

nets, but were too lazy to use them; they always prefer the spear.

The Labrador Indians state that the country in which they reside belongs to God and themselves. They are, therefore, suspicious of strangers occupying the rivers. These people come down invariably to the south coast in summer to trade off their furs, and attend the mission. They return to their hunting grounds in August and September.

MIGRATION OF SHAD.

In the March number, we gave a query, asking for information as to the distance Shad has been seen in inland waters. We are told that this fish has been taken in Lake Ontario, near Hamilton. Some of our readers may have been puzzled regarding the question, but our object was to show that if Shad migrated annually from the salt water to Lake Ontario, therefore there cannot be any obstacle in the way of Salmon bred in Ontario from reaching the sea.

THE GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

In 1877, the Hon. Mr. Mills, then Minister of the Interior, introduced a Bill in the Commons of Canada, "To make better provision respecting the Geological Survey of Canada, and for the maintenance of the museum in connection therewith." The Act was carried by the late administration. The removal of the Geological Survey from Montreal to Ottawa was then decided by sec. 6, as follows:—"The Governor in Council may, whenever he thinks fit, direct the removal of the Geological Museum, and the officers and others connected with the Geological Survey Branch of the Department of the Interior, to the City of Ottawa." This is now being carried out by the present Government. Referring to sections 2 and 3 of the Bill it will be seen that a new feature appears—viz: Zoology—in fact the Hon. David Mills specially framed it (Dominion Statutes, 1877, chap. 9, p. 49) to

include all branches of Natural History, in order to form a museum of a National character, useful for reference to all interested, and likely to prove beneficial to the general public of the Dominion. It will therefore be seen that the intention of the Government in removing the Geological collections permanently to Ottawa, is to establish near the seat of Government, a museum similar to that of the Smithsonian Institution, Patent Office and Department of the Interior at Washington, in the United States. This is doubtless a correct view of the matter. If Mr. Mills' Bill is legally and thoroughly carried out, Montreal will certainly lose the benefit of the Survey collection, but in future, as a National Museum, the Dominion as a whole, will be fully compensated. It would be well, however, for the Government to consider the propriety of presenting duplicates of minerals and fossils from the Surveys Collection to the new museum of McGill University, where the citizens of Montreal and interested visitors could have an opportunity of examining them.

QUERIES.

Among the wild ducks occurring in the Dominion are three species belonging to the genus BUCEPHALUS, viz: Barrow's Duck, or the Iceland Golden-eye, (*B. Icelandica*, Baird); The common Golden-eye, (*B. Americana*, Baird); [The second species has its white cheek-spots almost circular, while the cheek-spots on *Icelandica* are pyriform,] and the Butter-ball or Buffle-head (*B. albeola*, Baird). Barrow's Golden-eye nest in trees, entering a hole like the wood duck. A nest of the Iceland or Barrow's duck was found in a tree at Missisquoi Bay, in the Province of Quebec; it contained nine eggs. Can any of our readers give us information regarding the nomenclature of the common Golden-eye and the Butter-ball? We notice that the Michigan Sportsman's Association have lately placed the above ducks under the old genus FULIGULA.