

have seen chicks remain under that difficult task two days together. Some do it without interruption, others take some hours of rest, after which they go to work again. All are not of equal strength or vigour of constitution; there are some that from an excessive impatience of seeing the light begin to peck their shell a great deal too soon, and I have now and then tried to give them help towards their deliverance. They must, before they are hatched, have a provision of food within them, that may dispense with any for more than 24 hours after they are born. That provision consists of a considerable portion of the yolk that has not been consumed, and which enters into the body of the chicken through the navel; the chick that comes out of his shell before the yolk is totally absorbed by his body droops and dies a few days after he is hatched. I have opened many eggs much fractured whose chickens had as yet much of the yolk not taken up.

(To be continued)

Acclimatizing the European Quail.

There is not the least doubt that acclimatization societies in different parts of the world have done an incalculable amount of good. No country in the world but possesses something in the animal kingdom that some other country would be benefited by its introduction, and such countries as are adapted for the animals of other countries to thrive in, that country is generally benefited by its introduction. Australia and New Zealand are countries that have been particularly benefited by introduction of birds and fishes from Great Britain and other countries. It may be questioned whether the introduction of the English rabbit has not proved to be a mistake; I am inclined to think it has, as already complaints come from the antipodes that they have become so numerous that they are a nuisance. It is only a few years ago that the song of a British bird was unheard there, and their rivers were destitute of fish; now nearly all the British birds are becoming common, and their streams are being well stocked with the very best of fishes.

There has not been so much acclimatizing work carried on on this continent, simply because, I suppose, it is generally conceded we already have quite enough animal life which is indigenous to the country, and it only needs ordinary care on the part of the inhabitants, with reasonable laws for the protection of animals birds and fishes, to ensure an abundance of wild animal life for all time to come. Still there are, I contend, some animals which might be introduced here and prove beneficial.

During the last few years, the European Quail, the subject of my paper, has been brought to the

western continent. Many thousands have been brought from the Mediterranean and liberated here. They have had several years, I think four, wherein to prove whether the venture has been successful or not, and from all the information I have been able to glean I am not prepared to say I consider their acclimation has been a success. I am almost afraid it has not, still I would not yet say it has been a failure even. A great many thousand birds are not many for this whole great continent, and a few hundred, or a few thousand, liberated here have an immense space of country to wander over. Some which were turned out in the Eastern States have been known to breed and go south in winter (as is their European habit,) and have returned in spring, but that their numbers have increased, as might reasonably have been expected, we have no reliable information.

I, with three friends, imported from Messina one hundred birds; ninety-six arrived strong and healthy, and were turned out in what were considered favorable localities. This was on June 10th, 1879. They staid about the places all that season, and at least one nest with eggs in was found, which unfortunately was destroyed by a reaper.

We have no reliable information that these birds ever returned to this locality after their fall emigration. None of us who know them, and took an interest in their success, have either seen or heard them since the summer they were turned out. I have not yet given up all hopes, but as each season pass and no tidings of my little feathered friends of Scripture is heard, I confess I feel a mistrust I shall never see them more.

I think these were the only birds at the time that had been brought to Canada, but since some more have been imported, and I understand with the same result as we ourselves experienced. It is a pity if this beautiful little game bird cannot be acclimatized on this continent; he would make an accession to our list of game birds, doing no harm whatever, and much good. He is about two-thirds the size of our own Bob White, and like himself a pert, independent little fellow. I never had him on my table, but am told they are delicious, and as the children of Israel were fed on them so long, I presume the wisdom of the choice of food cannot be questioned. I much fear the Israelites will never feast on quail on the great western continent. These birds pass north and south in spring and fall in Europe, crossing the Mediterranean in millions, and I have no doubt from the information we have been able to glean of them, they have followed these instincts here. Whether they have become lost on their northern or southern journeys, or whether they have fallen prey to our carnivorous animals, or what has become of them are questions I confess myself quite unable to answer.