

CHAPTER XXV

"LITTLE FEATHERED BROTHERS"

MUCH as the birds have done to guard the products of the country, they have rendered a still greater service to the world. They have a value that cannot be weighed by abundant crops or verdant woods. It reaches beyond material things. From the earliest times the birds of the air have been an inspiration to the human race. Their influence has come down through the ages.

Before the days of the white man the Indians watched and marvelled at the ways of their "little feathered brothers," and the influence of the birds upon them is shown in their legends and in the speeches of many of their great chiefs.

The influence of the birds upon the white man on this continent dates back from the first voyage of Columbus. Had it not been for the land birds that passed them his discouraged men might have forced him to turn back when almost in sight of land.