



OSTREA.—The *Unio Margaritiferus*. This bivalve is curious, on account of its obvious connection with the early development of the human species.

#### A FEW WORDS ON THE SERIES.

GRINCHUCKLE is happy to know that his illustrations of Natural History are giving general satisfaction, and that there seems to be but one opinion of their value as contributions to the cause of science. He intends to continue them till he has made mankind familiar with the infinite varieties of animal life, and when he has nothing left in the world of fact to illustrate it is probable that he will begin to draw on his imagination. He is not yet reduced to this necessity. There are some people who affect to despise the study of Natural History, especially of those departments of it which require the use of the microscope. Such persons contend that it is a matter of no practical moment whether an insect, invisible to the naked eye, has six long legs or only four short ones, and whether the specks which by the aid of a powerful glass are detected on the backs of some entomological specimens are indications of juvenility or of extreme old age. To talk in this way evinces an indifference to the beauties of nature, and sometimes leads to the sacrifice of precious lives. GRINCHUCKLE is confident that any one not acquainted with entomology, who carefully studies the illustrations which appear from time to time in this paper; will never ruthlessly terminate the life of what seems to be a flea (should he ever catch one) without carefully examining the animal, which will thus give a chance of escape to the innumerable insects which have the misfortune to resemble that annoying parasite.

#### THE SALARIES OF MEMBERS.

"Nothing for nothing" is a maxim too generally received for any one to say a single word against it, and "A great deal for a very little," though not so venerable a maxim, has now the high sanction of our Provincial Parliaments. There are some coarse, low-minded creatures, who object to the indemnity which the members of the Quebec Legislature have voted to themselves, but the opinions of such ignorant and ill-bred cavillers will not go for much against the intelligence of the disinterested gentlemen who passed the vote. One thing is certain, the latter are best qualified to know

how much they sacrifice for their country; what remuneration they should receive for being compelled to append to their names the painfully significant initials, "M. P. P.," and how much they can individually carry away from the abounding coffers of the Province. GRINCHUCKLE is astounded that one member, Mr. Ogilvie, should have had the audacity to assert that he and his fellow members were willing to work without indemnity, and that legislation would be better carried on under such an arrangement. No wonder the Speaker informed him that he was out of order. It was contrary to the order of things in Quebec, throughout Canada—to say nothing at all of the universe generally. Mr. Joly's suggestion to fix it at \$450 was almost as unreasonable, for the acute suffering endured by every sane member during the session—short as it is—demands a far higher scale of compensation. The expenses of members, moreover, are exceedingly high, as will be seen from the subjoined account of an honourable gentleman, for the first week of the present session:—

	\$. c.
By Board, &c., \$0.75 per day - - - - -	5 25
" Washing - - - - -	00
" Paper Collars, (½ box) - - - - -	03
" Collection at Morning Service - - - - -	5
" Having my hair cut - - - - -	10
" Cab, and subsequent application of sticking plaster - - - - -	30
" Charity - - - - -	1
Total - - - - -	\$5 74

[Neither drinks nor tobacco are charged for, as the letters M.P.P. are good for these luxuries from office-holders in expectancy. These may, therefore, be classed under the head of perquisites.]

If the expenses of other honourable gentlemen be on the same scale, Mr. Joly's name deserves to be handed down to everlasting infamy. Happily, Mr. Dunkin came to the discussion of the question in a suitable frame of mind. Doubtless he knows more of the state of the Provincial finances than any man living, and, at least, he knows what serving one's country is worth. If his speech was long, his argument was novel. He objected to underpaying Provincial members, as tending to drive decent politicians to Ottawa. As he has a seat in the Dominion Parliament, he must know something of the evil consequences of being connected with that legislative body, and his benevolence in putting every possible obstruction in the way of those who might be disposed to aspire to that exalted but perilous station deserves the highest praise.

#### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Received.—R. L.; Emmet; W. F., Zed; "The Dregs of the Barrel"; W. N.

Accepted.—Raccoon-hunter; The Provincial Police—What next?; L. M.; Pea-preen; C D., G. S.; Vivid.

RESCUE.—Thanks; write again.

657 Communications must in future be addressed EDITOR, Box 637.