

NOMENCLATURE.—The following are the principal names under which this noble animal has been recognised by various authors:—

[(*Cerv du Canada*.) Perrault, Mem. Sur les Anim, vol. 2, p. 45 ; (*Cervus Major Americanus*.) Catesby Carol, App. 2, 28 ; (*Alces Americanus, cornibus teretibus*.) Jefferson Virginia, p. 96 ; (*The Stag*.) Pennant Arctic Zoology, vol. 4, p. 27 ; (*Wewas-k'ss*.) Hearne's Journal, page 360 ; (*Red Deer*.) Umfreville ; (*Cervus Strongyloceros*.) Schreber Saugthiere, vol. 2, page 1074 ; (*Wapiti*.) Warden des Etats Unis ; (*Cervus Canadensis*.) Synopsis of the Species of Mammalia, Griffith's Cuvier, page 776 ; (*Elaphus Canadensis*.) DeKay, New York, Fauna, page 118 ; and also AUDUBON & BACHMAN'S Quadrupeds of North America, vol. 2, page 83.]

In Knight's Cyclopædia of Natural History, vol. 1, pages 815 and 816, there is a new classification of the Deer family. In this arrangement the genus *Elaphus* is suppressed altogether, and the Wapite is called (*Cervus Canadensis*.) the European Stag, (*Cervus elaphus*.)

The Wapite, or Canadian Stag, is commonly called the Elk in the United States and Canada, although it is a member of a very different genus. This misnomer is perhaps one of the most remarkable in Natural History, and is still practised, even by the best authors, though probably out of deference to the popular custom. In Europe no person would think of confounding the Red Deer or Stag of the British Isles with the Elk of Scandinavia. No two animals could well be more unlike each other, and yet be contained in a single family. The Elk and the Stag of Europe both belong to the family CERVIDÆ or DEER, but they differ more widely from each other than the Horse does from the Zebra, and it would scarcely be possible to convince any person that they could be the same species.

Now, in America we have two species, the exact counterparts of the two in Europe, each to each. We have the Wapite with round branching antlers, and canine teeth in the upper jaw of the male, and in all general characters closely resembling the English Stag. It is only specifically distinct, being larger, its tail shorter, and slightly differing in colour. On the other hand, we have the Moose with huge flat horns, no canine teeth in the upper jaw, and a long pendulous upper lip, the whole animal being so exactly like the Elk of Europe, that the best naturalists are yet undecided as to the propriety of separating it as a distinct species. The moose therefore is a true elk, and the Wapite is a true stag or "Deer," in the common acceptance of that word. Yet, by a strange perversion of terms, the name of the one animal has been transferred to the other, and vice versa. The "Elk" in America is called a "Deer," and the "Deer" is called an Elk.

The Wapite has been nearly, if not quite exterminated in Canada since the arrival of the Europeans, and it should therefore be regarded by the Naturalists of this Province with an especial amount of interest. We have been informed that it still exists in the western counties of the upper pro-