

FIN, FUR, AND FEATHER

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CONCLUSION

Duck Shooting.

Tell the difference? Not much, he couldn't! Because he would be expecting to see ducks in such a place as this. The best of hunters get fooled at times; only last week, I filled one of these same decoys with shot, mistaking it for a crippled duck that fell where it was. Every hunter can recall instances and laughable mistakes made in shooting at decoys, and very few of us have avoided being caught. Never mind. Sit still and I will push the boat into those tall rushes, just behind that muskrat house. Now take the oars, pull down those tallest rushes, by bending them with the oar, and they will shield the boat, making an excellent blind. We will let Don retrieve those falling in the rushes, but let those lie that drop in open water. Whenever the dog retrieves, help him up on the bow; he understands that is his place when retriev-

ing. He won't shake himself,—has got too much sense for that.

Have plenty of shells handy, and here, take these, some eights, for cripples. There is a curious thing connected with duck shooting. Hunters in flight-shooting use 4's 5's and 6's; over decoys, 5's, 6's and 7's. They shoot a duck thirty-five yards over decoys with 5's or 6's, cripple it; the duck swims off, is full forty yards away before they are ready to shoot it; then they let drive a charge of 8's, and although the duck is half buried under the water, it is killed instantly. Here is a problem to solve. If one can kill a duck swimming from him at thirty-five and forty yards, merely the top of its head and back exposed to view, using No. 8 shot, can he not kill one flying at the same distance with the same size shot, when it presents a target eight to ten times as large, with all its vital parts exposed? Most assuredly he can. You admit it, so do I; and yet, when we start out duck shooting, knowing we will shoot over decoys, we will have