

which had been driven away by the English sparrow. The same complaint has frequently been made in this country.

Now from my personal observation I am satisfied that this is an error, for I never saw a greater variety of birds in Toronto than there is this year, and there never were more sparrows, still the sparrow is at the root of the evil. It has been claimed by some that the sparrow is an insectivorous bird; this is not the case, excepting when raising their young. A close observer cannot but have noticed that, as soon as the first brood is hatched, the parent birds would be seen running along the house-eaves and such like places in search of spiders, with which they feed their young, and on nothing else, so long as the supply holds out. What is the consequence? There is to-day not a spider to be seen in the city of Toronto, that is accessible to the sparrow. Here is the whole secret why insects are increasing: their most deadly enemy, the spider, is being exterminated by the sparrow, and the whole host of insectivorous birds cannot do the work that the spider has been doing, silently fighting on our side, slaying its thousands and tens of thousands of our most troublesome insect enemies.

The sparrow must go, and with him the mercenary taxidermist—the latter, I am sorry to say, few towns are now without their quota—or the Horticulturist will have to give up in despair all attempts at fruit culture.

*Toronto, Ont.*

J. NEWHALL.

