

THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW.

very much occupied, I shall stop, or else I am afraid you will consign this screed to the paper basket, before glancing at it, let alone reading it.

Extend my best wishes to your father, mother and my other friends around Rockwood, and do not forget to give my love to the fair editors, (I always have a tender regard for the fair sex.) Tell them I wish them every success in their new departure.

The above kind wishes may be considered sentimental, unless it is accompanied by the practical, and I therefore enclose 35 cents, one year's subscription. I would like to begin my subscription with the first issue of the paper, so please send me Nos. 1 and 2.

Goodbye my dear boy, with the tender regards of your old friend,
McCONNELL.

P. S.—The baseball season is to hand, I only wish I had the time to run down and umpire a game for you.

HATCHLEY.
Tuesday, May 29.

Dear Editors:—

I have just spared time to write a few lines, as this is our mail day (two a week.) The spring so far has been here, a remarkable forward and genial one. The winter wheat showed heads more than a week ago, which is unprecedented here at any time; there was the usual summer bird invasion about the last four days in April, and all the genera and species of regular visitants are here in undiminished numbers. The display of Orioles has been especially rich and exuberant, these are emphatically frequenters and habitues of gardens and orchards. Their period of song is a brief one, and only lasts until the fruit trees and early shrubs and garden flowers are gone out of

bloom, thus they have but little more than a month of full glory, and they rear their young and leave us before or about the last week of June. These birds are in unusual numbers this year, and their sonorous voices and clarion calls have been almost incessant in one's hearing from earliest dawn until gloaming, for the past month. Their habitual cry is a few notes of gleeful exultation, but they can vary their utterances according to their mood and temper of mind. A number of pairs of Orioles have nested near this spot, and there is much rivalry and pugnacity shown by the males, several vindictive fights have been lately noticed just here, either by me or my son. Encounters on the grassy floor of the orchard, in which the combatants clinched each other with bulldog ferocity, and so struggled, and tumbled panting and open mouthed and hissing, until mutually exhausted; they too have "challenge" and "defiance" calls across the orchard, and also friendly notes and affiance's.

Their usual kindred call sounds like "Teeka Teeka Tea cup," (Teck too) is occasionally added, of course rapidly enunciated, and their congratulatory call, sounds very much like the vibrating rattle of the Kingfisher. One may here observe that the Orioles like some birds vary somewhat in their cadenzas in distant neighborhoods. Some when unusually excited or frightened, miss or omit a vowel or syllable, or even seem to stutter a little; this is true of the Bob-o-link, and Robin also, and I have lately observed that the Robin, like most of the thrushes, occasionally imitates and interlards with his specific carol the notes of the Oriole or Bob-o-link. For several days past a brief but rather loud song of what I supposed was a strange bird visitor struck my ear, and at last the mystery was