

friend of mine, on one occasion, while an almost limitless flock of pigeons was passing over, loaded and discharged a single-barrelled muzzle-loader nine times between the arrival of the front of the flock and the passing of the rear-end, killing about one hundred birds. In the same length of time one could have fired a breech-loader 40 times. I imagine that the partial clearing away of the bush in their line of flight, which was always uniform and fixed, has had something to do with the comparative disappearance of pigeons from parts of the country where they were formerly so numerous during their annual transit. Under existing circumstances, with the improved guns of the present day, I should like to have a few days of the old style of sport, pigeon shooting, even though such shooting is not to be compared with wild fowl, snipe or woodcock shooting. I have a "hammerless, treble wedge fast gun," 28 inches long in the barrels, 12 bore, $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. weight, full choked. It is only simple justice to the celebrated maker, W. W. Greener, of Birmingham and London, to say that this beautiful gun throws its shot, from the larger sizes down to the smaller, with great closeness and penetration at very long ranges. In fact, it is by far the most killing weapon I have ever handled. In beauty of finish, excellence of material, and complete effectiveness, it is a credit to the establishment in which it was manufactured. The ordinary charge for this gun is 3 drams of powder and 1 oz. of shot, and the heaviest charge, $3\frac{1}{2}$ drams of powder and $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of shot. I have, however, at 40 yards, made an extraordinary pattern with $2\frac{1}{2}$ drams of powder and $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce of No. 6 shot. I feel confident, that with my gun and the latter charge of Curtiss & Harvey's No. 6, or Pigeon, Wilkes & Laurence's No. 4 powder, I can kill a single duck sitting on the water, every time,—a much more trying shot than on the wing—at 50 or even 60 yards. With such a gun in the old times, when pigeons were plenty, I could easily have knocked over six or eight dozen between break of day and eight o'clock on any fine morning during the great flights of the past. Yours truly,

HAMMERLESS GREENER.

Ottawa, Feb. 25, 1881.

Forest clearing along the base of the Laurentian mountains may partially cause the non-appearance of the Passenger Pigeon in large numbers of late years. The wild pigeon, being gregarious, like the western locust, an-

nually remove to pastures new. A locality near prolific beech trees is generally selected by the birds as a nesting-place. The same applies to tree squirrels, which instinctively migrate where food, especially beech-nuts, may be abundantly obtained.—Ed.

GRAVENHURST, ONT., 3rd March, 1881.

SIR,—This may interest you. A young man in my employ, informs me that while living on a farm further back in the woods of Muskoka, discovered that one of the cows had been milked. Determined to find out who the robber was, a strict watch was kept on the cow for some days without success, and still she was milked. One of the family happening to go out about the break of day, noticed the cow lying down. On approaching her an adult Porcupine was noticed in possession of her lacteal ducts, both animals resting quite contented. I have a Porcupine almost domesticated, which is fond of milk, but I never supposed that these animals could procure nourishment in the above manner. I have a tame Bear. He went into winter quarters on the 27th December. On the 30th I coaxed him out and gave him two slices of bread. He still keeps his bed and when I offer him an apple (his favorite bit,) he seems to care little whether he eats it or not. All he has had to eat since the 27th of December is three slices of bread and two apples. Does not my Bear beat Dr. Tanner?

Yours etc.,

R. B. SCRIVEN.

WILD FOWL OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

DEAR SIR,

In the region between the Little Saskatchewan River and Bird's Tail Creek are innumerable small ponds and swamps, which, during spring, summer and autumn, abound with ducks of the following species, viz.:—blue and green winged teal, mallard, spoon-bill or shoveller, pin-tail and several others. This region appears to have been a great breeding place for wild fowl, and is so at present; but the advent of settlers, who have during the last two years come in great numbers, will probably drive the ducks to places more unfrequented by man. In the spring of 1880, the writer spent the month of June in this district, and having nothing in his commissariat but salt pork, beans and flour, and twenty-seven men to feed, was tempted to "go" for the ducks and