

### Redruff

umbled quickly,  
g from his icy  
he young ones!  
ak, hastily gath-  
s gnawing hun-  
drift and clucked  
e reply, a feeble  
with his sharp  
sheet he soon  
ebly crawled out  
the others, scat-  
n the drift, made  
and he was forced  
ow melted in the  
iew, skin, bones,

and Graytail fussy  
in plenty are sure  
day in midwinter  
the vigorous Red-  
og. Was it the  
cks of their snow-

shoes on the omnipresent snow, that betrayed them to Cuddy? He came prowling again and again up the ravine, with dog and gun, intent to hunt the partridges down. They knew him of old, and he was coming now to know them well. That great copper-ruffed cock was becoming famous up and down the valley. During the Gunner Moon many a one had tried to end his splendid life, just as a worthless wretch of old sought fame by burning the Ephesian wonder of the world. But Redruff was deep in woodcraft. He knew just where to hide, and when to rise on silent wing, and when to squat till overstepped, then rise on thunder wing within a yard to shield himself at once behind some mighty tree-trunk and speed away.

But Cuddy never ceased to follow with his gun that red-ruffed cock; many a long snapshot he tried, but somehow always found a tree, a bank, or some safe shield between, and Redruff lived and throve and drummed.

When the Snow Moon came he moved with Graytail to the Castle Frank woods, where food was plenty as well as grand old trees. There was in particular, on the east slope among the

