

Hadgraft of London, Eng., was induced to come over to Toronto to do the Taxidermal work, and then the Museum became quickly filled up. At present it contains almost all the birds and many of the quadrupeds of Canada, together with general collections of minerals, fossils, shells and plants, which have been a source of benefit and pleasure not only to the students attending the classes of Natural History, but to their colleagues and the citizens of Toronto. We learn that there is no annual grant given to further promote this necessary branch of Education in Toronto University. Yet since the last appropriation was made, a large sum of money was expended for a foreign collection of pictures for the Norman School of Toronto. This certainly occurred before Confederation, but it may be otherwise now, as we learn that some of the high Educational institutions of Ontario are self-supporting. However the Museum of the Toronto University still requires many additions to be in order for advanced classes in Natural Science. We certainly have a love for Fine Arts, but if Canada spends money for pictures intended for educational purposes, it would be preferable that it should be devoted to advance native talent.—C.

THE TRUTH.

The American Field in a late issue, referring to an article (Expose Them) which appeared in our November number, states that it does not believe what we said regarding the traps laid on the sand bar in the Swanton Marshes. We again repeat that two members of the Club were detected picking up the traps: and when discovered so doing, acknowledged that they were set for Black duck. It is not our wish to publish the names of these pseudo sportsmen, we will leave such matters to the Game-keepers of the State. In conclusion we ask the sporting Editor of the *Field* to be kind enough when he again takes the liberty to use the scissors to dissect our columns to give at least credit to the journal from which he takes his matter.—C.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

W. A. S., Amherst, Mass., U. S.—A full set of the "THE CANADIAN NATURALIST AND GEOLOGIST" may be purchased by writing to Messrs. Dawson Bros., Montreal. There is no magazine, published in Canada, specially devoted to Botany.

Correspondence.

ROBIN vs. CROSSBILL.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:—

SIR,—Your correspondent "Teal," in a communication which appears in the November number of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST, affirms that I am evidently astray in regard to the tradition of the Robin picking a thorn out of Christ's head; and he does me the kindness to suggest that perhaps I "confound the Robin with the legend of the Crossbill, from the German of Julius Mosen, translated by Longfellow." I must beg leave to repudiate "Teal's" impeachment with respect to my being "astray," as well as with regard to the charge of "confounding" one bird with another. My authority for the legend regarding the English Robin is the Rev. E. Cobham Brewer LL.D. of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, the compiler of the "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," as well as the author of several scientific books; and I prefer adopting his version of the legend to that translated from the German by Longfellow, pretty as the stanzas are. And I ground my preference on the following reason. The breast of the English Robin *Erythra rubecula*, is *always red*, whereas the Crossbills, according to Wilson and the other Ornithologists, "are subject to considerable changes of colour." Indeed the German author, Dr. Bechstein, asserts that Red (*х'рущов*) Crossbills are only one year old, and the greenish yellow ones are the adults." But, after all, the legend I quoted does not allude to the same transaction as that referred to by Mosen, for the Robin was said to have plucked a thorn from the crown worn by the Saviour as He traversed the *Via Dolorosa* before He was nailed to the cross; whereas the Crossbill is said to have endeavoured to pluck out one of the nails that pierced His hands and feet. This circumstance, however, only