

there is a remarkable scarcity of published matter, and the tales of hunters and early settlers, current everywhere half a century ago, were, unfortunately, indefinite as to locality and date, and generally unreliable.

The advent or extinction of a species in any habitat is always of scientific value, more especially such a large and formidable animal as the Panther. Of course it is evident such an animal must disappear with the clearing away of forests and the settlement of the country. It is believed to be now extinct in the States of Pennsylvania and New York, where formerly it was a well-known resident species. It became extinct in the State of Ohio about the beginning of this century; it would appear the last authentic record is 1805.

It will be our endeavour to collect what we can of the meagre and scattered information, documentary and oral, bearing on the occurrence of the Panther in Ontario, and to edit and publish what may be deemed worthy of record.

So far we have been fortunate in securing valuable papers, given in this number, from Messrs. Doel and Calcutt, and we would again earnestly appeal to all who have any information on this subject to communicate the same to us, so that it may not be lost forever to the Natural History of our Province.

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## THE PANTHER IN CANADA.

BY THE REV. JOHN DOEL.

SOME time ago you requested me to write an account of the mounted specimen of the American Panther (*Felis concolor*), which I had at one time in my possession.

When I was a boy going to school, about 1830, there was a taxidermist in York (Toronto) by the name of Wood, who had a very respectable collection of stuffed birds and animals. We boys, whenever we got a dead bird or a squirrel, would take it to him, and he rewarded us by showing us his museum. This collection was afterwards purchased by Chas. Fothergill, at this time Queen's Printer, residing in the town of York (Toronto); after his death all of his collection was deposited, for safe