

until they are so gorged that they can scarcely waddle, much less fly. With them enough is not as good as a feast, they want more, croak-more, croak-more. On this lake are no less than two heronies—a sight to behold. One contains nineteen deserted nests, and the other nearly forty. The nests are enormous affairs, built in dead pines, and when the birds are here it must be a strange sight. Although the herons are such tame birds in civilized districts in the far north, I have always observed that they are more shy than even the deer itself, and they take flight while a canoe is hundreds of yards away. They are always alert and ready to take wing. We have had a most exciting adventure, the details of which I shall give next letter—whisper it not, but we have bear steak in camp. With the best wishes for your early recovery.

Yours truly,

THE COMMODORE.

A WONDERFUL DOUBLE BASS.

At the Leigh County Court, his Honour Judge Wynne-Foulkes had before him the case of Beaumont v. Medling. Benjamin Beaumont, of Glazebury, sued John Medling, of Leigh, for £5 16s., for teaching him how to make and play the violin. There was a counter claim of work done of £8 3s.—Mr. Grundy appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Whittingham defended.—Plaintiff stated that in December, 1888, he entered into an agreement with defendant to teach him how to make and play a bass violin for £2. Defendant asked what sort of timber he would require, and plaintiff told him that plum, cherry, bird's-eye maple, and beech would be wanted. Defendant used two beech planks for the back of the instrument, and a cart-shaft for the neck. He purchased some deal, and was shown how to make the belly. De-

fendant was in a great hurry with the work, and glued up the belly with the glue-pot inside. (Laughter.) He had made a neck out of the cart-shaft, according to plaintiff's instructions, but he was again in such a hurry that he made a mistake and put the neck on the wrong end of the instrument.—(Renewed Laughter.)—Mr. Grundy: Did you give him instructions about the strings?—When it was made right for the strings I told him what kind it would require. I said he must go to a music shop, but instead of that he went to a clock and watch shop and got the catgut rope from an old eight-day clock.—(Laughter.)—His Honour: That didn't do?—It didn't answer. According to my instructions he tried to put the strings on. When he was winding them up to get them in tune one broke and hit him in the face, giving him a black eye. (Loud laughter.)—What took place next?—He had made the violin such a size that he could not get it out of the door.—(Renewed laughter.) He made the size to his own mind. He took the instrument to pieces and cut it less. He completed the instrument in three weeks' time.—Cross examined, plaintiff said he had had engagements at the theatres, concert halls, balls, and parties all over the country. The lessons were given on Sundays and Wednesdays.—His Honour said there were many contracts made and fulfilled on Sundays, and it did not make any difference as to the legality.—The defendant said the plaintiff's statement in regard to the making of the violins was false. He had made violins five or six years before he knew plaintiff. Plaintiff and others met at his (defendant's) house to investigate spiritualism, but never for taking lessons in violin playing.—Cross-examined: He had a "Leigh Model" which he had made himself,

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