

## THE SCRAP BOOK.

## THE BRITISH POACHER.

THE regular or wholesale poacher pursues his favourite occupation for about seven months out of the twelve, and probably works fitfully at some kind of handicraft during the other five. From March to August he is a tailor, shoemaker or bricklayer. From August to March he is more agreeably occupied: spending his mornings in bed, breakfasting copiously about noon on beefsteaks, bacon and ale, diverting the afternoon with dog-fighting and skittles, and returning at night to the fields, woods and plantations. During the greater part of this time he may earn from two to three pounds a week, and during the other part perhaps half as much. There is no denying that poaching has a charm of its own which redeems it from the utter brutality of the house-breaker or garotter, and accounts, to some extent, for the mischievous indulgence extended to it by persons who do not look below the surface. Ground game is taken by the night-poachers in long nets from two to three feet in height and pegged to the ground at short intervals along the edge of a plantation. One man can set one hundred yards in three minutes. When the net is ready, the adjoining fields, where the hares and rabbits are at feed, are beaten with mute dogs, who drive them to the shelter of the cover, where they are at once, of course, entangled in the meshes, and speedily find their way into the poacher's cart. The wonderful silence with which all this can be effected must have been experienced to be understood. The practised ears of watchers and keepers may be close at hand and yet fail to catch a single sound: the faintest whimper, the lowest whistle, even the cracking of a leaf, being sufficient to put them on the alert. We have lain in a ditch ourselves while six or seven poachers passed within a dozen yards and never heard the slightest noise; for it is necessary, of course, to let them set their nets before showing yourselves, as in that case you not only catch them in the act but at the same time secure their implements, always an object with the game-keeper, as they cost a good deal of money, and the loss of them falls heavily on the poacher's fund, out of which all such expenses are defrayed. The great danger while lying in ambush is that the poacher's dog may get wind of you, in which case you may be taken at a disadvantage, with very disagreeable consequences.

These gangs, whether they come from distant towns or the large manufacturing villages which are common in the midland counties, are often formed of desperate men, who are formidable antagonists even when unarmed with guns. They are as regularly trained in stone-throwing, for instance, as our soldiers are in musketry, and with pockets full of the sharp Mountsorrel stone, used for mending the roads, they will keep at bay any but a very resolute assailant. Serious wounds are often inflicted by these missiles; for at eight or ten yards the poacher is a dead shot with them, and if the blow only stuns the keeper his purpose is answered just as well as if it had cut his head open. With guns, of course, they are still more dangerous. But we cannot agree with the dictum recently delivered from the Bench by one of our learned judges, that keepers should always be allowed to carry guns when they expect a conflict with poachers, and for this reason, that a poacher is not deterred from coming to close quarters by the sight of fire-arms, while he will feel all the more justified in carrying them himself if he knows they will be carried by the keepers. The latter, moreover, can never fire till they are fired at, so that the poacher has a double chance, and he will run the risk of a return shot with the most perfect hardihood. A relation of the present writer fell in one night with some poachers, for whom he was on the watch; and in the course of a struggle that ensued he and the keeper succeeded in separating the leader of the gang from his companions, and after a long pursuit brought him to bay at a narrow foot-bridge spanning a small but deep brook. On the other side of the planks the poacher took his stand and levelled his gun at the keeper. "Very well," said his master, "if you shoot him I shall shoot you, so I give you fair warning." The Squire was known far and wide for a man of his word, who, if he said he would shoot you, was like Sir Thomas Picton, "damned likely to do it." But the man pulled the trigger without a moment's hesitation. Fortunately for all parties the cap missed fire, and before he could replace it his pursuers rushed in upon him and took him. Here was certain death staring him in the face, but it did not stop him. The fact that two men stood in front of him with loaded guns, which, as he well knew, they were fully prepared to use, would not have prevented murder from being committed had not an accident intervened.—*Quarterly Review*.

THE laws prohibiting the immigration of paupers, as well as the importation of labour, are enforced with considerable vigour in the seaports of the country, but it seems that the laws do not prohibit this sort of visitation by land. A party of wandering Arabs, who recently arrived by steamship at New York, were put back on the same ship to be returned to the country whence they came, as they were likely to become a public charge. But the Arabs appear to have turned up again, and have crossed the Canadian border into Vermont, whence they are moving southward to a more congenial climate. The subject will doubtless receive the consideration of Congress at its next session. With the utmost vigilance it is impossible to prevent the smuggling of goods on the Canadian frontier. The difficulty of preventing the smuggling of men over the same border may readily be appreciated. Nothing can be done beyond making appeals to the comity of foreign Governments. Canada has as great an interest in prohibiting this kind of immigration as the United States, and a remonstrance to the Government of the Dominion ought not to be without good results.—*Philadelphia Record*.

## PERIODICALS.

HENRY JAMES has three opening chapters of a new serial in the September *Atlantic*. It is entitled "The Princess Casamassima." Mr. Howells is the writer of a sketch of the unfortunate Italian poet Giacomo Leopardi, who died in 1837. The seventeenth and eighteenth chapters of Oliver Wendell Holmes' "Portfolio" are disappointing, as were most of what he has written under that title. The poverty of modern as compared with ancient Greek is treated of by William Cranston Lawton. "A Diplomatic Episode" is a very readable account of the fight for Alto Vêlo, the miniature Spanish island whose guano deposits exercised United States diplomats and lawyers for so long a time. Other valuable items on the list of contents are "Mondamin," "Childhood in English Literature and Art," "The Poetic Element in the Mediæval Drama," instalments of "A Country Gentleman" and "On Horseback," poetry, and literary notices by the editor.

