

taken by Mr. C. Pauli, gunmaker, upwards of 7 lbs. First-rate sport can be had on the "bars," within a circle of a mile from the harbour mouth, and boats and boatmen, with all requisites can always be had. To the ornithologist Belleville affords a fine field for collecting; the neighboring woods afford shelter to various birds of prey, from the bald eagle down to the sparrow-hawk and shrike; the bay is the favorite resort of many ducks, loons, grebes, gulls, terns, and shore-birds, while the extensive marshes of Ameliasburgh, harbour herons, bitterns, mud-hens, snipe, rails, and other waders, and the golden plover frequents the commons in large flocks. Professor Macoun has collected during last winter and spring over 70 species of birds, a list of which I hope to be able to send shortly. About four miles below the city is Massassauga (Mississauga) Point, one of the most picturesque sites on our lovely bay. Here a large area is being fitted up as a summer resort, with a hotel and several detached cottages, and it is intended to place it in hourly connection with the city by a special steamboat. Here are also held the regattas of the Belleville Yacht Club. Having within its limits the terminus of the Grand Junction and Belleville and North Hastings Railways, Belleville offers every facility for visiting the mining and hunting districts of Hastings and Peterborough Counties, where the geologist can study the conformation of the Laurentian and Huronian series; the mineralogist can collect the iron, lead, copper, gold and other ores and minerals of this now celebrated region; and the sportsman will find deer and bear enough so exercise his skill upon with the rifle, and the woods alive with ruffed grouse (partridge), while the lakes and rivers swarm with fish of every description, from the lordly maskilonge and great lake and speckled trout, to the humble perch, and the despised cat-fish. Altogether, I do not know any place where the comforts and conveniences of city life can be so thoroughly combined with the enjoyment of country sport, as in our own little "City of the Bay."

JAMES T. BELL,

Belleville, May 25, 1881.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with very great pleasure the accounts given in your journal, by "12-bore Greener," of his trials at the target. I consider that Canadian sportsmen are much indebted to any one of their number, sufficiently spirited to take the trouble, and

incur the expense of making such reliable tests of the shooting qualities of "choke-bored" guns, with the various charges of powder and sizes of shot. With my Hammerless Greener, which is a No. 12, choked to No. 15, at 80 yards, I put 12 pellets of No. 6 American chilled "Tatham" shot, (almost as large as No. 5 English), into a foot square, and at 90 yards 7 pellets into the same sized target. This was with 3 drams of powder and one ounce of shot, and the penetration was sufficient, at both distances, to bury the shot out of sight in a dry pine board. I think, for general utility, handiness, convenience, *rapidity of ignition*, and unquestionable rapidity of firing, the hammerless gun is infinitely superior to the gun with hammers; and, within a very short time, amongst sportsmen, at least, must entirely supersede guns of the old style of construction. The hammerless gun of improved make is perfectly safe, handy to use in a boat or canoe, and when loaded is always ready. Having no hammers it can be put easily and conveniently into a water-proof cover, and in use the breech action can never become locked by the striker forcing its way through the cap and sticking there, as sometimes happens with hammer-guns. The irresistible force with which the tumblers are drawn back to cock, entirely obviates the chance of this difficulty occurring. In addition to the foregoing advantages, the facilities afforded for fighting and shooting amongst brush by the hammerless gun are unquestionable. Hammers may be ornamental, but in the face of hammerless guns they are entirely useless and superfluous. For the information of "12-Bore Greener," I may say, that in my one trial with half ounce charges of shot, although I had not the appliances for measuring the force and velocity of the shot, the penetration was eminently satisfactory.

Yours truly,

HAMMERLESS GREENER.

Ottawa, May 23, 1881.

P. S.—No sportsman of my acquaintance ever made a practice of shooting Robins. Small boys and thoughtless persons alone in this neighborhood are guilty of this indiscretion.

#### ENGLISH SPARROWS.

The question as to the desirability or non-desirability of introducing the English sparrow, *Passer Domesticus* into Canada has been not unfrequently discussed. My own opinion has always been adverse to such introduction,