

of pulverized wood, the eggs were laid. This was in the prairie country between two vast fields of Indian corn.

The power of sight exhibited by the red-headed woodpecker is quite amazing. I have seen the bird, in the early twilight of a summer evening, start from the highest spire of a very tall tree, and fly a hundred yards straight to an insect near the ground. He catches flies on the wing with as deft a turn as does the great-crested fly-catcher. It is not my purpose to offer any ornithological theories in this paper; but I cannot help remarking that the farther a species of woodpecker departs from the feeding-habit of the ivory-bill, the more broken up are its color-masses, and the more diffused or degenerate becomes the typical red tuft on the head.—*Condensed from an Article by Maurice Thompson.*

OUR FUTURE WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

HOWEVER long the use of the letters "A.M." and "P.M." for distinguishing the two halves of the civil day may survive, says a writer in the last number of *Nature*, it seems probable that the more rational method of counting the hours of the day continuously from midnight through twenty-four hours to the midnight following may before long come into use for a variety of purposes for which it is well adapted, even if it should not yet be generally employed. It seems proper, therefore, to consider in what way ordinary watches and clocks could be best accommodated to such a mode of reckoning. To place twenty-four hours on one circle round the dial instead of twelve hours, as at present, seems the most natural change to make; but, in addition to a new dial, it would involve also some alteration in construction, since the hour-hand would have to make one revolution only in the twenty-four hours instead of two. And there would be this further disadvantage, that the hours being more crowded together, the angular motion of the hand in moving through the space corresponding to one