

Letter from Inspector Carter.

St. John, N. B., October 31st, 1896

To the Editor of the Review

SIR, A few days ago I received a letter from a lady well known in St. John but now living in Charlottetown advocating a "Bird Day" for our schools. Among other things she said: "So often have I heard my father deprecate the loss of the birds, especially the robins from among the trees in the Square and old Burial Ground and wondering the cause. If he had happened along at various times he might often have seen boys throwing stones at them, which may or may not have helped to drive them away. It may be there are Bird days in some of our Canadian schools already, but if not why may not St. John take the lead in this merciful movement?"

A year or two ago, when on Grand Manan, Captain J. A. Pettes, a great friend of the birds, asked me to distribute among the schools placards which he had printed at his own expense, containing the game laws of the island together with the well known lines of Coleridge.

He prayeth well who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast,
He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller, a recognized authority on all matters pertaining to birds says in the *New York Times*:

"By all means let us have a Bird day in our schools," was her cordial reply to a request for her sentiments in the matter. "I've come to the conclusion that the children are our only hope of salvation for our birds. Through them, a public sentiment must be created that shall make this wanton destruction of birds cease. All that is needed is to interest a boy or girl in a live bird to make him or her a bird protector ever after."

"Every woman who buys a bird this year insures the death of another next season. I recall these lines of May Riley Smith:

"What does it cost, this garniture of death?
It costs the life which God alone can give;
It costs dull silence where was music's breath,
It costs dead joy, that foolish pride may live,
Ah, life, and joy, and song, depend upon it,
Are costly trimmings for a woman's bonnet."

"These Bird days will spread knowledge among young people, and mothers will soon be judged out of the mouths of their own children. I notice a constantly increasing interest among the boys and girls to whom I talk. Last spring, at Pittsfield, where I gave a series of field and house talks under the auspices of the Kindergarten Association, I declined to admit boys to the field classes of adults, being a little dubious about their conduct. Whereupon some of the boys came to

me and asked if I would take a special class of boys. I said, 'Yes,' and they got it up themselves and did excellent field work.

"The matter is a serious one, aside from the humanity of it. Birds are our protectors, and we must protect them. This plague of caterpillars in Brooklyn would not have come if the birds had been here in force to destroy them. Massachusetts has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars fighting the gypsy moth, a foreign insect imported by a scientist for experimenting purposes, and allowed to escape. If our birds were not so depleted, these and other destructive insects could never have got the start they have. Let us have Bird days, or any days which will give us wisdom in our relations with these lovely helpers and most useful little friends.

"The Department of Agriculture has been conducting experiments for a long time in order to determine the value of the consuming qualities of the different birds. I have been in the examining room in Washington, where, ranged on shelves, are thousands of bottles containing the contents of the stomachs of thousands of birds. To give an idea of the perfection of this work, in a single bird stomach have been counted several hundred skulls of ants. As a result of all this patient and careful study it has been found that the only bird not much more useful than harmful is the English sparrow.

I have myself noticed a great many cases of cruelty to birds especially in the country, and have not failed to bring the matter to the notice of the schools, but isolated efforts will not meet the case. I think if the REVIEW should take the matter up and arouse the interest of all the teachers great benefit would result.

I would not suggest at present the appointment of a "Bird day" in our schools, but that incidentally any school day should be a bird day and that emphasis should be given on Arbor day by devoting a portion of it to birds. Audubon societies might also be formed among our boys and girls.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. CARTER.

Practical Psychology.

To the Editor of the Educational Review

DEAR SIR, I desire to express my appreciation of the article of Prof. Murray on the cause and cure of errors in spelling, as it appeared in the October number of the REVIEW. The article is valuable for two reasons: first, for the clear diagnosis of one of the most common of pupils' mental maladies, and for the careful line of treatment suggested; and second, for the illustration given of how a careful analysis of the child's modes of thought may be directly applied to the daily work of the school room.

The study of psychology has in the past been largely divorced from the practical needs of the teacher. It