

THE MUSICAL CATBIRD.

This Canadian Has Ugly Name But Beautiful Song.

The apple-blooms in the solitary apple tree in the backyard, the only survivor of the ravage of the San Jose scale, have been scattered by the winds. In their place is an assemblage of little green buttons, which it is hoped will one day develop into pippins.

From the uppermost twig of this tree, the family in the house and all the neighbors have been furnished, morning after morning, with a musical medley, the delight of all who hear it.

Poets on this side of the Atlantic have indulged in raptures over the song of the nightingale, which they have never heard but have taken second-hand from European rhymer. Deaf are they to the wonderful vocalist singing in the apple tree to whom, native Canadian that he is, has been accorded no sounding title. He is called—one may blush to write it—the catbird.

This name has been given, it is said, because of one of its cries, which resembles the mew of a cat, and this mew of the cat is the least of this bird's accomplishments. His musical matinee from the top of the apple tree lasts a full half hour each morning, and what a variety, with no number repeated!

A handsomely-shaped chap he is, about eight and one-half inches long from the tip of his bill to the longest of his tail feathers. His suit is of a dark slate color with crown and tail black, and under tail covers chestnut. Other birds arrive in this neighborhood somewhat earlier in the spring, but do not deserve and should not receive a warmer welcome, not even the red-chested robin, who has impudence and style but small song power.

The catbird is related to the mocking bird, and that warbler may well be proud of his relative, who is better known in the north than he is.

Science has come to give this bird a name quite as objectionable as "catbird." No one need be expected to pronounce as the name of this species the syllabic monstrosity "galeoscoptes carolinensis." Certainly not, especially as the translation of these words gives to us that in English the syllable "gale" is Greek for "weasel," and from "skoptes" comes the word "mocker."

And there he swings on the toppling twig of the apple tree and sings and sings, wholly careless of any of the names given to him in either Greek or English. The bird breeds in the north and winters from Florida southward.

The nightingale is a smaller bird than our catbird. It sings for the most part after dusk. Our independent Canadian bird sings at any time he chooses. He is an early riser and under the summer schedule now opens his repertory at 4.30 a.m.

Speedy Athlete Injured.

The accident which Jack Laviolette, noted Montreal athlete, met with a few days ago while driving one of his racing motor cycles at Montreal, has ended his career as a lacrosse player, as one of his limbs has had to be amputated. Laviolette's career as an athlete has been a very brilliant one as he starred in motorcycle, racing, aeroplane, lacrosse and hockey. It was his craze for speed that undoubtedly brought his athletic career to such an unfortunate end, as speed was his middle name. He always remarked that they didn't build motorcycles too fast for him, and that he hoped to see the day that he would operate an aeroplane 150 miles an hour. Few players, if any, could travel up and down a hockey arena as fast as Laviolette. In fact, he was a sensation on the steel blades, as he skated just as fast backwards as he did going straight ahead, and it was a very common sight to see him jump clean over an opponent rather than waste the time of stick-handling around. Laviolette was equally as speedy on a lacrosse field.

The Montreal whirlwind, as he was commonly known to his friends, first came into prominence as an athlete when the old International Hockey League was organized. Lavio-

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Our Neighbors

Items of Interest Gathered by Review Correspondents

Greensville

Patriotic League's annual picnic will be held this year on the lawn at J. McKinley Mordens.

Miss Stella McCormick spent the week end visiting in Greensville.

John Surcus, Wm. Carney, Tom Surcus and Chas. Ofield motored to Niagara Falls on Sunday last. They reported a better crop of wheat around the Niagara district than that around Greensville.

Remember your home town, the place you like best and treat the worst.

lette played for the American Soo team along with Pitre, another famous Montreal athlete. When George Kennedy organized the Canadiens, one of the first players he signed up was Laviolette. He has been a fixture with the red, white and blue aggregation ever since. He played defence for many years. Two winters ago he tried a forward position and made good. Even last winter he played a few games, and despite his age, which is 40 or over, he delivered the goods. His genial disposition both on and off the ice and the lacrosse field made him many friends.

Favorite Hymns.

A pastor in a large western city church took a vote upon the ten favorite hymns of his young people. Beginning with the one receiving the highest number of votes, the list was as follows: "Abide With Me," "Nearer, My God, to Thee," "Rock of Ages," "Lead, Kindly Light," "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "How Firm a Foundation," "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go," "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

Canadian Red Cross In London.

Canadian women, whether in the Dominion or overseas, must feel honored by the appointment of Lady Drummond as Assistant Commissioner in England of the Canadian Red Cross Society. The post is one big with importance for Canadian soldiers and their friends and anyone who knows anything of Lady Drummond's splendid work, knows also that a woman big of heart and ability now fills the post.

Join the Ordnance Corps.

Glendora—Did you know I was an ammunition girl?
Alphone—Do you mean you make a lot of noise?
Glendora—No, I like to have arms around me.

Dean Welton on Titles.

Dean Welton, of Manchester, formerly head master of Harrow, writes to the Manchester Guardian: "It is slightly surprising that the protest against hereditary titles should come in the first instance from Canada because Australia and New Zealand are probably still more democratic in sentiment. My general experience is that there is a widespread feeling beyond the seas that hereditary titles and still more hereditary legislative powers are incompatible with democracy. The feeling is intensified by the suspicion to which evidence at home has recently afforded color, that titles may tend to become a scarcely less effective means of corrupt political influence than bribes openly given in the time of Walpole."

Millgrove

Mr. Lorne Featherston and Ed. Fretwell are frequent visitors in our village.

Amos Cummins, of Dundas, is visiting friends in the village and vicinity.

A. E. Stuart and wife, of Buffalo, are spending a few days with friends here.

Mr. Kenneth Cummins is erecting a new fence in front of his farm.

Our fruit growers are accumulating large bank accounts due to the high price of berries.

Stuart Campbell, who was incorrectly reported as being called to the colors in last week's paper, is a member of Royal Flying Corps. He has been home on leave for some time and will shortly rejoin his unit. Mr. Campbell volunteered for service some time ago.

Rock Chapel

Chas. Rymal, of Hamilton spent last Sunday with his son Elwood.

Geo. Mennel and family, of Chatham, are visiting his cousin Mr. Wm. Pearson.

J. F. Green is visiting at Brantford.

Miss Melissa Hopkins, of Chicago has been spending a couple of weeks with her sister Mrs. G. Sheppard.

Mr. Tom Connell and family spent Sunday in Guelph.

Miss Gertie Hannaford was removed to the city Hospital last Sunday, a sufferer from rheumatism.

The adult Bible class intends having a class picnic at Grimby on Friday August 2nd.

In the absence of Mr. Green on Sunday next at Sunday school, Mr. Sherwin will teach the class.

Fred Poole, B. A. is the proud owner of a McLaughlin 6.

Continuus.

"They used to stop a battle for breakfast."
"Now they don't even halt for the Saturday night bath."

Greased.

"The trouble with you is that you don't seize your opportunities."
"Oh, I grab at 'em fast enough, but darn 'em, they're greased."

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