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THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 12.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 15th, 1881.

VOL. I.

TO OUR PATRONS.

This number ends the first year of *THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.*"

Last January we were sanguine, anticipating an increase of pages on the appearance of the second volume. To make it double its present size necessarily incurs a larger outlay of hard cash, which, we think, is not fully warranted at this instant. We, therefore, prefer to keep the magazine in its original form, adding, however, a beautiful illustrated title-page, which will appear with the first number of the new year. We are therefore guarded, as our prospects are thus far encouraging, many of our subscribers preferring to continue it at its current price rather than risk failure by adding a few additional pages and increasing the annual subscription. We intend to go on as formerly, keeping within the original groove on which we started, i.e., advocating pure Sport and Natural History; allowing nothing to appear in our columns which will in the least disturb the most fastidious. Correspondence will be thoroughly sifted and made as brief as the subject matter will allow, and we trust that by energy and attention to improve as we become older.

We must here return our thanks to Professor James T. Bell, of Albert University, Belleville, Ont., and to James M. LeMoine, Esq., Quebec, and many others for their kind efforts in bringing the magazine before the notice of their friends, and advancing our interests. Cannot we obtain a similar influence and support from

gentlemen who reside near the many sporting localities in the Dominion? We are impressed that this will occur, and ere the year 1882 passes away many new names will be added to the list, which is already large considering that we are only in our infancy.

As the above remarks will probably appear before our readers on the eve of the annual festive season, and, it being customary to greet friends on such occasions, we sincerely wish all "**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**"
C.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Gentlemen who are indebted to us for this year's issue, would confer a favour by sending the amount on receipt of this number.

OUR SECOND VOLUME.

We will send the second volume to all gentlemen who subscribed last year, trusting that they will continue to take the publication. Those who do not wish to do so, will favour us by returning the number to 806 Craig street, Montreal.

CHANGING GENERIC NAMES.

It would be in order when the American Science Association meet next year in Montreal, that one of the members of the Zoological Section takes up the important subject regarding the useless alterations in names occurring from year to year in the Department of Zoology and Botany. It appears to us that there is a School of Naturalists in the United States who persevere in diffusing a system of confusion in the nomenclature of Natural Science. We are extremely sorry to see our talented friend Scudder, of Boston, persistently sticking to old Hubner's generic names for the butterflies

of North America, when he is aware that there is not a man outside of his peculiar school who agrees with him. Not satisfied with altering the genera of LEPIDOPTERA, to suit his fancy, he now issues a book wherein the greater portion of our butterflies are introduced under newly invented common names. *The Canadian Entomologist* says: "It were far better, in our opinion (with few exceptions), to use the specific name of the insect for this purpose, which is as easily learnt and conveys a more definite idea than is possible with such common names as those given by this author." W. H. Edwards, author of "The Butterflies of North America," says: "Throughout this book *Archippus* is ostentatiously called THE MONARCH, I apprehend; in right of its amazing history. If it lives as long for a butterfly as Methusaleh lived among men, it may be entitled to some sort of distinctive appellation, and if it has so changed the habits of its kind as to breed like a mammal, laying eggs at intervals in the closing half of its long life and gathering its progeny about its tibize, perhaps it ought to have some superlative title. We read that Methusaleh lived, after he begat Lamech, seven hundred and eighty-two years, and begat sons and daughters, but his long life appears to have been that venerable man's claim to distinction. We do not read that he attained regal honours, or even the chieftainship of a tribe. In view, therefore, of this high precedent, I suggest that the correct thing would have been to designate this long-lived phenomenal butterfly not THE MONARCH, but 'THE PATRIARCH.'"

Then, again, there are compilers of Entomological Catalogues, who, without giving any distinct reason for so doing, take upon themselves to alter well-established genera for seemingly no other purpose than the honour of having their names attached. So much for the piratical way in which these alterations are made, and in order to show how some of them are accomplished, we will instance one or two cases:—

Mr. S. H. Scudder, in his researches, discovered that our common butterfly, the Camberwell Beauty, everywhere known to entomologists as *Vanessa antiopa*, Linn., should not be placed under the genus VANESSA. By a resurrection of old documents he has managed in a miserable way to transfer this butterfly from the latter genus to that of PAPILIO, calling it *Papilio antiopa*, Scudder. This is one of the many innovations which this author places before the Entomologists of America. The same attempt has been made in regard to the COLEOPTERA (Beetles) of this country, and unless the subject is strictly dealt with by the Entomological Section of the Association, the nomenclature of North American insects will be such that ten generations of students will pass away before it is properly understood.

