



THE BOYS' CLUB

SHORT STUFF

Will Taxi please send his full name and address. Someone is enquiring.

RING TRUE

Say, boys! Can you tell when a counterfeit dime is tossed on the counter to you? Of course you can tell, for you know every time That it strikes it doesn't ring true.

And, boys! Do you know that a counterfeit life (That's a regular sham through and through) Is as simply detected in every-day strife As the coin? For it doesn't ring true.

Ah, boys! If you want to be manly men, To be honored in all that you do, Just make up your minds that ten times out of ten, You will always be found to ring true.

And, boys! If you knew how our country respects A genuine man, then you, too, Would endeavor to live a life that reflects His image; and always ring true.

Ring true in your contests and games on the field, In your homes, with a crowd, or a few; Though others may try their shortcomings to shield, Yet, boys, just remember, ring true. —Pleasant Hours.

WHERE THE KINGBIRD NESTS

Dear Editor and Boys:—This is the first time I have written to your club; but all this while I have been reading the letters from the other boys.

In about the last paper I saw, you wanted your club to be the largest and best for the exhibition number; and also about the sportsmen becoming hard-hearted.

I am not much of either sportsman or trapper, but I have trapped lots of gophers. It has not made me more hard-hearted, neither has it done so to any of the other great sportsmen that I have known.

Johnny Running Bull wanted to know where king-birds build their nests. I have seen them in different places, but mostly in brush from eight to ten feet high, and in very sparse bluffs. These kingbirds build their nests of straw and mud; but twice I saw kingbirds' nests where they had chased robins off. If you want to find a kingbird's nest, when you see a pair of them flying around brush, walk through it and look around among the trees. They build their nests about the end of May, so this would be the time to look for their nests. Their eggs are of a spotted black and white color, about the same size as that of a large woodpecker.

I will now close before you get to think me dreary. Hoping that the club will become a success and that this misses the W. P. B. Man.

ROBERT ROBBINS.

BIRDS AS ALLIES OF FARMERS'

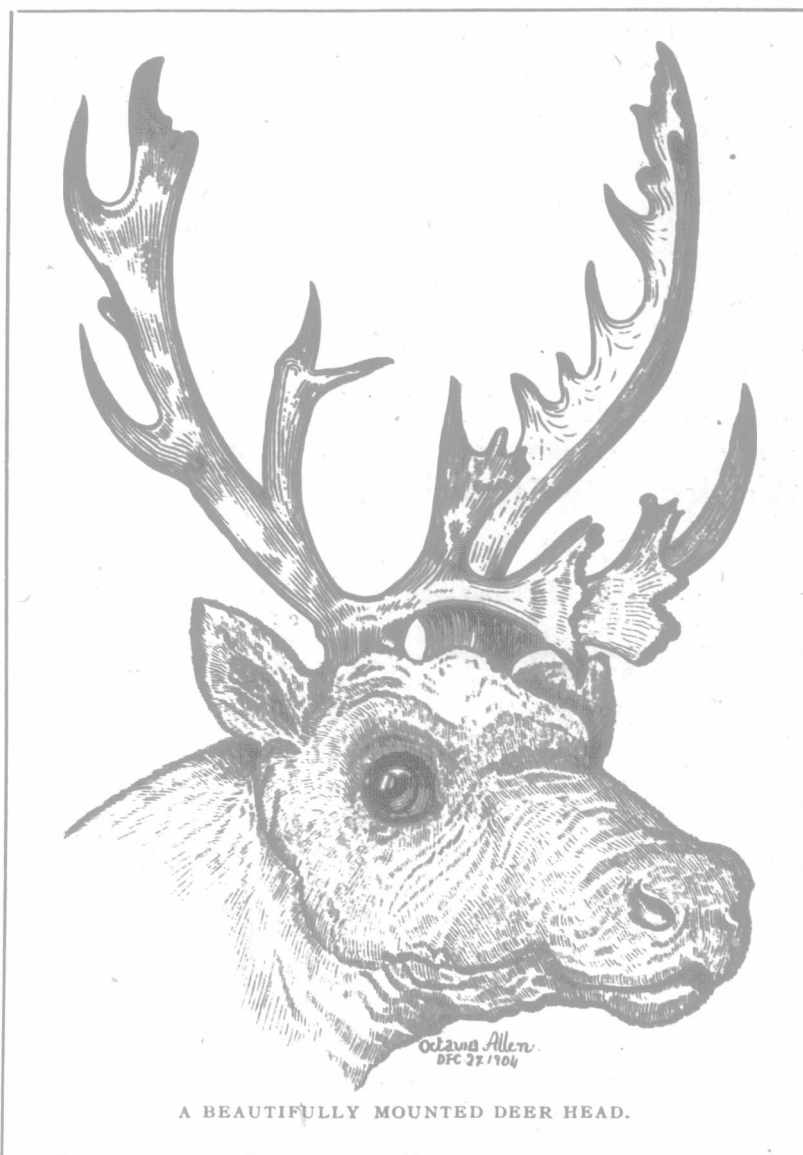
That agriculture is vastly more important than the millinery trade is the burden of a letter, being sent to all the granges by the National Association of Audubon Societies. The letter is as follows:—

"If the bird laws are to be improved, it can only be done through the powerful influence of the grangers, who are more deeply interested than any class of citizens. Every bird that is waste-fully destroyed means a loss of money

to the agriculturists of New York. The millinery trade does not wish the bird laws changed; it fights every attempt to improve them.

