

"er afforded by woods or hedges, from severe winds, is less at this period than at any other. Insects flitting about from tree to tree would be more liable to destruction, and it may therefore be that partly from disuse, and partly from the fact that those that could not fly were more likely to escape during the prevalence of a storm, their wings may gradually have become aborted as we find them."

J. M. EMILE BONNET.

Montpellier, October 9, 1885.

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LETTER FROM A WESTERN CORRESPONDENT.

Here comes the little CANADIAN SCIENCE MONTHLY again, always welcome and interesting. It is pleasant to scan its pages and see what sort of learning and study now fill the minds of downeast youths, preparing for lives of usefulness and enjoyment. Thirty years ago, when I was spending years on Latin, Greek and Mathematics in a Vermont school, we used to cover the whole ground of the natural sciences by a term or two of Natural Philosophy, and a few sips of chemistry and botany. Farther than these "our souls proud science never taught to stray."

But behold the change. Now the boys and girls may study the living world around them, without fear of ridicule. Close, exhaustive study of natural objects is not only *fashionable*, but fortunately it is *sensible*, *practicable*, and valuable as mental and moral discipline. It inculcates the constant mental habit of search for truth; and the mind is thus constantly attempting to weigh facts and distinguish truth from error.

THE SCIENCE MONTHLY: Science is knowledge. It is not guess-work, or fancy, or opinion, or theory. or speculation or probability. It is *knowledge*—absolute, certain, demonstrable and systematic. Theology is not science in this sense, because its "doctors disagree" on many of its points, and the best of its exponents admit that it lies wholly outside the range of tangible proof. Phrenology and psychology and animal magnetism are not yet reduced or rather exalted to science. They have remarkable phenomena, but they baffle the student because they lack the important quality of certainty.