THE *St. Nicholas Magazine* has a long and varied table of contents, one of the most attractive features of which is a fanciful tale by Frank R. Stockton, entitled "The Battle of the Third Cousins." "A Great Financial Scheme," by Sophie Swett, is a very funny story with a very good moral. In "Spiders of the Sea," C. F. Holder contributes an interesting paper about crabs. Henry Frederic Reddall writes an entertaining article on "Nicknames." The number is well supplied with poems and verses. Of the serials, "Sheep or Silver?" is concluded; while both "Driven back to Eden," by E. P. Roe, and "His One Fault," by J. T. Trowbridge, are evidently working to the satisfactory conclusions. Schubert is the subject of the "From Bach to Wagner" paper, and Edmund Alton tells about Congressional Investigations and Republican Simplicity, in "Among the Law-makers."

THE *Magazine of American History* for September is a number of great interest. It opens with an admirable steel portrait of General Grant in military uniform, and its leading paper treats of the "Historical Associations of General Grant's Resting Place," at Riverside Park. The second paper, "Washington's First Public Service," is from T. J. Chapman, A.M. Three excellent articles follow in the Civil War Series. Hon. James W. Gerard writes a chapter of much interest on "The Closing Days of Louis XIV.," and "Tributes to General Grant," from eminent sources, complete the general contents of one of the strongest and best numbers ever issued of this rapidly advancing periodical.

WIDE AWAKE for September will be sought for and treasured for its fine albertype portrait of General Grant, which is accompanied by some personal reminiscences of him when President, from the pen of Mrs. Jessie Benton Frémont. "The Little Blackamoer and the Gold Princess" is a good story "with a moral." The Hawaiian Story, "How the Boojums went down the Crater," is concluded. Lieutenant Schwatka contributes an interesting story of Arctic adventure, "Little Ahmow's Fight with the Wolves." Mary E. Wilkins gives a true story of early Colonial days. Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney concludes "How the Midlies set up Shop." The Chautauqua Readings treat of History, Art Science, Literature and Hygiene in an interesting fashion; in her "Souvenir" Mrs. Frémont gives some very readable reminiscences of early days in California and of Bret Harte.

THERE is nothing specially remarkable about the current *Canadian Methodist Magazine*. The following is the list of contents: "Cruise of H.M.S. Challenger," "Through the Virginias," "Chaucer," "God's Glory above the Heavens," "Pegga's Haven," "Charles Wesley, IX," "Skipper George Netman," "Newfoundland," "The Higher Life," and editorial notes.

VOLUME VI. of *Outing*, which includes the monthly parts from April to September, is completed with the current issue. The proprietors and editors have done all, and more than all, they promised when the enlargement and improvement of this excellent magazine took place, and it takes undisputed position as the foremost illustrated periodical devoted to legitimate outdoor sport published on this continent. Anecdote, travel in all the varied forms that suggest themselves to the muscular side of Christianity, sketches, poems, and sporting chit-chat, together with a mass of valuable editorial suggestions, are departments which, amongst others, receive careful attention in each number, whilst the illustrations and general get-up are first-class.

SEPTEMBER *Lippincott's Magazine* is light and amusing, as a number issued in the dog-days should be. "On this Side" is brought to a conclusion. "The Truth about Dogs" is a good-humoured protest against the exaggerated fondness for "pets" and esteem for the qualities of the canine species which has risen to a kind of fetish worship. "The Story of an Italian Workwoman's Life," by Marie L. Thompson, professes to be a true narrative. In "A Chapter of Mystery," Charles Morris deals with the cognate subject of Spiritualism. "Roses of Yesterday and To-Day," by Alice King Hamilton, is a paper of pleasant reminiscences. "Master-Day in New England" is an amusing picture of the training and tactics of the old State militia. There is a quantity of fiction and poetry, and the "Gossip," among other good things, contains extracts from Tourgénéff's correspondence.

THE *Eclectic* for September contains the following interesting and varied table of contents: "Mind and Motion," by George T. Romanes; "Roman Life and Character," by F. Marion Crawford; "Footprints," "London: I," "Tongues in Trees," "A Chinese Ascot," "A Swain of Arcady," "The English Aristophanes," "The Work of Victor Hugo," by Algernon Charles Swinburne; "The Afghans are the Lost Ten Tribes," by the Ameer of Afghanistan; "A Brother of the Misericordia," "What is Public Opinion?" "Pride," by the Archbishop of Westminster; "To Within a Mile of Khartoum," "The Earl of Beaconsfield," "The Primitive Ghost and his Relations," "Becket," and the usual variety of foreign literary notes, varieties and miscellany.

## BOOK NOTICES.

BY-WAYS AND BIRD NOTES. By Maurice Thompson. New York: John B. Alden.

The reputation of the essays collated in this little book has long preceded the volume, and Mr. Thompson is widely known as a cultured student of nature. Besides the famous "Tangle-Leaf Papers" there are nine other papers, including "The Haunts of the Mocking-Bird," "A Red-Headed Family," "The Threshold of the Gods," etc. Writing of Mr. Thompson, the *Literary World* says: "From his youth up, he has been in the habit of making long occasional excursions into unfrequented regions to study nature. He is a ready and accurate sketcher, and from every excursion he brings home pencillings of birds, plants, animals, bits of landscape, persons and places that serve to enrich his written memoranda. He is an enthusiastic sportsman, a crack shot with rifle, pistol and shot-gun, and as an archer has surpassed every authentic record in wing-shooting. He is also an enthusiastic and expert tricyclist."