

time, our literary leaves may in some measures refresh our readers' minds by opening to view some of the hidden charms of the natural world which every where surround them.

Let it be borne in mind our main object in presenting such occasional notes to our subscribers is to endeavour if possible to attract their minds and those of the younger members of their families, to the most charming study that is known, for unlike all others it creates no sense of weariness, however long it may be pursued, and every coming day but reveals new and wondrous scenes to the eye of him who rambles, knowledge-intent, along its ever varying and pleasant paths, only let him remember that

“How feeble all his strength when he essays
To trace dark Nature, and detect her ways,
Unless he calls its Author to his aid,
Who every secret spring of motion laid,
Who over all His wondrous works presides,
And to their useful end, their causes guides.

Let us take for our first note, a very familiar bird—the Robin.

THE ROBIN, OR MIGRATORY THRUSH.

(*Turdus migratorius.*)

LET not this be mistaken for the ever memorable bird that according to ancient rhyme so lovingly paid the last tribute of respect to the remains of the “babes in the wood,” for it differs from it in almost every relation. The robin-redbreast of Europe is not a regular migratory bird like our robin, nor is it so large. Our bird is a true thrush, while the European robin is allied to the warblers. The Nova Scotian robin is gregarious in habit; the European dislikes the society of his fellows.

Indeed, we might allude to many other peculiarities which tend to separate the birds widely from each other, but should the reader have passed the days of his boyhood in any part of the British Isles there will be no need to point out the differences which exist between the two birds, for who could mistake the shy American migrant for the tame confiding little songster which carols its sweet lays mid the rose and jasmine which climb around our happy English homes in summer, or taps with its slender beak against the window pane for admittance on the cold and dreary days of winter.

The American robin is found in nearly every part of Northern America, even to the Arctic circle. These birds evidently visit the West India islands in winter, for we have found them in the Bermudas which lie midway between Nova Scotia and St. Thomas, in the month of January. These islands serve as a resting place for many species of migratory birds on their long journey by sea from North America to the West Indies and the coast of South America, and it is thus we find our robin there, for he does not make the Bermudas his home for any length of time, but merely stops a few days to recruit his strength for his journey southward. Although the robin may be considered a migratory bird we feel certain that many of his kind remain to winter with us in Nova Scotia, for most persons are aware that after a few days of mild weather in the depth of winter some of these birds make their appearance about the fields and cultivated parts. Now it is impossible that these birds could have come all the way from the south at a few days' notice to enjoy themselves for such a brief period, and return in as quick a manner on the sudden re-appearance of severe cold and snow storms; therefore we must conclude that they keep themselves warm and comfortable somewhere not far off. We have