

American mouse. We had heard so many wonderful things about the new country that we were quite prepared to believe that even mice might have taken the form and appearance of Chipmunks. Our paternal grandfather, to whom we owed allegiance at the time, being a Presbyterian of the old school, stern and strict, with a high sense of duty and the maintenance of law and order, and not being fully conversant with the game laws of America, immediately ordered a cessation of hostilities, which was reluctantly obeyed, and our American mouse was allowed to pursue its way in peace and quietness.

The Black Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) is seldom seen in the vicinity of Ottawa and they do not appear to have established themselves hereabouts. I have only seen two or three individuals altogether and they were in the neighborhood of Beechwood Cemetery. I have been informed that they are never seen in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and very rarely in the adjoining Province of Quebec. A few years ago they were very plentiful around Smith's Falls, which is about 40 miles from here. As the country became cleared of its forests they gradually disappeared until at the present time they are seldom seen at all. The Black Squirrel is the largest in size of any of our Canadian Squirrels, the head and body being about 13 inches long and the tail, without the fur, about 10 inches. The color on the back and sides is of a glossy black; on the under parts it is not so glossy and is often dark brown rather than black. Its habits and ways of life are much the same as those of the Red Squirrel. It is not so active in its movements and is more afraid of the presence of man, probably owing to the fact that it has been more persistently hunted on account of its greater value. In common with the Red Squirrel it has the habit of dodging around a tree when approached and keeping on the side, so that it is not easy for the hunter who is alone to get a shot at it. They will, if no other way of escape presents itself, stretch themselves along the upper side of a branch, pressing their bodies so closely to the bark that they can scarcely be seen, and then remain absolutely motionless.

I well remember when I was a boy having a race with a Black Squirrel which ended with results which remain in the form of a scar to this day. The Squirrel was first seen on a small hickory tree gathering nuts. The tree stood by itself, and was, perhaps, one