae was recently purchased by Dr. Wm. Barnes, of Decatur, Ill., who without doubt will make excellent use of it, but we cannot but regret that so much of the fruit of our late friend's research and ability should have passed from the Dominion.

Mr. Taylor was well known as a student of Pacific Coast shells, especially those of British Columbia; he was a keen collector in conchology, and was also well posted in many other branches of Natural History, and he leaves a very large and valuable collection of shells, particularly rich in Limpets and Unionidae. In the transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, 1895-96, he published a Preliminary Catalogue of the Marine Mollusca of the Pacific Coast of Canada, with notes upon their distribution; also a Supplement to the same a year or two later, and was engaged upon a new Catalogue for publication, which, owing to poor health, was never completed.

He contributed articles on shells, to the "Nautilus" (a monthly devoted to the interests of Conchologists, now in its 26th year), in Vol. V. to VIII. and X. When living in Victoria in 1891, he published a List of the Land and Fresh Water Shells of Vancouver Island (Vol. V.), and in Vol. VII. a very interesting account appears of dredging operations in Departure Bay with Professor Macoun. Mr. Taylor was also a contributor to the Ottawa Field Naturalist.

One of the writers corresponded with Mr. Taylor as far back as 1888, chiefly in connection with their mutual hobbies (shells and insects), but did not meet him until the spring of 1901, when he was moved from the Prairies to Victoria, but since their visits were exchanged whenever possible, and some of the writer's happiest recollections are of pleasant evenings spent under his hospitable roof at Wellington, and later at Departure Bay.

Undoubtedly Mr. Taylor's chief scientific work was done in connection with Marine Zoology, and in recognition of this the Federal Government in 1905 appointed him a member of the Dominion Fisheries Commission for British Columbia. In the report of that Commission Mr. Taylor described as many

as thirty kinds of edible shellfish, and there is in course of publication by the Dominion Government at the present time a very long and valuable report on the crabs, shrimps, and other crustacea of British Columbia. (Ottawa Evening Journal, Aug. 24th, 1912). In the thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Entomological Society of Ontario appears a highly appreciative and eulogistic account of Mr. Taylor from the pen of the late Dr. Fletcher. From it we learn that many naturalists have given honor to Mr. Taylor by naming after him new species of various kinds, as for example, *Melitaea taylori*, W. H. Edwards. *Modiolaria taylori*, Dall. *Leucandra taylori*, Lambe.

The following words written by Dr. Fletcher in the lifetime of Mr. Taylor, and in the paper above referred to, were justly due to the deceased: "Mr. Taylor is an indefatigable collector, and a generous correspondent, who considers no trouble too much to make observations or secure specimens when specially desired. In his parish work he is painstaking, gentle and self-denying—always ready to help. A clear and forcible preacher, and an earnest liver, who shows in his works that religion is not an accessory of everyday life, but an integral part of it."

Both the Rev. George W. Taylor and Dr. James Fletcher (Dominion Entomologist and Botanist) were men of striking personality and rare attainments, and neither were permitted to see old age; in them Canada has lost men and scholars whose place it will be very difficult to fill.

A. W. HANHAM,  
F. W. FYLES.

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NOTE.—The photograph of the late Rev. G. W. Taylor appeared as the frontispiece to the last Annual Report.