

appears to us that there is an overstretch of history in the matter which is veiled in obscurity and we are anxious to see the quotations.

The tadpole form of frog is by no means rare in the vicinity of western lakes. The development of young frogs depends on the amount of warmth they receive during their early aquatic stages. The eggs or spawn are deposited in shallow semi-stagnant water, and the heat from the sun produces the tadpole.—C.

A TRIP TO RIGAUD.

On the 19th of last June a friend and myself anxious to avoid the heat of the city, left to enjoy a couple of days in the neighboring forests near Rigaud, a village situated on Rivière à la Graisse, said to be forty-five miles from Montreal. We obtained a boat and entered that river at its mouth, where it flows into the Ottawa river. In this vicinity we noticed kildeer plover (*Aegialitis vociferus*) in a ploughed field. The occurrence of these birds at this date indicates that the locality may be a breeding-ground; we, however, discovered no nests of the species. By crossing the Ottawa, we landed on Jones' Island, a part of which is cleared, forming a good farm. Passing through a patch of ferns, a woodcock was flushed, but we could not find its nest. A few days afterwards I met Mr. Jones, who informed me that he saw young woodcock, and he also said that about the 10th of May, a black duck's nest was found on the Island. The eggs of this duck (*Anas obscura*) were taken away and placed under a domestic hen, and they were hatched in due time, but the ducklings followed their wild nature, took to the water, and never to his knowledge returned to their foster mother. We enjoyed the scenery, and the exercise gave us vigour, but there was one annoyance to mar our pleasure; mosquitoes swarmed upon us, and we were obliged to leave the island sooner than we anticipated.—Woodcock.

Montreal, 27th August, 1881.

OUR FOREST TREES.

(CONCLUDED.)

CHOKO CHERRY; *P. Virginiana*.—A tall shrub or small tree. The wood is of no value, but the tree is very pretty when in flower and fruit.

HONEY LOCUST; *Gleditschia*.—This tree has been introduced from farther south, where

it often reaches a great size. Its graceful appearance and long, sweet pods make it an interesting tree. The wood is very hard, but is much worked by worms, and it is difficult to get good specimens of much size.

RED MAPLE; *Acer rubrum*.—This is also called the swamp or soft maple, and is a tree of middling size, growing abundantly in low grounds. The bright red flowers in spring, and the brilliant leaves in autumn, make the name Red Maple highly appropriate. It is not uncommon to see a single tree in a copse of maples, turning to a crimson or scarlet, as early as August, while all the surrounding trees remain green. This is believed to be a proof that the frost has very little to do with the autumn colors. The wood is whitish compact and firm, is well suited for turning, and takes a fine polish. It is much used for common bedsteads, and other cheap furniture. It is however not strong, and when exposed to dampness speedily decays. Authorities differ widely about the maples. Mr. Emerson asserts that the curled maple is a variety of the red, and the bird's eye, a variety of the sugar maple.

WHITE, OR SILVER MAPLE; *A. dasycarpum*. This rapid growing and handsome shade tree is abundant in western New England, but not common eastward unless planted by man. It reaches a good height, and forms a fine spreading top. The roots are believed to impoverish the soil around them by their long ramification. As intimated above, the wood is said by some authorities to be of little value, while others place it at the head of the maples. Its sap contains some sugar, but far less abundantly than the sugar maple.

ROCK, OR SUGAR MAPLE; *A. saccharinum*.—This noble and valuable tree often grows to a height of eighty feet, and when in early foliage and flowers, can scarcely be surpassed in beauty. South of New England it is more prized as a shade tree, though its slow growth detracts somewhat from its general merits. The wood is much used in cabinet work, being capable of a very fine polish. But it is as a source of sugar supply that this tree claims its highest value. There is good evidence that from 35 to 40 pounds of sugar have been made in one season from a single tree, and that a barrel of sap has been taken from one trunk in 24 hours. These are extreme cases. The average is from 12 to 30 gallons of sap or 3 to eight pounds of sugar from a tree in one season. This industry is one of the chief sources of income to New England farmers.