

nadow on the ground. Their compact columns extend over such a space that the eye cannot take in the full extent of it. It has been calculated that it is often sixty leagues in length. The passing of these columns sometimes lasts three hours, and, as these birds travel at the rate of nearly twenty leagues an hour, their army must necessarily extend over fifty to sixty leagues of sky.

This immense host never travels by night; so soon as darkness overtakes them, they precipitate themselves breathless and exhausted upon the nearest forest, there to rest from their fatigues. Their legions accumulate in such numbers upon the trees that the great branches yield or break beneath their weight, and all the invaders are soon after composed to sleep.

The cold of winter drives most animals from the polar regions, and compels them to withdraw to countries

more favored by the sun. The penguins of the Cape alone seem to evade this universal law. These bird-fish being intrepid swimmers, are most at home in the midst of the ices or the roaring waves. They only haunt the shores of Africa in order to scoop out their nests, hatch their eggs, and rear their young. When the young have become sufficiently robust to support the fatigues of the journey, they all suddenly disappear from the African shores, and seek during six months of winter the frightful regions of the south pole, condemned to incessant struggles amid tempests and ice. But at the return of spring the penguins reappear in numerous troops, and encumber anew the banks now smiling with verdure, grouping themselves in long processions, seemingly occupied only in revelling in light and love.—*The Animal World*, D. Appleton & Co.

A NATIONAL OR CENTRAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION FOR CANADA.*

THE organization of a National or Central Bureau of Education for Canada has, I believe, become at last a practical question, and in accepting it as the topic allotted to me at this auspicious gathering of Canadian teachers, I have the feeling that were it not for the inaptitude of the speaker it cannot be other than an interesting one. And there comes an echo from the past of this same old city in which we have been privileged to hold our convention, as there comes an echoing of the present from every nook and corner of this Canada of ours, which assures me that, if the organization of such a Bureau can be shown to be pregnant with the true interests of Canada as a community growing nationwards, there is spirit enough to be found among our public

men and their constituencies to demand that trial be made of it as a realizing practical force at the earliest moment possible. For what is there nearer to the heart of our *amour de la patrie* of the present than the hope that this country of ours may become more and more of a Canada to us,—what is there more likely to be eagerly examined by us as a consolidating people than some possibly neglected ethical force that perchance when rehabilitated will assure and perfect the consolidation? In these latter days so much is being said and written about Canada as a budding potentiality among the nations of the earth that the less poetic of us are somewhat diffident in approaching the theme. The great stretches of Canada's territory, the magnificence of her mountain scenery, the picturesque

*Paper by Dr. Harper, read at Dominion Educational Convention, Halifax, August, 1898.