

THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

81

No. 11.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 15th, 1881.

VOL. I.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We are anxious to have our accounts squared up by the end of the year; therefore, gentlemen who have not paid for the magazine would confer a favor by remitting ONE DOLLAR to us before the 1st of December.

THE VENISON SEASON.

There must be some alteration in the time to hunt deer, and the necessity for the change is obvious from the late long continued fine weather, which, we may say, lasted throughout the months of September and October. At present the law says that all species of deer may be hunted from the 1st of September to the 1st of February, in the Province of Quebec, so that actually two months of the present legal season is of no value to the sportsman, and we may risk making no mistake in saying that for years to come but few deer will be obtained in the month of September at least, either in the accessible woodlands of Ontario or Quebec. The animals can certainly be obtained by going far back, but what can be done with venison after it is carried a great distance in such a temperature? It would be simply unfit for human food. We must, therefore, frame our Game Laws to suit the climate and rutting season, and it would be greatly to the advantage of sportsmen and the deer to commence the open season on the 1st of October, and close on the 15th of February. We throw out these remarks that gentlemen who are interested in the sport may study the subject and give us their opinions. We are not anxious to do things rashly, but it is evident that as the woodlands are annually opened, that the climate during the two months mentioned, will continue to increase in mildness, keeping the animals far back, and, therefore, not so accessible as in former seasons.—C.

EXPOSE THEM.

A few Americans have leased the Swanton Marshes on Lake Champlain, and have called themselves "The Maldon Game Club, of Mass." We have been informed that members of this Club have lately set numbers of muskrat traps on the sand-bars in order to catch the Black duck going there to rest. The discovery was made by a party who watched the gents searching for the traps which were hidden beneath the sand washed by the waves. We are also told that members of the above Club go into the marshes with dogs to procure young ducks before they are able to fly. The sporting men of Vermont—those who love fair play to game animals—should watch these gentry and make an *expose* of a few of them. If such tricks were played in a civilized Canadian community, the guilty parties would certainly be arrested and sent to jail to convert stones into pebbles.—C.

CANADIAN MUSEUMS.

THE LAVAL UNIVERSITY, QUEBEC.

This well-known educational institution has, without doubt, better facilities for exhibiting the *fauna* and *flora* of North America than any similar one in the Dominion. The room devoted to the zoological collections is large, and well-lighted from the west side of the building, and the cases containing the Ornithological collection are erected after modern patterns, spacious, standing transversely on the floor, each case having two windows to light its contents. We may safely say that the Museum of the Laval University of Quebec, in course of time will equal that of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia.

Some years ago the Council voted a sum of money to procure preserved skins of the birds of Southern and Western America, and the