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WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

IN ORDER to dispose of an accumulation of matter, we have increased the number of pages in our present number. This enlargement we would like to retain permanently, and trust that before the end of the present volume, our subscription list will have increased to such an extent as to enable us to do this without suffering pecuniary loss. We have had many difficulties to contend with—much doubt expressed with regard to our longevity—and some fault found with the limited form of our publication. These difficulties have not proved insurmountable. Our subscription list has steadily increased. We have endeavoured to profit from the well-meant criticisms of our friends, and have quietly ignored the forebodings of those who did not predict our success. We now ask the co-operation of our subscribers—of all lovers of field sports and Natural History—and with this assistance, in a country so extended as the Dominion of Canada, and in which there is such a diversity and abundance of sport, we feel quite confident of the prosperity of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST, which we claim is the only publication in the Dominion, devoted exclusively to legitimate field sports and the Study of Nature.

WHY ARE GAME ANIMALS BECOMING SCARCE ?

When Bartram, Audubon, Bachman, Wilson and Bonaparte wrote on American Natural History, the quadrupeds and birds which are classed as game on this continent, were then abundant. The above writers had no difficulty in obtaining material to describe and illustrate their works. But a gradual change has been going on as regards the abodes of American animals. Man, in opening up the soil, destroys

or presses back almost every wild animal inhabiting his immediate woodlands and lakes. The aborigenes are no exception, as many of us now living, can remember. In 1842, Indians were settled on the North shore of Lake Ontario; one tribe called "Credit Indians," were frequently seen at that time selling their wares in the streets of Toronto. Their stay was of short duration in the neighbourhood of whiskey and the white man—being compelled to seek another *habitat*, they gradually disappeared—the weaker *homo* had to succumb to the stronger. In like manner, combined with the achievement in the forms and use of heavy arms of late there is also a visible force pressing on the wild animals from their former haunts in prairie and forest, and in order that they may retain their balance amongst the native *fauna*, they, like the weak aboriginal tribes, have also to retreat to new localities to find a subsistence. In 1842, many of the large Canadian marshes were teeming with geese, duck, snipe and plover indigenous to the country. Toronto marsh was then a good shooting ground, and many birds which regularly visited it at that time, are considered of rare occurrence to-day. A large Black Bass (*Huro vulpes*, Agassiz,) then had its *habitat* in Ashbridge's Bay, and many a fine 20lb. fish of this species did Joe Lang spear in its surrounding marshes. But there has been a change; the building of the esplanade forced back the water in Toronto Bay, resulting in a breach in the sunly peninsula opposite, therefore destroying the old marshy grounds lying east of the city, thus finishing the historical hunting and fishing resorts of Toronto sportsmen. An increasing rural population annually clearing the woodlands, and the extension of railroads are powerful agencies to frighten and cause the removal of wild animals, which, at