

Something ought to be done to prevent men, even well-informed authors, from tampering with other peoples' property on subjects to which they have no just claim. It is different when a scientist devotes a life's study to a well-defined class containing numerous genera and forms. He certainly has the privilege of transferring his own species from one group or genera to another, as he finds the analogous forms agreeing. To go back to Hubner's time, and adopt his nomenclature in this advanced century of human knowledge is not what we expected from Mr. Scudder's pen. The idea is absurd and will be far from acting in harmony with the nomenclature of insects as understood at the present day. We do not want even to go back to Fabricius for priority in matters of this kind, but the latter is preferable to Hubner. His generic names are ridiculous and unpronounceable, and the change is not necessary.

In Ornithology, we notice that the same generic name changes are yearly taking place, both in Europe and America. We are sorry for this, as it was thought that in America the generic names emanating from the Smithsonian Institution established at Washington for the diffusion of knowledge among mankind, were sufficient, perfect and authentic. We can point out many instances where a few busy bodies (and can name them) have been breaking up the standard generic names of our birds. For instance the Sparrow Owl (*Nyctale Richardsonii*, Bonaparte,) called in England, (*Strix Tengmalmi*, Bewick,) and in Ireland, Mr. Percy Evans Freke calls the same bird (*Nyctala Tengmalmi*, var. *Richardsonii*, Gmelin.) Here we see three generic applications given to the same species, and after all it is nothing more than the same bird, like many other forms of American avi-fauna occurring on both continents. In *The New Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* of November 5, 1881, Mr. H. Kerr; of Bacup, Lancashire, says that the above owl was named by Gmelin as a compliment to the original discoverer Dr.

Tengmalm, an eminent Scandinavian Ornithologist, while we see as above that it is named by Bonaparte as a compliment to Dr. Richardson. It is therefore clear that Gmelin's name for this owl must stand as it holds priority; the American and high latitude forms being permanent, and the European are merely a geographical variety. But why not adopt one of the three names for this genus which is well-represented in America? No proper nomenclature can be accomplished until this is understood, and the sooner it is done the better.

C.

## NOVA SCOTIA GAME LAWS.

## LORD DUNRAVEN'S CASE.

Of all countries in this world, the Dominion of Canada is the most famous for complex Game Laws. The Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have game laws, not one of which harmonizes with the other more especially regarding quadrupeds named in the Act. Considering that the geographical range of deer is almost similar in these Provinces, it seems ridiculous that the law affecting them should be different within their places of occurrence. Again, it is understood that any person inclined to hunt deer during the open season has a perfect right to do so without let or hindrance. This, however, it appears is not the case in Nova Scotia, where we notice that Lord Dunraven was fined for shooting deer, commonly called Moose, although he had a license to hunt the latter animal in the district in which he procured the authority so do so. In a letter which his Lordship published in *Forest and Stream*, he says:—

“A man might pursue a moose and wound it in one district and be compelled to follow it into another to kill it. The proper course, I presume, for him to adopt on arriving at the county line would be to go back to camp, pack up his traps, and go out to the settlements, which might take a couple of days or so. He should then proceed to the residence of the Clerk of the Peace, which would take a day, and having got his endorsement on the license,