

# THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 9.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1883.

Vol. III.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

## THE SOLITARY WASPS.

The Editor wishes to correspond with students of the ODYSSEES of Canada.

## OUR MAGAZINE.

It is gratifying to state that this magazine is being appreciated by our Canadian readers, and furthermore encouraging to notice that, during the last year, it has been in demand by American writers on Natural History. Some of our readers doubtless anticipated that the serial would be more devoted to sporting matters, but we have discovered that it was impossible to devote much of our monthly space to this kind of news, as the daily papers generally contain reports on almost all occurrences of this nature. Occasionally some interesting original incidents are sent to us, which we publish because such matters are not within the ken of a newspaper reporter. Henceforth our pages are to be taken up by original subjects, relative to the Natural History of the Dominion of Canada, together with contributions on biological research. Our columns will, however, be open to those who love the use of the Rod and Gun.—C.

## INSECTIVOROUS GROUSE.

A male specimen of the Ruffed Grouse, (*Bonasa umbellus*), sent to me from Lennoxville, P.Q., had its crop full of caterpillars of *Notolontia concinna*, commonly known as the Red-humped apple tree caterpillar. The bird contained about fifty full-grown caterpillars of this destructive moth. On opening the crop, I could not detect the strong acid smell that these caterpillars possess when living. Perhaps the bird (the body of which I ate with a relish), may have been provided with a counteracting fluid. This is the first instance coming to my notice, of our native grouse

feeding on caterpillars. *Notolontia concinna* are very general feeders; they occur in clusters on the leaves of the apple, plum, pear, cherry, rose and thorn.—C.

## THE INSECTS OF CANADA.

I have received a "Label List" and a "Check List" of the insects of Canada, compiled by W. Brodie, L.D.S. and J. E. White, M.B., for the Natural History Society of Toronto. The label list contain the names of all insects known to occur in Canada, up to July of this year. The matter is carefully read and neatly printed, but I think that there should be some regard for system, as any Entomologist may notice that all the Diurnes and a portion of Walker's species of Diptera have capital letters, while species under the other Orders begin with lower case letters. The whole of the list should be uniform like the Hymenoptera, but the names of persons and places ought, in my opinion, to be capitalized. These lists are very useful to the entomologist. Copies are sold by the Society at one dollar each.—C.

## ORNITHOLOGIST'S CONVENTION.

Since the publication of the works of Wilson, Audubon and Bonaparte, no large popular work on the birds of America has been brought before the public, yet the subject has by no means been dormant. Both professional men and amateurs have been steadily at work, and have not only added new species to the list, but have brought to light so many new facts relating to the history of the birds already described, as to necessitate their being classed in different groups from those in which they had at first been placed. These changes have become of late years so numerous, and having been published by different authorities, that it became a necessity to have the whole of the nomenclature and classification revised, and, if possible, placed on a permanent basis. For this purpose the ornithological depart-