

tonished at the scarcity of them. I have much occasion to visit other parts of the Province, where I find birds equally rare. The few that frequent my place are more liable to be destroyed by boys and other idlers with guns.

A good plea was suggested by a gentlemen who knows what he is talking about. The sparrows remain all winter and are on hand to destroy grubs and noxious insects when they make their first appearance, nipping them, as it were, in the bud. Birds of passage, which follow after their food, make their appearance later, when noxious insects gain ascendancy.

I would recommend the "western divine," referred to in page 148, instead of devising ways and means for the easy destruction of our proteges, e. g., the application of the fire engine, to give more attention to the study of Gospels and Psalms and to him who careth for sparrows.

D. HONEYMAN.

Prov. Museum, Halifax.

The Mayflower.

In the article on the Mayflower of the Loyalists, in the July and August MONTHLY, the author of the paper omits mention of one flower that is the Mayflower, *par excellence* of many counties in England. I allude to *Caltha palustris*, the common name of which is "The Mayflower," and is used on the first of May to decorate the houses, especially the doors and doorsteps. It generally flourishes best in rich, low, moist meadows, and the children make great efforts to obtain a bountiful supply of the rich yellow flowers for that day. The flower of the *White Thorn* is "May" in England, but not the *Mayflower*. *Caltha palustris* is the only flower that is distinctly called *The Mayflower*.

Very Respectfully

J. G. BARLOW.

Cadet, Washington Co., Mo.

I. N. S.

The Institute of Natural Science met in the Provincial Museum, on Monday, the 12th inst, at 8, p. m. Paper read,—“Notes of an examination of *Delphus delphinus*, the Museum Porpoise.”—By Dr. John Somers. Mr. Morrow also directed attention to a collection of West India *Mollusca*.—D. HONEYMAN, Secretary.

COMETS IN 1884,

The Comets of '81 and '82 were of such brilliancy and attracted so much attention that but little note was taken of the Comets of '84. Yet at least four comets, have been under observation by astronomers. The first was the Pons-Brooke comet discovered on Sep. 1st, '83. The second was discovered by Barnard of Nashville, Tenn. July 16th, 1884; in Perihelion Aug. 16th; the third was discovered by Wolf, at Heidelberg on Sept. 17th, and is still in sight in the telescope. The fourth is Encke's Comet reported by Prof. Young. It will be nearest to the Sun in March '85. There have been discovered during the year ten new asteroids making the present number 245.