In Botany also, attempts have been made in a similar manner. Suffice to say that a botanist discovered a new species of California *Convolvulus* which he described and felt satisfied that it was placed under the correct genus. It did not belong to the climbing, but to the creeping genera. Some time ago the describer of the plant was horrified to find his species re-described under another genus with the name *Gray* appended to it. Now, we do not wish to see any more of this mode of obtaining material, but possibly Mr. Gray, who is a celebrated botanist, may account for his name being there. Mistakes of this nature will sometimes occur, and one of them was made by the Rev. Mr. Provancher, of Cap-Rouge, Q., who attached, in his work on Canadian Coleoptera, the name of Fabricius to a species discovered and described by the writer of this article. We claim that when any one describes a new animal, mineral or plant, that the species (if properly and morally named) is legitimately his to the end of time, and he who takes the name from him to place his own to it robs another man of his intelligence and labour, discouraging and deterring him from going on with his work of doing good to mankind.

Something ought to be done to prevent men, even well-informed authors, from tampering with other peoples' property on subjects to which they have no just claim. It is different when a scientist devotes a life's study to a well-defined class containing numerous genera and forms. He certainly has the privilege of transferring his own species from one group or genera to another, as he finds the analogous forms agreeing. To go back to Hubner's time, and adopt his nomenclature in this advanced century of human knowledge is not what we expected from Mr. Scudder's pen. The idea is absurd and will be far from acting in harmony with the nomenclature of insects as understood at the present day. We do not want even to go back to Fabricius for priority in matters of this kind, but the latter is preferable to Hubner. His generic names are ridiculous and unpronounceable, and the change is not necessary.

In Ornithology, we notice that the same generic name changes are yearly taking place, both in Europe and America. We are sorry for this, as it was thought that in America the generic names emanating from the Smithsonian Institution established at Washington for the diffusion of knowledge among mankind, were sufficient, perfect and authentic. We can point out many instances where a few busy bodies (and can name them) have been breaking up the standard generic names of our birds. For instance the Sparrow Owl (*Nyctale Richardsonii*, Bonaparte,) called in England, (*Strix Tengmalmi*, Bewick,) and in Ireland, Mr. Percy Evans Freke calls the same bird (*Nyctala Tengmalmi*, var. *Richardsonii*, Gmelin.) Here we see three generic applications given to the same species, and after all it is nothing more than the same bird, like many other forms of American avi-fauna occurring on both continents. In *The New Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* of November 5, 1881, Mr. H. Kerr; of Bacup, Lancashire, says that the above owl was named by Gmelin as a compliment to the original discoverer Dr.

Tengmalm, an eminent Scandinavian Ornithologist, while we see as above that it is named by Bonaparte as a compliment to Dr. Richardson. It is therefore clear that Gmelin's name for this owl must stand as it holds priority; the American and high latitude forms being permanent, and the European are merely a geographical variety. But why not adopt one of the three names for this genus which is well-represented in America? No proper nomenclature can be accomplished until this is understood, and the sooner it is done the better.

C.

NOVA SCOTIA GAME LAWS.

LORD DUNRAVEN'S CASE.

Of all countries in this world, the Dominion of Canada is the most famous for complex Game Laws. The Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have game laws, not one of which harmonizes with the other more especially regarding quadrupeds named in the Act. Considering that the geographical range of deer is almost similar in these Provinces, it seems ridiculous that the law affecting them should be different within their places of occurrence. Again, it is understood that any person inclined to hunt deer during the open season has a perfect right to do so without let or hindrance. This, however, it appears is not the case in Nova Scotia, where we notice that Lord Dunraven was fined for shooting deer, commonly called Moose, although he had a license to hunt the latter animal in the district in which he procured the authority so do so. In a letter which his Lordship published in *Forest and Stream*, he says:—

“A man might pursue a moose and wound it in one district and be compelled to follow it into another to kill it. The proper course, I presume, for him to adopt on arriving at the county line would be to go back to camp, pack up his traps, and go out to the settlements, which might take a couple of days or so. He should then proceed to the residence of the Clerk of the Peace, which would take a day, and having got his endorsement on the license,

should return to look for the moose, which would occupy several days more. But by this time the moose would be dead, and the meat spoiled, and for allowing it to spoil the hunter would be liable to a heavy fine. It appears, moreover, that under this Act, if a game warden, who would get half the fine, chose to take action in such a case, the magistrate would have no option. I leave it to you, sir, to judge whether the game laws are remarkable for the extreme simplicity claimed for them."

