

the following introductory remarks:—Zoological science assigns two species of the skunk to North America. This is doubtless perfectly and scientifically correct; but nevertheless, anyone acquainted with humanity in all its phases, must come to the conclusion, as I have done, that in every land, and amongst every class and circle of society, educated and uneducated, refined or otherwise, there are some skunks.

VARIOUS SKUNKS.

In what I am going to say, I shall have no reference to any class, creed or denomination, to no party, moral, social or political. My remarks are general. In every country, as blots upon a white sheet, and reproaches to the honest and the true, may be found religious skunks, moral skunks, social skunks, political skunks, commercial skunks, professional skunks, scientific skunks, and, in this country, commercial union skunks, unrestricted reciprocity skunks; and lastly and most fetidly obnoxious, Canadian Annexation Skunks.

THE ANNEXATION SKUNK.

I care not who he may be, or what his position. He may stand upon the floor of our legislative halls, he may officiate at the horns of the altar, he may stand among the learned in the forum, or sit clothed in ermine on the bench, he may stand behind a counter, go forth with an axe in his hand, or labor in a trench with a spade or a crow-bar, if he is a native born or naturalized Canadian, the unmitigated skunk of all creation is the CANADIAN ANNEXATION-IST SKUNK! I apologize to the entire skunk family for the disagreeable associations implied in the foregoing.

THE FOUR-LEGGED SKUNK.

Mr. Lett then read his paper in which he gave the history and habits of the skunk, its size, color, food, consisting of small birds, mice, frogs, birds' eggs, domestic poultry, etc.

Brentano will issue early in February a new book entitled "Frederick Struther's Romance," by Albert Ulmann. It is a strong, simple tale, introducing an unusual love story amid scenes of New York life never before touched upon in fiction. The author is one of the publishers of the *Jewelers' Weekly*, and is a member of the Press Club.—*Journalist*, Jan. 19.

THE ORIGIN AND SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY.

(By Rev. Joseph Wild, D. D.)

This is a neat and highly instructive little pamphlet, published by Veigh & Co. of the *Canadian Advance*, Toronto, Ont. It contains a good deal of information for the uninitiated as to that noble and much respected order, Freemasonry, without imparting that knowledge which is only essential to the members of the craft. The doctor goes on to show how the *speculative* and the *operative* came to be separated, for this great Pyramid are associated all the civilization and science known before the flood as a memorial for the new world—or those living after the flood. "There are," he says, "five hundred others, but all are mere imitations of the Great Pyramid, which was built about 2,170 years before Christ. Having thus stored away these sciences, a *speculative* Masonry was then formed. Whenever the world should want any truth of a mechanical, geometrical, astronomical, or commercial kind, it could go to this stone monument, unlock the door and there find the secrets necessary for its further progress. That building contains *all* the sciences to which we will ever attain. There is not a single truth that we have yet arrived at which is not embodied in that building." He then goes on to show that the key to this immense monument became lost, thereby depriving us of much information. He explains how the secret entrance was discovered a few years ago by John Taylor, a London, (Eng.), merchant, who had given special study to it. This little work contains some valuable information for persons who are after researches, and especially for those initiated into the mystic fraternity. We would advise our readers to send for a copy. Orders will be filled at 10c. a copy; three for 25c., or fifteen for \$1.00.

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