

farming community at large, and within a reasonably short space of time, what would require many years to accomplish if dependent upon individual enterprise and resources; to prove the value of new varieties; to encourage forestry; to test the value of fertilizing ingredients and soils; to disseminate agricultural information of all kinds; to encourage and direct. To this work scientific methods are necessarily applied.

The institution is achieving, in its own way, results of the greatest value to the farming community, and through it to the country at large. The Director and his assistants are deserving liberal support at the hands of Government, and more particularly at the hands of the farmers themselves.

THE BIRDS OF QUEBEC.

Abstract of a Popular Lecture delivered before the Natural History Society of Montreal on the 12th of March, 1891, by
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Part I

The earliest ornithological record in Canada—I might say, possibly in America—occurs in Jacques Cartier's *Voyages* up the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In chapters ii, iii, vi, vii and xii of the narrative of his first voyage, in 1534, and chapter 1 of his second voyage, in 1535, as well as an entry in the log of Roberval's first pilot, Jean Alphonse, in 1542, mention is made of the myriads of gannets, gulls, guillemots, puffins, eider ducks, cormorants and other sea fowl nesting on the Bird Rocks and on the desolate isles off the Labrador coast. Jacques Cartier goes so far as to say that "the whole French navy might be freighted with these noisy denizens of that wild region without any apparent diminution in their number." (Chap. i-ii, *Voyages*.) Reliable modern naturalists—Dr. Henry Bryant, of Boston, visiting the Bird Rocks, in 1860, and Charles A. Cory in 1878—confirm these statements of early discoverers as to the number and species of birds to be found in the lower St.