

A LITTLE BIRD EXPEDITION.

By F. A. SAUNDERS.

On July 16th the writer, in company with some hundreds of other excursionists, left Ottawa for Ste. Anne de Beaupré, not in the hope of being relieved of any bodily ailment, but for the prosaic reason that the trip was cheap, and would bring a lover of nature very easily to a part of the country where the fauna is more northern in character than ours at home. After a visit to that famous place of some few minutes duration only, the road east was taken, with shank's mare for a conveyance, and in due time the picturesque village of St. Joachim de Montmorency came in sight, standing just opposite the lower end of the Island of Orleans, and giving a fine view of both Mt. Ste. Anne and Cap Tourmente, the mountains which are visible down the river on a clear day from the terrace at Quebec, the latter being the first of the Laurentians below that point whose base is washed by the tides, and the one which, with the little chapel and cross on the summit, is so well seen from the deck of a passing steamer.

The next day was spent in climbing to the top of this hill, and the writer was so fortunate as to miss the main path and get entangled in a swamp in which there was such an abundance of bird life, and all of it so interesting that one knew not which way to turn or which bird to look at first. Here was surely the place where they make up those tourist parties of warblers that are at the same time such a delight to see and such a vexation to sort out in the fall migration. Blackburnian, Magnolia and Parula Warblers, and many commoner species came up from all sides to see who the intruder was,—a mutual inspection in which the birds had much the worst of the bargain, as they are perfect gems of colour and were that day in their very best Sunday plumage, which the writer certainly was not.

The climb proved to be a comparatively easy one after all, and repaid the climber in many ways, but chiefly by the view from the top, which was most impressive. Except for the mountains near by, and those bounding the horizon to the south (in