

THE
CANADIAN NATURALIST.

SECOND SERIES.

ELEMENTARY VIEWS OF THE CLASSIFICATION
OF ANIMALS.

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[The matter of the following pages has been prepared principally for the benefit of students, who are in general much more apt to learn names and details than to attain to general views. It is introductory to the printed synopsis of lectures which I annually prepare for my classes, and is now published under the impression that, though but elementary and general, the views which it contains may prove interesting to naturalists, and useful to some of those who may be struggling with the difficulties incident to the study of zoölogy under the heterogeneous methods of classification which are found in most elementary books. Should time permit, it may be followed by illustrations of the details of some of the classes and orders of animals. The writer acknowledges his obligations, as sources of recent information, to Agassiz's *Essay on Classification*, Dana's *Remarks on the Classification of Animals based on Cephalisation*, and Huxley's *Lectures on Classification*, though he cannot follow throughout the systems of any of these authors.]

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

No subject is at present more perplexing to the practical zoölogist or geologist, and to the educator, than that of zoölogical classification. The subject in itself is very intricate, and the views given as to certain groups by the most eminent naturalists so conflicting, that the student is tempted to abandon it in despair, as incapable of being satisfactorily comprehended.

The reasons of this, it seems to the writer, are twofold. First, zoölogy is so extensive, that it has become divided into a number of subordinate branches, the cultivators of which attach an exag-