

the Museum of the Survey by the Rev. J. H. Keen in December, 1907, as stated in the OTTAWA NATURALIST of that date.

In October, 1908, Mr. Keen kindly presented the same museum with a fine specimen of a bird of this species, which is labelled as having been taken at Lucy Island on the 24th of April, 1907.

The specimen is a skin of an adult male, in spring plumage, which shows well the large upright and deciduous "horn" at the base of the upper mandible, and the two longitudinal series of long, narrow and acutely pointed white plumes, on each side of the head, as figured by Coues on page 1067 (fig. 722) of the second volume of his "Key to North American Birds."

This large and remarkable species of Auklet has long been known to have a very wide distribution in the north Pacific, but it was previously represented only by an egg, in the Survey collection.

DIOSCOREA VILLOSA AT SARNIA.

By W. A. DENT, Sarnia, Ont.

The surface of the land about the shores of Lake Huron in the vicinity of Sarnia is a succession of sand ridges parallel with the lake. Many of the depressions between these ridges were formerly swampy, or actually covered to a slight depth of water. Vegetable remains accumulated in these depressions in many places to a considerable depth, forming a soil almost as black as charcoal. This humus, mingled with the sand and receiving the drainage from the surrounding ridges, forms an almost ideal soil for the growth of many comparatively rare and interesting plants. The orchid family, renowned for the beauty of its flowers, was here formerly abundantly represented by many of its most beautiful members. *Arethusa*, for instance, *Calopogon* and *Pogonia*, that dainty trio, here grew in profusion, while the *Cypripediums* in millions made the swamps gorgeous. *Cypripedium spectabile* was formerly so abundant that men went with wagons, and gathered loads of the blossoms to ship to larger centres. *C. candidum* is still to be found in comparatively large numbers, while boquets of *C. arietinum* grace the teachers' desks regularly in several country school-houses.

That beautiful violet, *Viola pedata*, with flowers an inch across, and of the richest shade, grows beneath the pines on the sheltered banks of the sandy ridges.

In the thickets, which are abundant in these shallow ravines, many twining plants grow in tangled masses, sheltering partridge,