

and *Carbo* of different authors), forming the sub-family *Sulinae*, may occupy the third position; *Plotinæ*, characterized by the long flexible neck, which has obtained for the birds the name of "snake birds," take the fourth place; and the anomalous Pelicans themselves, *Pelicanidae*, seem fitly to fill the fifth.

What has thus been brought forward in respect to one order and one family is an example of what I conceive to be the proper treatment of every division of the animal kingdom, and I cannot but feel that it presents to our notice at the same time the affinities and analogies of natural objects with a clearness and effect of which we find the want in the methods more commonly employed. It is, of course, only from a number of instances appearing to yield truly natural results, and all plainly displaying the corresponding analogies, that any general conclusion can be drawn in favour of the system, and my confidence in it arises from my belief that I can produce such instances; and from the uniformity with which I have found the general idea in my mind assist me in the solution of difficult questions, and in improving the arrangement of tribes which seemed to me to have been left by others in the most unsatisfactory condition.

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## SCIENCE IN RUPERT'S LAND.

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COMMUNICATED BY DANIEL WILSON, LL.D.

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THE present year has witnessed, in the founding of the Institute of Rupert's Land, a remarkably interesting illustration of the changes which are slowly but surely revolutionising this vast continent; and giving evidence of an intellectual dawn which heralds the period when states and empires of the great northwest are to claim their place in the world's commonwealth of nations. The meeting for the formation of the Institute was held on the 12th of February, in the Court-room of Upper Fort Garry, where the Lord Bishop of Rupert's Land, as president of the Institute, delivered the opening address. After alluding to the Universities and other seats of learning in England, and to the influence they had exercised in fostering science,