

more than can be useful to himself and friends—not with the selfish thought of sending the carcasses of the deer to market. To such a sportsman this kind of recreation partakes of the thrill well described by the ancient hunter. But to the market hunter, no such thrill enters his breast, his motive consists in quality, quantity and weight, knowing well that he can easily obtain a market for his ill-gotten flesh. The species of deer inhabiting our northern forests have increased since the British troops have been removed from Canada. The enormous quantity of moccasins and snow-shoes made for soldiers was, in a great measure, the cause of the scarcity of Moose and Caribou. The Indians who made the articles had to obtain the material, and the Canadian woods and mountains were hunted in and out of season to supply the demand.

It is reported that the late bush fires destroyed a number of deer, and it is furthermore said that many were shot while retreating from the heat and approaching clearings. Thus between woodland fires and the power of man, little chance had they for existence. Those who destroyed the innocents under these circumstances and at such a season, deserve to be stripped and scourged. We trust that at no distant day, a law will be made and become powerful enough to reach cases of this kind, and the unmanly conduct severely punished.—C.

CANADIAN MUSEUMS.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

The collections of the above Society are generally speaking, well represented in regard to American forms. There is also a large quantity of foreign material, making altogether a very good museum, and we are pleased to say it is in a fair state of preservation at present. The collections, as a whole, are probably the oldest in the Dominion. For a number of years they were under the superintendence of a paid Curator, at that time known as a "Scientific Curator," who did very

little in regard to the arrangement of the American birds. In accordance with the advanced knowledge of nomenclature, the new system of classification should be one of the first duties that a Scientific Society had to perform. The last time we visited this institution, it was remarkable that some conspicuous foreign birds had no names attached to them; yet the Society had been paying a man during a series of years to perform this work. The Society is sustained by private subscription which has been lately reduced to Three dollars per annum for membership. The local government gives it annual aid to publish its transactions. We have no knowledge of its financial position at present, yet, we may say that this Society shows evidence of being somewhat exclusive. If its Council would like to see a good balance sheet, all they have to do is to place its library on the same foundation as the Mechanics Institute; open the Museum to the children from the various schools, say at a few cents per head. By so doing the building will always be full of inquisitive youths, who are in search of knowledge, especially regarding objects of Natural History. We would like to see the unhandled worm-eaten books on Natural History that are locked up on the shelves of some institutions made use of in the same way as in lending or church libraries. Are not books written and made to be useful? They cannot do any good while locked up against those who can pay for the privilege of reading them. The Natural History Society of Montreal has a grand opportunity of establishing a circulating library, which of itself would be a source of strengthening its membership, and we presume if this is done, its doors will not remain so long closed to the general public, as they have hitherto been. In conclusion, this institution must, ere long do something in the way of claiming the attention of the public; it will have to abandon its present exclusive position, and give a chance to those who are anxious to give it reasonable support. Unless this is done a