

can be called "sedentary" in Canada, being mostly winter visitors. The Barred Owl, on the other hand, is given by Mr. Vennor as universally diffused over the greater portion of British America, and is a resident species in most localities in Canada. It is, as a rule, a "resident" wherever found, and in the breeding season is much more abundant in the Southern States than at Hudson Bay.

On an introductory page, M. Dionne has given a long list of "ouvrage consultés," but he must have read some of them, at least, to very little purpose. Had he, for instance, read with any care the Bulletins of the Nuttall Ornithological Club he would have seen in the number for April, 1878, on page 52, the record of Dr. T. M. Brewer that "It is now universally conceded that not a specimen (of the Crested Grebe) is in existence of American origin, and that there is no authentic record of the capture of a single specimen in America." It was excusable in Dr. Ross putting the name of this bird in his list, as the mistake in identification had not then been published, but there is no excuse for M. Dionne blindly following him.

It would take a large volume to point out all the errors which these two authors have made. I have picked out these few quite at random, but they will suffice to show how little reliance can be placed in anything which the books contain. Had they been content to publish what they had observed, or could have compiled from authentic sources, these writers would have rendered a valuable service to Canadian students and ornithologists at large, but the publication of these books must bring a blush to the cheek of every Canadian who realizes that those claiming to be eminent among our scientists are responsible for such miserable failures. It is time such work was stopped.

The system of nomenclature and classification adopted for "*Les Oiseaux du Canada*" is that of Dr. Coues, which M. Dionne informs his readers is in his opinion the most correct and the most generally acknowledged. Well, it is encouraging to learn that he is so well informed in the higher branches of ornithology that he can form a correct opinion of the merits and demerits of the rival systems; but if he thinks that Dr. Coues' system is the most generally used he is in error.

The great body of American writers use the system prepared by Mr. Ridgway for the Smithsonian Institution, and which differs

very materially from Dr. Coues', and, though I freely admit that I can not judge of the merits of either, I will take the liberty of advising all Canadian students and writers to use Mr. Ridgway's system and avoid the confusion which must arise if that prepared by Dr. Coues should come into more general use.

Respectfully yours,

MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.

St. Johns, N.B.

THE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE IN CANADA.

Over four hundred members of the above Association have pledged themselves to attend the meeting in Montreal next year.

"Science" says:—"In so far as accommodations for the meeting is concerned, and funds for its expenses, there can be no doubt that Montreal can entertain the association as well as any of the British cities in which it ordinarily meets; and its geographical position and facilities for access and for communication with all parts of Canada, the Northern States and the West, present many attractions; while there is reason to hope that a meeting of the British Association in Montreal would be attended not only by all interested in science in Canada, but by large numbers of the scientific workers of the United States. The experience acquired last year in entertaining the American Association will also afford very valuable guidance." We understand that the difficulties in regard to the transportation of so large a body across the Atlantic are now settled, and all parties interested here have put their shoulders to the wheel in order to give our scientific brethren a cordial welcome. We quote also from "Science," the editor remarking "that in the present year the meeting of the American Association, at Minneapolis, is early (Aug. 17); while that of the British Association at Southport, which is, besides, in the immediate vicinity of Liverpool, is unusually late (Sept. 19). This will allow members of the American Association to attend both meetings; and it is stated that the retiring president of the American Association, and possibly others of its members, may avail themselves of this privilege. This may possibly permit arrangements to be made which might substantially unite the meetings