From this statement it appears that it is necessary when a gentleman obtains a license to hunt deer in Nova Scotia, that to secure thorough sport, the document should be signed by a resident Clerk of the Peace in each county or district in the Province. It is also evident that the object of making a law of this nature is to prevent any hunting of deer in Nova Scotia. But we ask why issue a license if this is the way its game laws are to be interpreted? Lord Dunraven states that the Nova Scotian Game Laws have been altered since he last hunted in the Province, but if the license was actually obtained this season, it occurs to us that the party granting the same should at least have had the courtesy to inform his Lordship whatever changes occurred since his previous hunting in that Province. If the Game Law makers in the other Provinces persist in this license business the result will be to prevent European sportsmen from visiting Canada, which will be a great loss and disadvantage to the country.—C.

QUERIES.

Can any of our readers give us information regarding the nesting habits of the Logcock or Black Woodpecker (*Hylotomus piliatus*, Baird). It occurs occasionally in the woodlands north of Montreal, generally in November and December. We want to obtain a record of this bird's history during May and June.

We wish to receive some accurate account of the gigantic moth (*Erebis odora*, Linn.) which has been found on several occasions in Canada. One was found at Collingwood, one

at Ottawa, one at Montreal, but only a single instance at a time. Did any one find the larva in Canada? Where do they come from? We know that there are theories in regard to its occurrence so far North, but very little has been written regarding this curious insect.

CANADIAN MUSEUMS.

TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

The idea of publishing brief descriptions of Canadian Museums emanated from the Editor of this journal, not with the intention of giving either a minute or accurate account of them, but merely to indicate where they are located and to show that they produce a moral and intellectual force in enlightening the young people, especially those who attend lectures on Natural Science. That Museums and well selected libraries have already produced good effects in Canada, cannot be denied. Why is it that ignorant parents are always anxious to have their children educated and brought up to acquire a knowledge of human progress? Cognizant of their own condition from experience, they are simply aware that education, be it ever so meagre, is necessary for both sexes, in order to follow any occupation now-a-days. Therefore we are anxious to see Canadian educational institutions well and punctually supported by Government and those who are in positions to aid them. We hope the day is not distant when our Universities and Colleges will receive such outside support as to enable the sons and daughters of every humble citizen to enter and be educated.

The collections now in the Toronto University Museum were commenced about the year 1849, and in 1852, the late Wm. Hincks a brother of Sir Francis Hincks of this city, was appointed Professor of Natural History in the above named institution, which at the latter date received a grant from Government to extend its Museum. Through energy and economy a large number of specimens were added, and before Mr. Hincks' death, the Museum was considered the best then in Canada. After the appointment of the latter, the late George

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 *Erythaca 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 (*χίμυθος*) 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

renders "Teal's" strictures more uncalled for. The concluding stanza of Longfellow's poem runs thus:

"And that bird is called the Crossbill,
Covered all with blood so clear;
In the groves of pine it singeth
Songs, like legends, strange to hear."

"Strange" indeed! Did anyone ever hear a Crossbill *sing*? Wilson says that they have "a loud, sharp, and not unmusical note and chatter as they fly." This scarcely carries out the Poet's description. But Bechstein tells us that it utters harsh, shrill, notes with but little melody. One bird will try to surpass the other: and those are the most esteemed by the fancier which repeat frequently a sound like *reits* or *croits*, and which is called the crowing of the Crossbill." How does this account, the correct one, tally with Mr. Longfellow's "songs"?

With regard to the destruction of the American Robin, advocated by "Teal," I may remark that that bird is not much of an insectivorous bird, that I do not purpose, in future, to urge any plea in favour of its immunity, inasmuch as during my absence from home in September a number of Robins played sad havoc with my grape-vines, devouring nearly all the fruit. But, as to the "Winter sport" of "shooting Black-birds Thrushes, Larks, Redwings and Fieldfares," I desire to add that I myself enjoyed such "hedge-popping" sport *when a boy*, in England; and as "Teal" appears fond of poetry I will quote the following stanzas from an old sporting song:

"When I was but a little boy,
And scarce could lift a gun,
I oft would leave each childish toy,
And to the fields would run.

With pistol for my fowling-piece,
I thought myself a man;
And thus improving by degrees,
A sportsman's life began.

At Lark and Redwing and Fieldfare
My skill I first did try:
At every bird that wings the air
I quickly did let fly."

