

THE BIOLOGICAL REVIEW OF ONTARIO.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1894.

No. 4.

MAMMALOLOGY.

THE PANTHER IN CANADA.

DURING the years 1883-4, while on a Government survey in the Rocky Mountains, I several times saw the panther, though I never had a close acquaintance with him. In fact, I rather avoided an introduction, when I had no gun with me.

While producing the eighth base line (about lat. $51^{\circ}, 30'$) into the mountains, one of the chainmen cut his foot, and remained in the supply camp in the last ridge of foot hills (about w. long. 117), and I remained overnight with him. We had made our beds, and were soon enjoying that sound sleep which comes to those who have clear consciences and sleep on balsam boughs, when suddenly we were awakened. Awakened! Yes, and lifted out of bed. I found myself near the door of the tent, grasping a rifle, my chum beside me, and we both were listening to the most hideous screams and shrieks, that might rival those of the lost souls in Hades. We watched the timber which surrounded the camp ground, and soon saw, though indistinctly, a large animal like a huge cat crossing the moonlit glades which ran into the woods. We felt sure that it was the panther, or commonly called in this locality "mountain lion."