

HENRY G. VENNOR, F. R. G. S.

MR. VENNOR is one of those successful men who seem at first sight to be born to good fortune, but whose success is due entirely to hard labor and indomitable perseverance. He was born at Montreal, Canada, in 1849, and is an exception to the general rule, that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." He was educated at the leading schools of his native city, and took the Zoological and Geological courses of M'Gill College under the celebrated Dr. Dawson. Later on he studied Land Surveying and Engineering, and took the honor course in Geology and Mineralogy. During all this time his spare hours were devoted to the study of birds, rocks, and, although in a lesser degree, the weather. He made a large collection of the birds and fossils of Montreal Island, to which work he devoted his early morning hours before business began. During this period he also contributed several valuable papers to the press. In 1865 he had the good fortune to obtain a position as assistant to Sir William Logan, the eminent founder of the Geological Survey of Canada, with whom he spent one entire season in the examination of Maintoulin Island, in Lake Huron. From there he contributed some exceedingly interesting letters to the *Montreal Witness*, while he also made a collection of the birds of Lake Huron, and prepared a list of all that bred on the island. In the following year he was placed by Sir William on the permanent staff of the Geological Survey and given a geological field north of Belleville to work. Here he fell into some disfavor with the general public because of his expressed opinion that the gold discovered that year in Modoc would not pay for mining, which turned out to be the fact. In 1870 he was elected Fellow of the Geological Society of England, to which he contributed a paper containing several very interesting discoveries and speculations. Up to 1875 he continued his survey of the field first given him, and in that year crossed the Ottawa River and carried his researches into that district lying between the Ottawa, Gatineau, and Lieveras rivers, which he finished two years ago, and then resigned his situation on the Survey to enter the profession of Mining Geologist. His latest work in the Survey brought him into special notice through the opening up of phosphate mining in his district, which has grown into very large proportions, and the discovery of gold and silver, although not as yet in paying quantities for mining purposes. During all these years he was an earnest student of the weather,—as why not,—when for some eight months of the year he lived in the open air? It was then that he began his elaborate system of weather mapping, from which he draws such accurate predictions. The public attention was first called to his predictions through a letter which he sent to the *Montreal Witness* in the Fall of 1875, in which, among other things, he predicted a green Christmas and rainy New-Year's. His predictions came true and he was requested to continue them, and, in the Fall of 1876 he issued his first Almanac, which has ever since been continued as an annual, and now has the largest circulation, it is believed, of any book of the kind in the world. Mr. Vennor, in 1875, published a valuable work, entitled, "Our Birds of Prey," which has added very largely to his reputation as an ornithologist, and he is now engaged on another work of the same description.