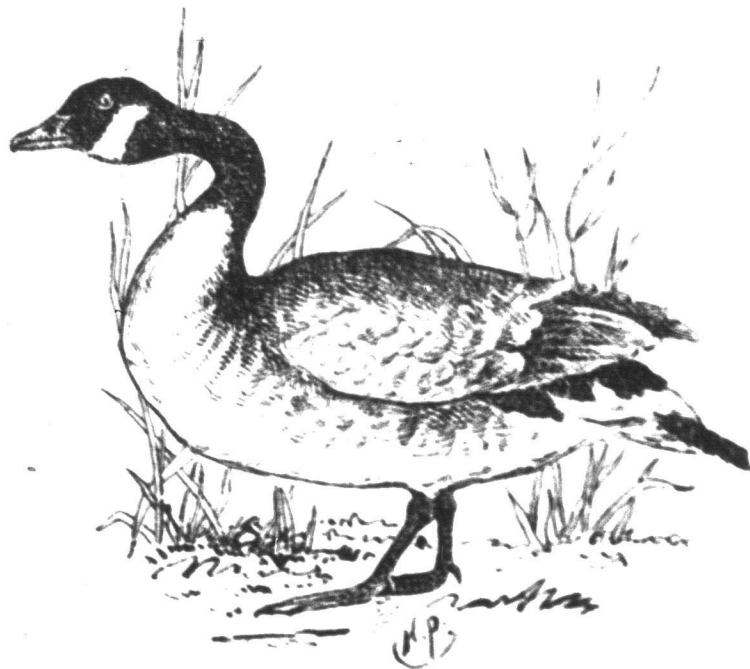


For the REVIEW.]

NATURE LESSONS.

THE CANADA GOOSE.



"Here is a good view of the Canada Goose. Very few of you will have so close a look at a real one. Do we find them in our woods?"

"No, sir. We can only see them when they pass over us, going north or south."

"Oh! I see you know something about them. When, pray, may we expect to see them passing us, then?"

"This month, March."

"In what direction will they pass us? How many have noticed them passing?"

A number of hands went up in the school. The teacher then selected his answerers from various parts of the room according as he wished to stimulate one or other of his pupils.

"What way will they move past us this month, then?"

"North," went up the chorus.

"North! Will not even wild geese need something to live upon, and what can they get by going north in winter time, when we must suppose they went south on account of the wilderness and dearth produced by the winter?"

"I suppose they will not go north until the winter begins to pass, until the lakes and rivers which geese like to frequent begin to open up."

"Very well reasoned; but in natural science we must observe, because very often things are occurring which we would not expect before we knew the facts, although after we know them they appear natural enough. Now as you can hardly be expected to go out and watch these wild geese closely when they are passing through, when they may be trying to feed for a day or so on some of our neighboring wild and lonely marshes and lakes, what can you fairly be expected to do?"

"We can note the time when they are seen passing, and perhaps we might sometime have an accidental chance of a close view of them."

"Very well said. Their migration north always depends, to a very great extent, on the opening up of the northern waters, near which they pass the summer and breed. Sometimes they do not pass until late in April."

"Sometimes they make a mistake," said Jack, in his usual brusque way, when so absorbed in his thoughts as to forget that he is speaking in public, "and then they have to come back for a few days and try again."

"Quite true. Now I want each of you to report to me every morning any movements of these birds which you notice, and I will write them down in this book, in which we are keeping an account of all the interesting things which are seen by any one belonging to our school. In many other places in Canada and the States, people are making the same kind of observations, and I will send ours to headquarters, where all the other observations are sent. Then we shall expect these people to be able to tell us just exactly how fast these migrating birds pass along from the south to the north over all these states and provinces which we see here on our map. We shall thus be learning something ourselves, and at the same time will be helping others to solve difficult questions which they could not solve accurately without our help. All you will have to do is to keep your eyes open and to report to me. This will be very much better than to leave the work of observing to me alone; for I have only one pair of eyes, which must keep together, while between all of you, eyes will be scattered all over a dozen square miles of country."

JACK. "And we can see the geese going south from the end of September to November, according to the earliness of the winter."

TEACHER. "Very true. But I hope you will be watchful, so that our record of their migrations may be as accurate as possible. We shall also be able to compare their movements one year with those of another, and perhaps it will enable us to learn something new about the laws of the weather, which may be of use to people."

"But how shall we know them," said one little scholar.

"What do you say to that, Jack?" said the teacher, who evidently preferred to give to one of the pupils the pleasure of feeling that he knew something worth telling, and at the same time the opportunity of expressing his thoughts in language, to talking himself. And the pupils appeared to be all the more