

to do it. Notwithstanding the sentimentalism of the Rev. Mr. Clementi, Mr. Saunders, President of the Entomological Society of Ontario, stated in his last annual address to that learned body, that robins were one of the most mischievous of our birds, and I assure you the piety and extreme humanity of such correspondents will not weigh with me about relishing Fieldfares. In all the leading hotels in all the large cities of the United States, "robins" are to be found on the bill of fare. Do they know that 25,000 dozens of birds, mostly Red-wing Blackbirds, Rusty Grackles and Bobolinks, were sold last year in Philadelphia, alone at 75 cts. to \$1.00 per dozen, all under the name of "Rice-birds." Robins and Meadow larks were not included, though thousands were also sold. I would advise the Rev. Mr. Clementi to make a tour in the United States to lecture on the cruelty of eating robins, *God's birds*. I hope to read no more of these strictures as it might perhaps add vim to my pen. Do they think they have written me down? In regard to the tradition of the robin picking a thorn out of Christ's head, I consider Mr. Clementi the pious composer. Again if the English robin had its breast dyed by our Saviour's blood, it is surely neither an unreasonable nor irreligious idea, to expect the dyed feathers to be a blood color which they are not, and if a miracle had been performed it would have been true to the color of blood and not blotched, or, if true to color, then His blood was like no other mortals. How does the truth of this tradition tally with fact and colour? Will Mr. Clementi explain, as Robin red-breasts are neither found in the Holy land, nor is it mentioned in the Bible as far as I am yet aware?

JOHN H. GARNIER.

Lucknow, Oct. 1st, 1881.

DEER HORNS.

SIR,—I wish to ask yourself or readers of the NATURALIST the reason that on a two year old buck, one horn has grown about five inches, and the other only shows above the hair. I have a buck and doe, and this is the way his horns have grown. The doe is last Spring's fawn; large for its age. Both are very tame, eating readily from my hand. Forty Dollars will buy the pair.

Yours,

R. B. SCRIVEN.

Gravenhurst, Ont.

NOTE.—We cannot positively say what is the cause preventing the growth of the second horn of your deer. It may be that the skin

covering the tips of the horn was injured when it started to grow, thus stopping the circulation of the vital fluid passing under it. The horns carry the skin from the base until they are full size, and while the thin skin is attached to the them the horns are soft and easily injured. We have seen many bearing marks of injury received while they were covered with the velvet skin.—C.

A GENERAL DELUGE.

BY G. W. BROWN, M.D.

(From Our Home, and Science Gossip.)

The gases continually escaping from the interior of the earth, bringing along with them a vast amount of scoria, through the immense volcanic craters of an earlier period, reduced the amount of molten mass within, and unfitted it longer to sustain the heavy crust resting upon it. After rocking, heaving and swelling for a time, like a ship on a billowy sea, fissures were formed, the compressed gases escaped, the crust fell down upon the fiery mass, leaving the Andes, Rocky, Himalaya and other great mountain chains to mark the site of these magnificent operations of nature. Tranquility followed for a time when lesser disturbances ensued. The violent agitations of the crust of the earth everywhere ruptured the inflexible rock, sometimes leaving wide spaces into which were injected the molten mass from below, forming the perpendicular veins of metamorphic rock, the admiration of all who look upon it.

With the subsidence of a continent, beds of oceans were elevated, and the waters, in seeking their equilibrium, swept over receding continents, perhaps engulfing them until another great upheaval followed. Amid these awful paroxysms of a convulsed earth, the principal inhabitants were swept away. The few survivors, with no historic records, communicated from generation to generation, in their rude language, as clearly as they were capable, an account of these wonderful and startling operations of nature. Wherever survivors remained each had a vivid recollection of the grand cataclysm, and imparted his impressions of it to his successors, and thus on from parent to son through all the ages.

The present eastern coast of Asia may have been the western coast line of a submerged continent. The Adam and Eve of Hindoo, Assyrian and Hebrew story may have been the only survivors of some of these grand