

compared to that which immediately follows. The moment the real reduction begins, an enormous amount of work is being done. In the smallest mass of silver nitrate treated before the blowpipe, millions of atoms of silver are torn from the strong embrace of millions of atoms of nitrogen and oxygen. May we not conclude that in the first few seconds of the process, the small amount of work done allows a surplus of heat to raise the uncharred part of the match to combustion but that when the genuine work of reduction has begun all of the available heat is required to work at the one point? If this explanation is tenable we have here an incidental, if simple, illustration of the correlation of the physical forces.

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### THE KING EIDER IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

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By ROBERT ELLIOTT. Bryanston, Ont.

(Read before the Ornithological Section of the Entomological Society of Ontario.)

The capture of the first specimen of *Somateria spectabilis* known to have been taken in this county was effected under the following circumstances:—

On the 24th November, 1900, my young friend Mr. Roger Hedley, of Lobo, walking for his mail, being on game intent, brought his gun along and visited Duncriff mill-pond—a sheet of water which covers about six acres, and is near his home. That morning he saw one duck only, and shot it at a range of sixty yards. He preserved it and lately very kindly presented it to me.

I find, after carefully consulting Ridgeway's Manual, that it is a genuine specimen of the King Eider. It is a young bird, and as the sex was not determined by dissection, I cannot pronounce on the question, although probably a reference to a more detailed work on our birds, such as that of Baird, Brewer and Ridgeway, would settle this point. Mr. Hedley further informs me that the bird was in very thin condition and that strong and cold westerly winds prevailed at the time.