

next appointment was that of receiver of the Wallkill National Bank at Middlebury, N. Y., and in 1874 he settled on a farm at Esopus-on-the-Hudson, where he still resides, dividing his time between fruit culture, literature, and the inspection of national banks.

## II. THE NATURALIST.

Mr. Burroughs was a man grown before he turned his attention to Natural History. As a boy he had loved the fields and the woods most ardently, but not as a student. But when the time of his devotion to the subjects of Botany and Ornithology came, he began the study of them with peculiar advantages. "No one," he says, "starts the study of natural history with such advantages as he whose youth was passed on the farm. He has already got a great deal of it in his blood and bones; he has grown up in right relations with bird and beast; the study comes easy and natural to him." Of these advantages the very best use has been made. The name of John Burroughs is a household word among lovers of birds and flowers; while as an authority on Ornithology he is surpassed by none, and equalled, if at all, only by Dr. Abbott and the late Henry Thoreau, as a writer.

## III. THE AUTHOR.

John Burroughs has a distinctive place. Authors are generally known according to the subjects on which they write, or the style in which they write. Henry George is surpassed by many as regards the mastery of a pure English style, but no writer of the present day handles a more interesting subject. Carlyle wrote about common and every day topics, but he invested them with a new interest because of his extremely peculiar method of using words. Mr. Burroughs has both an uncommon subject and a singularly original style. The former part of this statement may seem untrue to some. Are birds and flowers uncommon? Are they not all about us? Do we not see them every day? True enough—but how many truly see them? How many can tell the song of a Scarlet Tanager from that of a Warbling Vireo? or the blossom of a Buttercup from the bloom of the Wild Mustard? Judged by the general lack of acquaintance with