

relations or affinities : and the second a peculiar system of technical names adopted as descriptive of the first. One, then, must be subservient to the other, yet in intimate relation to it. Again, classification should be an arrangement the most easily adapted to the demands of science, at the same time affording the best means of study and research ; in fact, should be the guide-board on the free road of science, instead of (as it too frequently is) the barrier and stumbling block to progress.

Nomenclature, too, is expected to serve the purpose of an aid to the examination and classification of objects in connection with the laws by which they are governed, and as a means of investigating their structure, history, and uses. For this reason Latin or Greek names were adopted as affording uniformity that could not be attained by the use of common or vulgar designations, and as permitting scientists of all nations to meet upon a common ground, irrespective of profuse lingual knowledge. Whether nomenclature is serving such a purpose, or not, we shall see further on.

Embracing so wide a scope as does natural history, objects animate and inanimate, from the awe-inspiring celestial bodies in their multitude, to the most insignificant of earthly microcosms, and details so numerous that to possess a knowledge of the smallest portions is a competent task for a lifetime spent in study and investigation, it is little wonder that errors are both numerous and constant. Yet this affords no excuse for their unremitting multiplication by individuals of less than two score of years who insist on forcing them upon us regardless of scientific truth or progress. They laugh, sneer, and pooh-pooh, the patiently acquired results of old, staid and carefully plodding and reasoning naturalists to scorn ; and not satisfied with this, only too frequently resort to abusive epithets and vituperative abuse. For what rights has either age or reason that are not subservient to Young America, when full of egotism, he steps upon the stage?

Our interest as an association is centered

chiefly on those forms of *fera natura* usually denominated game, with, perhaps a minor regard for the fur-bearing species. Individual animals, we feel, demand individual and at the same time appropriate names ; names indicative somewhat of their character—such is the true rule of nomenclature and classification. The better to exhibit relationship, individuals are collected into groups that present the greatest number of characteristics in common such being called *genera*. Genera are further collected under the same general rule into *families* ; families into *orders* ; and orders in turn into *classes*.

Were it possible to arrange all classes in such a manner that the individuals of one genera of an order should be connected more nearly with that order than any other, little would be necessary to render classification both simple and complete. But, unfortunately, it has been found that characters are not sufficiently uniform, and at the same time easily cognizable, to allow the arrangement of all groups of individuals into closely connected families. Aware of this, the great Swedish Naturalist employed one system of organs as the basis of classification. Others have aimed to classify only by the structure of individuals, as a whole, and this latter could it be carried into effect, would seem the most philosophical ; it has been found, however, that either system followed exclusively results in heterogenous combinations. It was like errors that caused the famous controversy between Huxley and Owen a few years since, and which led to the re-classification of mammals. A combination of the two systems is now in vogue as being the least objectionable, and affording the greatest facility in investigating the productions of nature.

The six primary orders of Linnæus are now divided into *vertebrates* and *invertebrates*. Of the former, mammals, birds and fishes alone have special interest for us. Following classification onward, we find mammals divided into classes in accordance with their marked physiological and anatomical peculiarities ; and the