

that, of all its fellow-lodgers, it was the only one which remained without protection from the cold, thought it prudent, no doubt, to consider about taking precautions against the still more rigorous nights which were soon to come; and as it had no choice of materials for the construction of its hut, it seized upon everything which fell within its clutches. It accordingly made a tour of the beds, carrying off boots, trousers, socks, cloaks, caps, etc., which it piled up in a corner of the hall, without a single one of the sleepers knowing anything of the clever theft. But lo! the bell for rising sounds; and each of the scholars demands of his neighbour if he has not been playing him a trick in making away with the indispensable garment; but there was the same perplexity and the same questions on the part of the neighbours, when the Regent coming in, perceived master Beaver still very busy arranging the parts of his future habitation; turning over with his paw whatever boot persisted in sticking out to the derangement of its symmetry, or piling up with his tail any cap that would not stay in its place; drawing back, returning, adjusting each portion, and resting from time to time on the top of the hillock, as though to contemplate with pride the amount of work accomplished in so short a time. Luckily for the robbed, the scene of the performance was in a third story; for no doubt if it had been on the ground floor, and the provident animal had been able to get out of doors, they would have found the novel hut built on the edge of the garden cistern itself, and it would have been much less pleasant to have had to draw the caps, boots, etc. out of the water.

Pine Grosbeak.

(To the Editor.)

SIR,—I have noticed several interesting articles in your paper in reference to the Pine Grosbeak (*Loxia Eucleator*).

That they inhabit the Arctic regions there can be no doubt, but I am inclined to think the writer in the *Hamilton Times* is mistaken with regard to their not living through a Canadian summer, "owing to the peculiarity of their food."

I have five, two males and three females, in my cage along with twenty-five other birds of different species, and they seem to thrive. They eat the same food as the others—hemp, canary and fox-tail seed; if they do not survive the summer it will not be on account of the food, but the heat; however, at present there is every prospect of their doing well.

They are of a kind disposition and do not disturb the smaller birds.

I am happy more interest is being taken in ornithology. Our Canadian birds are of immense variety and varied plumage, and well worthy of notice.

C. C. S.

Holland Landing, March 23, 1869.

Poetry.

The Light at Home.

The light at home, how bright it beams
When evening shades around us fall;
And from the lattice far it gleams,
To love, and rest, and comfort all.
When wearied with the toils of day,
And strife for glory, gold or fame,
How sweet to seek the quiet way,
Where loving lips will list our name,
Around the light at home!

When through the dark and stormy night
The wayward wanderer homeward flies,
How cheering is that twinkling light,
Which through the forest gloom he spies.
It is the light of home. He feels
That loving hearts will greet him there,
And softly through his bosom steals
The joy and love that banish care,
Around the light at home.

The light at home, how still and sweet,
It peeps from yonder cottage door,
The weary labourer to greet,
When the rough toils of day are o'er.
Sad is the soul that does not know
The blessings that the beams impart:
The cheerful hopes and joys that flow,
And lighten up the heaviest heart,
Around the light at home.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Meeting of the Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association.

The Council of the Provincial Association met in London on the 31st ult., for the transaction of business, chiefly in connection with the approaching exhibition. The proceedings of the Executive Committee at their meeting in Toronto, on the 17th of March, were submitted and approved. These had reference, as already reported, to the prize-list, recommending among other things, that the Prince of Wales' prize be awarded for the best herd of Short-horns, and that prizes of \$30 be offered for the best herds of cattle in each of the other classes; that the class of Angus cattle be struck off the list; that the amount of prizes for long-woolled sheep be increased, and other minor changes.

It was resolved that the rule regarding shearing sheep entered for competition should be the same as last year, namely, that they be sheared on or after the 25th of April. It was further resolved that ewes, two shears and over, to be eligible for prizes, must have borne lambs during the present season.

The report of the Fruit Growers' Association recommended that in addition to the usual premiums, a prize of \$50 be offered for the best collection of named varieties of apples, pears, grapes, plums, peaches, crabs and quinces, to be open to all for competi-

tion, and that the successful competitor be awarded besides a diploma. The report embodying the foregoing recommendation was adopted.

The Council had an interview with the Local Committee, and inspected the buildings and premises set apart for exhibition purposes. The Superintendent, Mr. Cooley, gave a general estimate of the additional buildings and accommodation that would be required for the next exhibition, and these the Local Committee agreed to furnish.

The officers of the London Local Committee are Mr. J. Johnson, of Sunnyside, chairman; Mr. W. McBride, secretary, and Mr. Graydon, treasurer.

Monthly Financial Statement.

We have received from Mr. Graham the following abstract statement of receipts and payments of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, for the month ending 31st March, 1869:—

RECEIPTS.	
From the Treasurer of Ontario, balance of grant for 1868..	\$5,000 00
Rents	400 00
Miscellaneous	16 00
	\$5,416 00

PAYMENTS.	
For Council expenses..	\$392 00
" Veterinary School.....	70 00
" Printing and Stationery....	368 01
" Salaries	427 00
" Miscellaneous	306 88
" Loan account (one half of note discounted at B. B. N. America by old Board).....	1,900 00
" Legal expenses.....	83 67
" Provincial Exhibition, 1868. expenses	20 00
" Prizes.....	604 00

	\$4,171 56
Balance in Bank of B. N. America	1,244 44
	\$5,416 00

GEORGE GRAHAM,
Treasurer Agricultural & A.A.

Brampton, April 1, 1869.

ADULTERATION OF SEEDS.—A Bill is to be submitted to the British Parliament to prevent the adulteration of seeds, which recent enquiries have brought to light as having been practised to an enormous extent by almost all parties engaged in the trade. It is to be hoped that this measure will tend to improve the quality of the seed imported into this country. Recent disclosures should also stimulate farmers, seedsmen and nurserymen in Canada to grow seeds for home use to a greater extent than has hitherto been attempted.