

## THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW.

not so pathetic.

The rain at last stopped, so we prepared for our homeward drive, while the Prime Minister once more performed the dish washing act. They gave us a hearty send off, and we parted, having all enjoyed the day's experiences.

"BESSICA."

### LETTERS.

HATCHLEY, ONT.,

July 16th.

"Time flies, and seasons are fleeting," and a majority of our feathered friends have become silent, and the places that once knew them, know them no more. All the Orioles suddenly left us, as if to celebrate Independence Day with our Yankee cousins across the border, for since the 3rd of July not a glint of them has been noticed in all these parts. Young and old have vanished for the year, and of the blue-eyed, yellow Warbler, the same tale must be told. The young of the Bobolinks too, have taken wing, and the white markings of the old birds are beginning to assume a yellowish tint, and their song is broken into abrupt snatches. On the 13th inst., my son, in his work of mowing our timothy meadow, passed over a Bobolink's nest containing several newly fledged young, which immediately scattered, to flutter, attended by the hovering gestures and alarmed cries of the parent birds, among the swaths of fallen grass. Since that the birds, both old and young, have moved into an adjoining thicket of berry bearing bushes, and the well known rollicking chant is frequently heard from the topmost spray of a tall pear tree that grows near. The young "Bobs" are in a brand new plumage, which, as in the case with the mother bird, is yellowish in color, and in four or five weeks

hence these birds leave us for the season.

Our dog "Nipper" had a severe tussle with a Wood-chuck, among the tall grass in the hay meadow, one day last week. The dog had descended the burrow, and drawn or driven Mr. Marmot to the surface, and the two warriors were found panting, and taking a rest spell, after a seemingly indecisive struggle; and it would have ended in a flag of truce and a mutual retreat, had not reinforcement come to the canine side, in the shape of a well handled cudgel, which terminated Marmot's career.

Last year a young man on the next farm to this, tells us that in the month of May, he plowed out a Wood-chuck's nest containing three young ones, abnormally marked with white streaks along the shoulders and sides. This must have been caused by some mysterious prenatal influence, and the young man who found them, supposed he had discovered a case of hybridizing with the American representative of the "Fournart." The youngster tried to rear the Marmots on cow's milk, but without success. Very similar instances of abnormal freaks of coloring are of frequent occurrence, both in quadruped bird and vegetable life.

W. YATES.

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