

and heavier bodies. The Doctor, however, is correct in regard to the number of prongs as not indicating age. A very old buck may be recognized by the corrugations at the base of his horns. I also coincide with him that a comparatively small buck may carry a large set of antlers. The heaviest set I ever saw is in my possession, and they were carried by an animal under 150 lbs. in weight. I differ, however, with the the Doctor about the size of the horns of the red deer of Europe, as compared with the Wapiti or stag of the Rocky Mountains. No species of the genus *Cervus* carries such heavy magnificent horns as the Wapiti, which is a larger animal than the Scottish deer.

Yours truly,

HAMMERLESS GREENER.

Ottawa, July, 1881.

P. S.—A surveyor informs me, and in whose word I implicitly rely, that he found a pair of Wapiti horns in the North-west last fall which he set up with the top points together, and walked under them without touching his head. My friend the surveyor is six feet two inches high.

I have three very fine heads of deer stuffed in addition to the large one above referred to. One with long spikes, very wide set and lofty, from a buck of 170 lbs. Another quite wide also and beautifully formed, with a spike nine inches long on each side growing backwards from the main arms of the antlers. This buck weighed 200 lbs. A third set are very small and regular in shape; weight of deer 175 lbs. I have also another head from a buck killed by a friend of mine in the Madawaska River, two years ago, which weighed 250 lbs. The horns are of great thickness, at the base, with great breadth and length in the main branches, and few prongs. Their singularity, however, consists of an irregular and unnatural growth of horn very thick and massive at the root, extending from the right side of the head. This abnormal mass of horns, bears twenty-one points.

NOTE.—The bird commonly called a robin in this country, belongs to the genus *Turdus*; it is therefore a thrush. Our correspondent's remark regarding "God's bird," may possibly have arisen from the nursery legend where it is said that the European Robin red-breast covered the lost babes in the woods with leaves.

In regard to the deer, it will suffice here to say that there is only one species of *Cervus* occurring in Ontario, and that although specimens are occasionally found which appear to the eye of man as indicating difference of structure, that these peculiarities are not sufficient to make a species—the formula of dentition alone is what determines specific characteristics, and as these have not been discovered to vary in the "Spike-buck," all the Ontario forms are only one species called *Cervus (Cariacus) Virginianus*.

OUR FOREST TREES.

LOMBARDY POPLAR; *Populus fastigiata*.—This tree, once so extensively planted and admired for avenues and roadsides, has had its day. It is of no value for shade, and its numerous dead branches, even on young trees give it an untidy appearance. It was introduced from Europe.

POPLAR; *Poplar*.—A rapid growing tree, valuable for charcoal, and pulp which furnishes a large proportion of the stock for paper collars.

WHITE WILLOW; *Salix alba*.—This is also a native of Europe, but has been extensively planted in new England. It grows rapidly to a considerable height. In England it is valued for its timber.

WHITE ELM; *Ulmus Americana*. The graceful curvature of the branches of this tree distinguishes it from all others and it may well be called the favorite shade tree of New England. The elms of Boston common, of New Haven, and along the valley of the Connecticut River, are familiar emblems of majestic beauty. They are attractive even when the foliage is gone from the airy sweep of the branches and the feathered regularity of the spray. The elm bears transplanting and pruning better than any other forest tree, and is of rapid growth. Its wood from the peculiarity of the grain, is very difficult to work, but it is often used for making large ships's blocks and ship's floors. For the hubs of waggon and carriages, it is preferred to every other kind of timber. Some elms in Massachusetts, though known to be nearly 200 years old and generally hollow at base, are still in apparent vigor.

SLIPPERY ELM; *Ulmus fulva*.—Though commonly a much smaller tree, this bears a strong resemblance to the White Elm, but is not by