

The Rockwood Review.

Befoore Sup'rintindint, that's Flannigan,
Gits a whack at this very same sin agin.

From Finnigin to Flannigan
Repoorts won't be long agin."

Wan da-ay on the siction av Finnigin
On the road sup'rintindod by Flannigan,

A rail gave way on a bit av a curve,
An' some kyars went off as they made the swerve,

"There's nobody hurtod," sez Finnigin,

"But reports must be made to Flannigan."

And he winked at McGorrigan,
As married a Finnigin.

He wuz shantyn' thin was Finnigin,
As many a railroader's been agin,
An' the schmoky ol' lamp wuz burnin' bright

In Finnigin's shanty all that night—
Bilin' down his report, was Finnigin!
An' he writed this here: "Muster Flannigan,

Off agin on agin,
Gone agin—Finnigin."

—PEORIA JOURNAL.

GRANDFATHER'S CORNER.

A FEW WORDS ON ORNITHOLOGY.

It would be difficult to thoroughly enter upon the study of Ornithology without a knowledge of the names and terms which have become the common property of naturalists the world over, and by an acquaintance with which the habits, classification and general characteristics of any new addition to the realms of science can be written down in a short-hand understandable by the students of every land. It is necessary, however, to refer to the fact that ornithologists have agreed upon a common nomenclature which briefly describes the leading peculiarities of each member of the feathered kingdom, and that the kingdom itself has been divided in such fashion that it is an easy matter to place each subject of it in his own particular portion of it.

Thus with birds we have divisions into orders, sub-orders, families and sub-families, as with man we have races, nations, tribes and families. Let us take a single illustration of this. If I tell you that some good-looking fellow or other is Yorkshire Smith, you know that he is of the Smith family, the Yorkshire tribe, the English nation, and the Canadian race. So with birds. The order containing the most numerous members is that of INCESSORES, the Perchers. One of its sub-orders is that of OSCINES, the Singers. One of its families is that of TURDIDÆ, the Thrushes, and its sub-family is that of MIMINÆ, the Mockers. A well-known member of this sub-family is *Turdus felivox*, the Cat Bird. Now, what is suggested by these apparently hard names, which after all, are just as simple as Jones or Brown, when, with a little mental labor, you become acquainted with them? The student sees at once that this bird has a voice like a cat, is a mocking bird, is a thrush, that thrushes are singers, and that singers are perchers. Without seeing the bird, he could tell you the formation of its feet, give a good guess at its general appearance, pronounce pretty correctly as to its food, its habits, its nests, and upon everything but its exact color and peculiarities. He would find, on reference to books, that it is also termed *Turdus lividus*, and in this manner he would be able to determine its color. In other words, the German student of Ornithology would, from these two names, be able to inform you that the American Cat Bird imitates the songs of other birds, and is himself a singer, that he feeds upon insects and their larvæ, that he lives upon trees, that he nests in bushes near the ground, that the nest contains from four to six eggs, that they are of a bluish green color, and that the bird himself is of ashy hue; and could tell you nearly as much about our lively little friend as the American student who had listened to his cheerful