

Echo Island, which lies but three or four miles north of the Bruce peninsula. The two young birds, which were fully developed, were secured. One was shot from a dead stub at the top of the cliff, which was a much frequented roosting place. Just below were the feathers of blue-jays and the wing primaries of a herring gull. Yeo Island, which was visited July 13th, was also frequented by duck hawks, and numerous wings of crows, gulls and blue-jays lay scattered along the top of the cliffs.

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### THE EVOLUTION OF THE SHEEP.

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To the curious and enquiring mind which first strikes the question, viz: "What are the origins of the domesticated animals and plants of mankind?" there opens out a world of interesting investigation. How did man come to subdue the wild animals of the earth to his uses for labour, for hunting, and for food, and even for fancy and amusement? How came he to discover and cultivate the leaves, roots, seeds, and even the flowers of the vegetable world for food, as well as for ornament and artistic gratification? And, what is more wonderful, how did he multiply and develop from single common stocks all their innumerable and diverse varieties? The last question has become, in its biological aspects, a problem so profound and interesting as to develop a new school of inquirers in Europe—the Mendelians.

### THE IMPERMANENCE OF FORM.

Charles Darwin threw a powerful and important light upon these problems when he demonstrated and developed the simple yet remarkable fact of life, that all living forms existing around us have in reality no fixed permanence. They have all inherent in their nature a vital flexibility of tissue, of anatomy, and of function. And it is this which causes them to fluctuate and vary from those qualities which, in their sum total, go to the make-up of that distinctive type of life we term the species. When the world was young, and reptilian monsters dominated the tropical forests and swamps of the earth, the birds of that period showed their affinities with these creatures in the possession of teeth. The teeth have disappeared, but the population of the air remains. While no living bird now possesses true teeth, within the jaws of an unhatched parrot there are certain