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WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

We shall be pleased to receive communications upon all matters relating to Sport and Natural History, and our columns will always be open to friendly discussions upon these subjects. We have to request, however, that our Correspondents omit all personalities from their manuscripts, otherwise we shall be obliged to refrain from publishing them.

ED.

TOLING DUCKS.

Some birds are very susceptible to the promptings of curiosity, and advantage of this is taken by sportsmen to decoy them by very simple devices. The system of toling ducks, though not very generally known in Canada, has been practised in England and the United States for a great many years past.

Toling consists simply in attracting the birds to the shore, where the gunner remains concealed at some convenient spot, and is performed by a dog, taught to run up and down the beach, where the ducks are feeding, at some point not too far from shore. The discovery of this mode of decoying ducks was quite accidental, being attributed to a circumstance noticed by a sportsman, who, concealed behind a blind, patiently awaiting the approach of some Canvas Backs, observed that they suddenly lifted up their heads and moved towards the shore. Wondering at this unusual procedure he naturally looked around to discover the cause, and observed a young fox sporting on the river bank; and the ducks, all engrossed to gaze upon him, were steering their course directly for the shore. This mode of decoying, however, is confined to very few species of ducks, and can only be successfully practised early in the season,

before the birds have become too wary. Most dogs require very little training to become adepts at toling, and will usually keep in motion on the shore if they see a flock of ducks approaching. Canvas Back, Blue Bill and Red Head are the species generally procured, as they are also the most easily attracted by decoys. The writer, while snipe shooting at Lake of Two Mountains in the Autumn of 1878, was a witness to the success of this method of attracting ducks. Having seen a large flock of Red Heads feeding at a distance of about four hundred yards from the shore, a hiding place was selected, and a small pointer dog which accompanied us was allowed to run along the beach. At sight of the ducks the dog betrayed great eagerness and ran excitedly to and fro on the river bank, the ducks in the meantime perceived his movements and almost immediately turned their course towards shore. In a few minutes, more than fifty Red Heads were within range of our guns, some of them, in fact, not more than ten yards from the dog, and all apparently greatly interested in his motions. We had deferred firing as they were pretty well scattered in the water, but at last could restrain ourselves no longer, and as the smoke from our guns rolled away we gathered up five birds, which we considered not a bad result from our first experience in toling.

WALLACE.

CRACK SHOTS.

Some sportsmen enjoy the enviable reputation of being what are termed "crack shots," they have acquired such a degree of skill in the art of shooting that if a bird rises within range of their death-dealing tubes, no matter how dense the cover, or how difficult the shot, the unfortunate bird is doomed to destruction and is speedily consigned to the depths of their game bags! At least such is