

of sparrows have been introduced into the United States and Canada a considerable number direct from Europe, and a much greater number from their progeny in this country. The places and dates of the first importations, so far as known, are as follows :—

Brooklyn, N. Y., 1851-52 ; Portland, Maine, 1854-58 ; Peace Dale, Rhode Island, 1858 ; Boston, 1858-1868 ; New York City, 1860 ; Philadelphia, 1869, and not long afterwards into nearly every State of the Union. In Canada they were first introduced at Quebec in 1864, Montreal 1870, Ottawa the same year, Hamilton 1872, Toronto 1875, Halifax 1875-76.

The English or House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is common over nearly the whole of Europe, the northern parts of Africa, and a large part of Asia. It has also been introduced into New Zealand and Australia, and has become, like the rabbits, a great pest in those countries. It is known to have been quite common in eastern countries before the beginning of the Christian era. Aristotle mentions it as being a common bird in Greece in his day. Dr. Charles Pickering, of Boston, states that in hieroglyphic times the picture of a sparrow indicated an enemy or one ready to fight. I think most of you who are at all familiar with the habits and disposition of their latter day descendants will agree with me that they are no unworthy sons of their ancient pugnacious sires. In an old and highly venerated book, which some of you may occasionally see, it is stated that the current price of sparrows some two thousand years ago or thereabouts was two for one farthing, a pretty sure indication that sparrows were either very plentiful at that time and place or that farthings had a higher commercial value than they now have.

As has already been stated the consensus of opinion among observers, regarding the habits and food of sparrows, is unmistakably against them so far as agricultural pursuits are concerned, and the verdict has gone forth that it would be better if they were made to go. Accepting this dictum as final, the question naturally enough arises, can they be made to obey? It has been said by some that they could "call spirits from the vasty deep," but the reply to the question, "Will they come?" has never been satisfactorily answered ; so it may be with our little fellow-emigrants. The question of their going may not be very