

How it clatters along the roofs,
Like the tramp of hoofs!
How it gushes and struggles out,
From the throat of the overflowing spout!
Across the window pane!
It pours and pours!
And swift and wide,
With a muddy tide,
Like a river down the gutter roars
The rain, the welcome rain!

The sick man from his chamber looks
At the twisted brooks;
He can feel the cool
Breath of each little pool;
His fevered brain
Grows calm again,
And he breathes a blessing on the rain.

From the neighbouring school
Come the boys,
With their wonted noise
And commotion,
And down the wet streets
Sail their mimic fleets,
Till the treacherous pool
Ingulfs them in its whirling
And turbulent ocean,

In the country on every side,
Where far and wide
Like a leopard's tawny and spotted hide,
Stretches the plain,
To the dry grass and the drier grain,
How welcome is the rain!

ILLEGALITY OF KILLING BIRDS.

The wanton or selfish destruction of our insectivorous birds is a disgrace to our civilization. Sundays and holidays are the favourite days, during which a certain class leave the city to prowl about the country, shooting the birds while nestling or hatching their young. Some destroy them from sheer love of mischief; others in order to dispose of the heads and wings to dealers in ladies' hats. Those who frequent our markets may see our small birds exposed for sale, minus heads and wings; the latter find their way into the hands of dealers, who work them up into ornaments for ladies' hats. There is a law imposing a penalty of \$10 on any person proved to have killed an insectivorous bird; but there are difficulties in the way of enforcing the penalty. The short remedy would be to make the party in possession of a dead bird liable for the penalty, unless he could prove that it was not killed purposely. The farmers induced the legislature to enact a law protecting small birds, convinced that their destruction exposed their crops to the ravages of insects, and that law, if not sufficiently repressive, should be amended. In England the same subject has been brought before the Commons by Mr. A. Herbert, and the evidences of the advantages of protecting insectivorous birds is as applicable to Canada as to England. Mr. Herbert said:—"As the House was aware great harm was done to plants, trees and fruits by insects of various descriptions. There was a species of beetle which destroyed whole acres of forests; but while we have an army of destruction, we had also an army of protection. Birds may be called the police or soldiery of Nature, although they had, of course, many allies, such as the bat, the mole and the hedge-hog. The reason why the swallows came over in such numbers to this country, was to feed on the immense multitude of insects which they found here, and which at particular seasons they could not find in their own country. The extent to which birds, he might add, feed on the insect life was hardly credible. Mr. Ware, whose benevolent views with respect to animals were well known, took the trouble to get up in the middle of the night, and to count how many times some birds feed on their young. He found that the thrush worked even beyond Parliamentary hours, because he began at 2:30 in the morning, and worked till 9:30 in the evening, or 19 hours, during which time he fed his young 206 times. The black-bird worked 17 hours, and fed his young 44 times, and the female 55 times, while titmice fed their young the marvellous number of 417 times in the day, as Mr. Ware believed on caterpillars. We had also such birds as the swallow, the swift, the martin, the wagtail, the cookoo, and the white owl, the use of which, he was sorry to say, was but very little appreciated, but he would pass from them to other birds, whose characters were rather of a more doubtful description. He would first mention the sparrow, which did a

great amount of good, and about the mode of conducting whose operations a very curious story was told. He was seen fluttering about a rose-bush and flapping it with his wings, just as a game-keeper would beat a preserve, and was soon after found to be engaged in picking up all the caterpillars which had dropped from the bush. There was also an historical anecdote with respect to the sparrow which was, he believed, perfectly trustworthy. Frederick the Great was very fond of cherries, and he discovered that the sparrows had a similar liking. The consequence was that in his desire to preserve the cherries he put a price on every sparrow's head, but at the end of two years he found it expedient not only to take off the tax, but to import sparrows at some expense into his dominions. Then there was the chaffinch, who was a great favourite with Mr. Waterton, who was of opinion that he did a great amount of good. The only bird, as far as he knew, which did not feed its young on insects and destroy a certain number of them in the year was the wood pigeon, but even he was of value. Lady Coutts had written to *The Times* a short time ago to say, that she could not keep even a nightingale in her garden, owing to the prevalence of netting. Swallows were netted in the same way and placed in cages, in which not one-twentieth part of them could live. A friend of his happened to be fishing the other day a little below Monkey Island, on the Thames, and he saw the bodies of several swallows and swifts, which had been shot by some, one floating by him. There were institutions called sparrow clubs, but the members of those clubs did not, he believe, really know the effect of that which they did. Their conduct was compared by Mr. Wood to the act of shooting our own soldiers at the moment of invasion by an enemy. He ventured, therefore, to plead on behalf of the constituency which had no votes, and which could not plead for itself, that no exception should be made in the case of the birds to be protected by legislation."

III. Educational Intelligence.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY—CONVOCAION WEEK.—At the closing Exercises in connection with Victoria University, the Baccalaureate Discourse was delivered by the Rev. Principal Dr. Nelles on Sunday evening. On Monday afternoon the Alumni Association met in their Hall. The members were entertained to a dinner by the local committee. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*—Mr. J. H. Dumble, M. A., LL.B., Cobourg. *Vice-Presidents*—Rev. Hugh Johnston, M. A., and Eli J. Barrick, M. D., &c., Toronto. *Secretary*—Mr. Henry Hough, M. A., Cobourg. *Treasurer*—Mr. J. W. Kerr, M. A., Cobourg. *Committee*—The graduates residing in Cobourg. On Monday evening Rev. W. M. Punshon delivered his lecture on "Mayflower Memories," in which he gracefully and powerfully told the story of the Plymouth Rock Puritans from the inception of their movement for freedom to their achievement of it in the forests in the New World. The Annual Convocation was held on Tuesday. After prayer by the Rev. Mr. Jones, Mr. Dingwall delivered in a creditable manner his "Valedictory Oration," taking as his subject "War." The following were then admitted to their degrees:

B. A.—Shepley, George F., *Gold Medallist*; Haggart, Alex., *Switzer*, P. A., *Silver Medallists*; Dingwall, Kenneth, *Valedictorian*; Carpenter, W. J.; Clark, John R.; Hare, Chas. J.; Harper, Cecil; Hawkins, Chas. W.; Holman, Chas. J.; Mallett, Richard; Pearen, James; Peterson, An. M.; Ross, John R., (*ad eundem*) Young, Rich. W.

M. A.—Burwash, John, B. A.; Bristol, Coleman, B. A.; Hayden, F. J., B. A.; Janes, Simeon H., B. A.; Macpherson, M., B. A.; Meacham, Geo. M., B. A.; Moore, John, B. A.; McNaughton, T., B. A., (Toronto Univ.); Payne, Wm. L., B. A.; Raveill, John W., B. A.

M. D.—Beaupre, Louis; Carriere, Phileas; Cartier, Paul; Coulombe, Ch. Jer.; Dagenais, Adolphe; Demers, Fred.; Desmariseau, N. B.; Desrosiers, L. J. P.; Dufort, Tancrede; Dupries, Julien; Fafard, Ch.; Filiatrault, Ch. M.; Gabourg, Ulric; Gagnon, Jos.; Gosselin, Vinc't.; Heroux, Horace; Laporte, J. B.; Larne, Omer; Larocque, Henri; Laurin, Victor; Macdonnell, J. R. D.; Matthieu, Arthur; Meunier, Paul; Miglault, Zoel; Paquet, —; Patoel, Francois; Rouleau, Zeph; Roy, L. M. A.; Simard, Alfred; Trudel, I.; Abbott, J. T.; Barelai, T. S.;