

or their song. In the case of the omnivorous birds, which live during a large part of the year on grubs, caterpillars, and other insect prey which they hunt with admirable skill, but which also attack at certain seasons grain and roots, we are obliged to strike a balance between the benefit and the injury we receive in which a sense of the happiness of the creatures and admiration for their beauty, and their wonderful instinct, must be allowed some weight in their favor. Such creatures may reasonably have their increase somewhat limited, but if we had the power utterly to destroy them we should soon feel the evil we should thus have brought upon ourselves. We have read of instances in which the extermination of the common European sparrow has been attended with disastrous consequences to the farmer; and although the rook is loudly condemned by some, the sight of numbers of them following the plough, picking up grubs, worms, and insects, should cause the considerate farmer to relent, even though indignant at thefts among his potato set and his ripening grain. Mere illustrations taken from familiar objects in England will show the importance of similar considerations here, and will satisfy every one that the spirit of wanton destruction and persecution often indulged against the inferior animals is as unwise as it is barbarous; that we should destroy only what we evidently perceive to be injurious and unfitted to dwell in any connection with ourselves, and should see with pleasure the various races of animated beings enjoying themselves around us so far as they may be permitted to do so without any serious interference with those pursuits which are essential to our welfare, and which are manifestly designed to exercise our industry and skill. In respect to all the inferior animals we may accept of the decision of the poet:

If man's convenience,
Or health or safety interfere, his rights
Are paramount and must extinguish theirs.
Else they are all the meanest things that are,
As free to live and to enjoy that life
As God was free to form them at the first,
Who in his sovereign wisdom made them all.

Let me conclude with one word as to the pleasure to be derived from the study of Natural History in connection with a country life. What pursuit can we name in which the charms of beauty, variety, and the exercise of various mental faculties are so united? What can we imagine so well calculated to enliven our interest in the scenes of nature, to make each changing season only a change in our pleasures, and to connect the ordinary occupations, and even the sports, of rural life with observations and inquiries full of entertainment as well as usefulness.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ought to apologize to you who dwell in the city for occupying your time with reflections, whose useful bearing is on a different mode of life from your own; but not to plead now that they are concerned with the advancement of our country and the happiness of a large proportion of its inhabitants, you will perhaps admit that here the bounds of city and country are so imperfectly marked, and so many of you are in hope to be the possessors of farms, that it is not an extravagant assumption to sup-

pose you are sufficiently familiar with agricultural affairs to listen with patience to what relates to them; but if my subject is in any degree out of place here, I am the more indebted to you for the kindness with which you have heard me. The naturalist welcomes every flower, finds new subject for admiration in every living creature; and, when he has exhausted what the unaided eye can reach, has boundless treasures in store to reward his minuter investigation, whilst every object, at the same time that it delights his mind, conveys to it serious instruction, impressing upon him a sense of the presence and the perfections of the great Creator, and preparing him to receive with humility and gratitude the revelations respecting his own condition and prospects of a being whom he adores and loves.

The men
Whom nature's works can charm, with God himself
Hold converse, grow familiar day by day
With his conceptions, act upon his plan,
And form to his the relish of their souls.

Editorial, &c.

G. BUCKLAND, Esq., EDITOR.

H. THOMSON, Esq., ASSISTANT EDITOR.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

A number of very interesting original communications will be found in this number of the *Agriculturist*. The growth of Farmers' Clubs in the country, is a most gratifying feature in connection with the progress of the farmers of Canada. By thus meeting and exchanging their views, much information on many interesting points will be received and imparted, and many errors in opinion or practice may be corrected. And the wide publication of such reports, by inviting farmers in all parts of the country to reflect upon many points of their practice, which, perhaps, they have heretofore adhered to without a doubt of the correctness of them, is calculated to produce the same effect on a large scale, as the discussions themselves do on a limited one. We hope these Farmers' Clubs will increase, and that they will all regularly send us some account of their proceedings. The communication of Mr. Wade, on the important subject of "The Importation of Cattle," is deserving of much attention, and we hope the discussion of this matter may lead to some useful practical result. An interesting communication in hand on "The modern system of Drainage, and its applicability to Canada" is alluded to in another place.