

together. The thrush and the robin each give a single shrill whistle which can be heard across a storm at night for a distance of nearly a mile. These birds are all great travellers. Some of them travel every spring and fall from the shores of Hudson Bay, from Labrador and even Greenland, to the tropic of Capricorn, a distance of 6,000 miles.

The massing of these forces in the early fall is very curious and highly interesting. Not a single bird starts southward until the cutting northern winds begin to pipe. Then all the families or broods for miles around begin to collect until hundreds and sometimes thousands get together and form into a body on the edge of a wood. Here the younger birds wheel, and scream and frolic, chasing each other through the air; but the elders appear sedate and seem to be waiting to collect together every bird that should join in the march.

It has long been a matter of conjecture as to how these birds can make their way at night, but it has been held latterly by the best ornithologists that they are guided by the stars. This is proved from the fact that on clear nights they fly often to a height of three miles, and at that distance it would be utterly impossible for them to be guided by the topo-

graphy of the route. Moreover, when the stars are covered the birds become bewildered and have at once to seek the ground.

The captain of a schooner trading between Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland told the writer how, on one occasion, he had left the Newfoundland coast with a steady northeaster which blew straight across the gulf, but, after being out a short time, the wind veered and blew from the south and it became very foggy. On the morning of the second day the crew were surprised to find about fifty wild geese on the deck of the vessel, some of them clinging to the hatches, deck or wherever they could get a hold.

Now, a wild goose never starts out for a journey across the sea unless the wind is fair, and it will then start in the day, but not in the night. These birds must fly by the stars, because they would have no other guide for 600 or 700 miles of water. Sometimes, however, the wind veers, and as a wild goose will not alight in the sea, it takes refuge on the first object that comes in sight.

Hundreds of thousands of little woodbirds every year, in flying across the gulf, get out of their course in the dark and storm, become exhausted and are drowned.—*Recorder, N.Y.*

NOTES FOR TEACHERS.

THINGS, NOT BOOKS.—If a true idea is to be formed of them, the brain must have help through the eye. The late Mr. Thring, of Uppingham, has told us that all history was shadowy ghostland to him till he saw the mark of Richard Lionheart, at Rouen, when he was twenty—that is, when he had long been in possession of a much larger amount of such knowledge as books, unaided, can give, than most people ever gain.

INFLUENCE OF THE LIVE TEACHER.—Three conditions must be fulfilled if children are to gain as much knowledge of nature, and of wholesomely interesting human nature, as they need for healthy life. No one, as a rule, ever learns to care for anything that he is the better for caring for, except by help of the influence of some one who already cares for the thing in question, or something like it; and for the majority of children