For the REVIEW.] **NATURE LESSONS.**

What a chorus! How uproarious!
"Burr-urr." O how glorious!

"Peep, peep, pape, peep,
Cold feet can't sleep."

"Burr-urr, don't stir,
Little frogs are not born with fur."

"Cold, boled, told, doled,
The wee, little frogs are cold, cold."

"Burr-urr, go off, then to sleep,
And pray the Lord your souls to keep."

As thus I translated the song of the frog
My heart was borne off with them into the bog;

I felt the cold chill of the dark peaty water,
And howled with the hylas until it grew hotter.

Yes, hotter; for water is hotter than ice,
Which only just thawed made the frogs feel nice.

This gave me the key to their musical speech,
The howl was their highest hilarious screech.

They hold their house warming just every spring,
With bag-pipes and cornet they make the air ring.

When the ice is all melted; and to aid in their play
They light the black pond with the dark X ray.

A RELATIVE OF THE FROG.

In the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW of May, 1888, are some notes on the frog and its relatives. The thirteen species found in the Atlantic Provinces are classified into the two sub-divisions of the "tailed" and "tail-less" amphibians. Of the former there were named one "water newt" and four "salamanders," by some people wrongly called lizards, of which we have none in these provinces. To the "tail-less" amphibians were relegated one toad *(bufo)*, four frogs *(rana)*, and three piping or tree frogs *(hyla)*.

Now our water newt, newt, evet, or eft, is a very strange and interesting animal, and one which has not very generally been observed. The first references to it in these provinces was to one in the collection of the Pictou Academy in the article referred to about eight years ago. Since then several specimens have been found and studied. Its scientific name given by Rafinesque is *Diemyctylus viridescens*. Now as one of you has captured a fine specimen which I have here in the water in this glass jar, let us have a talk about him. Tell us where you found the specimen.

S. I found him in a little lake near our place. I was bent over the bank looking into the edge of the water when I saw something like what they call a lizard, but which you say is only a salamander, swimming or walking at the bottom of the water. It was about four inches long, its back of a dark olive gray, with some fine spots on it, its body was only about two inches and a little more, with two fore feet, with four fingers each on them, and two hind feet, with five fingers each on them, and the tail was about an inch and a half long, and flattened on the sides, the upper edge ran up on the back like a sort of a slight crest.

T. Very good. But how did you catch it?

S. I was afraid it might be poisonous, so I took a net for catching butterflies and caught it as with a scoop net.

T. Yes, but you see it is quite harmless, as I put my hand under him in the water and take him out. You see he wants to get back into the water again, and does not hurt any more than a fly. What is the color of its under parts?

S. A pale orange yellow, with small dark spots.

T. What do his eyes and mouth remind you of?

S. Of those of a small frog. Why has it got four fingers on its fore feet and five on its hind feet?

T. I cannot tell that. It is like its nearest relatives — the salamanders — in that respect. If it were a lizard, it would have five toes, or fingers, as you call them, on the fore feet as well as the hind ones, and its skin would be covered with scales, and not naked like that of the frog. Now let me take this small speck of fresh meat on the end of this splinter of wood and put it near his mouth.

S. O, he bites it. See what antics he makes in trying to swallow it. He is trying so hard to jerk it down his throat. He looks as if he might break his neck with some of his jerks.

T. Well, to be brief, let me give you an outline of his remarkable life. The egg was glued like the head of a very small pin to one of the small leaves of the small weeds growing in the lake or pond. It was surrounded by a transparent albuminous sphere like the eggs of the frogs, only the eggs are smaller and are placed singly on these small leaves.

When the egg is hatched out, the larva is of a dark olive grey color, with gills and a tail-fin, and by September may be over an inch in length. But about that time the fish-like gills and tail-fin become nearly absorbed, and the young newt climbs out of the water a little, and looks in a sort of wondering and longing manner towards the unknown land. After several repetitions of such apparent meditations on the distant world he betakes himself to the land. He soon begins to change his color, first becoming dark red, and finally a vermilion red. He is during this time feeding on spiders and other such insects, while he delights in retreating for the most of the time to the moist shelter