

OPINIONS OF DISTINGUISHED ORNITHOLOGISTS.

Mr. C. W. Nash, the well-informed Biologist of the Provincial Museum of Ontario, who kindly prepared the inscriptions for these pictures, in giving his opinion of the collection, writes:

"The drawings of Canadian birds, made by Mr. Pope, and presented by Mr. J. Ross Robertson to the Public Library, of the City of Toronto, will rank among the best work of this class ever done. The coloration of the plumage in most of them is remarkable for its accuracy and the attitude of the subject is in all cases natural and characteristic of the species delineated.

"Lovers of art and naturalists will find pleasure and profit in studying these pictures, which not only faithfully portray the birds themselves, but also sufficient of the natural habitat of each species to show where it may be expected to be found in life.

"The citizens of Toronto have every reason to be grateful to Mr. Robertson for the public spirit he has shown in purchasing and presenting to the city this beautiful collection of drawings."

Mr. James H. Fleming, of Toronto, a recognized and widely-known authority on ornithology, who has the most complete private collection in Canada, after carefully examining the work of Mr. Pope, writes:

"It has been my privilege to examine the Pope drawings, and where necessary to compare them with the bird or animal they represent, and I have been struck with the accuracy in drawing and coloring; in fact, they would have brought fame to the artist had they been published at the early date they were made. To the naturalist they serve as an invaluable record of the fauna of the Lake Erie region at a time when the country was still covered by its original forest. Not only are the birds and animals shown, but the backgrounds often have details that the historian will find of interest. Toronto has reason to be grateful to Mr. J. Ross Robertson for the presentation of this unique collection of drawings."

WILLIAM POPE, 1811-1902.

Mr. William Pope, the artist of the water colors in this collection, was a very interesting man. He was born in Maidstone, Kent., Eng.; educated there and at Sevenoaks, Kent. In 1834 he made his first voyage to America, travelled extensively in the States; remained for a time in western Ontario, and then returned to England. He again came to Canada in 1842. Several visits were made to the old land up to 1859, when Mr. Pope determined to settle permanently in Canada, and for more than forty years lived near Port Ryerse, Norfolk County. He took no active interest in public affairs, but remained a persistent student of nature. His work for the most part consists of a combination of pen and ink and water color, the pen being used chiefly to outline the detail in the plumage of the bird or hair of the animal. In addition to these drawings, which are rivalled only by nature, Mr. Pope wrote much that is of interest on the life and habits of his subjects. His portrait is in the collection.