"Have you ever contrasted the relative size of the two interests—millinery and agriculture? If not, carefully examine the following figures taken from the last United States Census Report (1900):—

"Capital invested in the millinery (wholesale and retail) business in New York State, \$11,805,903.



A BEAUTIFULLY MOUNTED DEER HEAD.

"Capital invested in agriculture in New York State—

"Land, \$551,174,220.

"Farm buildings, \$337,000,000.

"Total, \$888,174,220.

"There are 226,720 farms in the State. Almost a quarter of a million farmers and their families depend on the products of these farms.

"There are 22,648,109 acres in these farms; every acre harbors swarms of insect and rodent pests that destroy crops, entailing enormous losses annually.

"Birds are the means supplied by the Creator to keep in check insect and rodent pests.

"Farmers, are you willing to have your best friends destroyed? In 1900, you spent \$27,102,130 for labor. The birds work for you without pay. Can you do less for them than to see that they have the fullest legal protection?"

MOUNT A DEER'S HEAD WITHOUT POISON OR INSTRUMENTS

Without wishing to train as a taxidermist nearly every boy would like to know how to mount the head of some nice trophy when he has shot it. The directions that I am giving are so simple that by following them I made a complete and abiding success of the first deer's head that I ever attempted. The head may be hung up for a day or

two, as it will stop bleeding. All stains and dirt must be washed off and dried. A very long skin should be left on the neck, as it is inclined to shrink. Take a strong, sharp knife and cut a straight line down the back of the neck. The line branches into a Y so as to reach the bases of the horns. Skin all of the neck; cut deep where the ears take root, carefully round the horns, leaving a little hair round each base. Keep cutting between the skin and flesh—if anything leave too much meat rather than cut the skin, but in the case of a slip of the knife draw the cut together immediately with a well-greased needle and thread. Cut carefully round the eyelids, and tear ducts, leave plenty on the muzzle, and now turn the skin inside out and salt it heavily on the flesh side. Hang it up—watch it carefully to see that none of the hair, or more particularly the ears, get folded any from the air, or they will rot, and the hair come off. Saw out the piece of the skull bearing the horns. Oil the horns and lay to dry. Boil all meat of the skull and collecting the

be put in while the eyelids are damp. A drop of glue on the pupil at the back will hold them in place. Varnish the horns and muzzle, but don't use any paint or it will look staring. These heads keep well.

Ganges, B. C.

OCTAVIA ALLEN.

A SPIRITED LETTER

Dear Editor:—I am pleased to have the opportunity of defending myself and friends in your journal in the Boys' columns. In the last issue of THE ADVOCATE there is a letter headed and signed "Defender of Nature," who is trying to tear the truth out of my letter as if it were not the facts.

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again," so shall the truth in my letter. He says that he knows "twenty-two" is right. If he knows he is right; I would like to see him prove it. I will try and prove my part over again, if the editor will print it.

I say he will be taking nothing but the life of what our great Creator put upon this earth for us to use. "Defender of Nature" says, "Let us take up the Bible for a minute and turn to Genesis," and so we will, but go to the ninth chapter and the first four verses of Genesis. There it says, in the third verse: "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you," etc. Does not that prove that they are to kill and eat? It certainly does not mean for us to eat the living animal, for in the fourth verse it says, "But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof shall ye not eat."

If you have never seen the passage in the New Testament where Jesus caught fish, turn to Luke 5th chapter, 4th to 7th verses. If He did not catch fish He told them where to put their nets, and He was in the ship when they drew their nets up and they were full of fish. Again in John 22nd chapter, from 3rd to 6th verses, He was with them and told them where to cast their nets. If that is not as much as to say that He caught fish there is no further information on it, and I will still follow His example.

When you see a bird scratching in the field it is upon a shock of grain, and it eats it as fast as it can. But sometimes they do scratch for worms and bugs. He says that geese do not eat grain. He says they catch insects and destroy them, but they are too slow to catch insects, and you or I never saw anything in a goose's crop beside grain, and what they eat you will find there.

He goes so far as to say that hawks and owls kill squirrels, weasels, badgers and skunks. If you ever saw a hawk or owl kill a badger it surely must have been an enormous hawk, or else a young badger; and young badgers never come out of their holes until they are at least quarter grown, and they then are too strong for the largest hawk that grows in Canada. A hawk hardly ever is seen around a grain field, that is, very many at a time. They are generally around a stream where there is lots of brush and mice to live on.

He says that if trapping is the only way a man can make a living, he might as well starve to death. Many a boy and man would starve to death if they had to trap for a living, for they don't know how.

I still think there is an instinct in every boy for to kill birds and animals. There is not one out of every ten, but what would throw stones at the birds if they got a chance.

He says it is going contrary to the sixth law of God: "Thou shalt not kill." That does not mean anything but mankind because He says "Whoso sheddeth man's blood by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God made He man."

Now then you would take from my letter that I was very cruel, but I do not believe in killing everything I come across.

There are some birds that are very useful, but there are some that never do any good at all. I love to hear the birds sing in the morning and evening, and I think their song is very sweet.

Now, boys, defend yourselves if you love to hunt, fish and trap.

JOHN BURNS.

(I cut one sentence out of your letter because a man who has a cause he considers just never needs to lower himself by making personal remarks. They weaken the argument instead of giving it strength. Come again.—Ed.)