There, sir, is "Teal to a T." But I, when I became a man, put away such childish sport:

"When older grown a gun I got,
A pointer, too, I bought;
And being now a decent shot,
The stubble-field I sought;"

aye, and the bogs and mountains of Kerry too, where, year by year, before leaving old England for this my adopted country, I enjoyed sport worthy the name of sport, the enjoyment

much enhanced by the hard work necessitated in its prosecution. Now, "Teal" when he writes about the pleasure of shooting Black-birds, Larks, &c., and of indulging in the "good pie they make" must be very hard up for genuine sport, or he must be too greatly addicted to the Lucullus like luxuries of the table. We have read of dishes of Nightingales' tongues, of the more expensive, but not less-to-be-deprecated African draught of liquified pearls; but I scarcely expected to find the shooting of Blackbirds Thrushes, and Larks, for pies dignified with the term "Sport?" in the pages of your Journal.

VINCENT CLEMENTI.

Peterboro, November 19. 1881.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:

SIR,—Three friends and myself left Montreal on the 4th November, bound on a duck-shooting trip to Lake St. Francis. We anticipated some good sport, but were doomed to disappointment, as, on arriving at the lake next day, very few ducks could be seen. We tried several of the best-known places on the lake, for four days, but very few ducks came to our decoys. So, we packed up our traps, and left Lancaster, sadder, but wiser men. We shot about 30 ducks, most of them being Scoters, and Buffle-heads. I shot a long-eared owl, (*Otus Wilsonianus*) on Ross' Island, which may interest ornithologists. A gentleman informed me that he was shooting on Lake St. Francis, about the middle of October, and, at that time, Red-heads and Blue-bills, were plentiful. He had some good sport, killing thirty of the above-named ducks in one day. Large Yellow-legs and Jack-snipe were abundant, but as the ducks afforded him such good sport, he did not go after the former. An American steam yacht arrived on the lake the day he left. I was informed that these Americans slaughtered several hundred ducks in a week, and one day killed 127 ducks, shooting out of a sink-boat anchored out in the lake, and having about 200 decoys out. I cannot understand how it is, that the Canadian authorities do not put a stop to these pot-hunters slaughtering our game to supply American markets. If Canadian sportsmen went on United States grounds in pursuit of game, they would very soon be arrested, fined, and their guns confiscated. Therefore, we should retaliate on them. I notice that the Fall ducks vary in their arrival and departure from our lakes, and would advise sportsmen

to ascertain from persons resident near the lakes, to inform them of the first appearance of the ducks, so that they can start on their shooting trips at the right time. Very few Red-heads, Blue-bills, and Plover were exposed for sale in our markets this Fall, but plenty of Black Ducks, Teal, Woodcock and Snipe. I am under the impression that the Red-heads and Blue-bills departed the latter end of October. If many were observed in November, I should be interested to hear of it through the columns of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

TEAL.

Montreal, 4th December, 1881.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:

DEAR SIR,—I take "in good part" your strictures on my notes to Professor Macoun's ornithological record, and hope you will receive what I have to say in reply in a similar candid spirit. In the first place I would point out that there is a general disposition on the part of our best naturalists to simplify the nomenclature, by abolishing many of the genera which have been recently established on what are considered very insufficient grounds, and at the same time to retain or restore those names which are entitled to priority, with the exception of such as are manifestly inappropriate, as having been bestowed either in the absence of sufficient knowledge, or in misconception. The name "Lanius" is certainly entitled to priority in point of time, having been bestowed on the Shrikes by Linnaeus, while "Colluris" originated (not with Dr. Baird,) but with Vigors. There can be no comparison between these two names as to their appropriateness, the former being exactly descriptive of the habits of the bird; the only objection that can be made to it being that it does not come from the Greek, but from the Latin language. The name *Colluris* appears to me to be far-fetched and inappropriate, inasmuch as the only derivation I can find for it is *Koλλυριον* (*kollurion*), diminutive of *Koλλυρα* (*kollura*), equivalent of *Koλλιχ* (*kollix*), a long, narrow loaf of bread, this is latinized into *Collyrium*, eye-salve, so called because put up in small cakes. Now the bird does not eat bread, either in long or short loaves; and certainly does not use eye-salve either in large or small cakes, and I therefore think that this may be taken as an example of the reckless manner in which ridiculous names have been inflicted upon unoffending species by

fanciful authors. You have evidently formed a wrong conception of the scope and character of Professor Jordan's "Manual of the Vertebrates." It is in fact a very valuable work, carefully condensed and compiled from the best American authors, and I would as strongly recommend it as a book of reference to the student of vertebrate life, as I would Nuttall's or Walker's Dictionary to the student of the English language, for it has the merit of presenting the distinctive characters of each species so clearly, and so free from the unimportant details with which too many writers overload their descriptions, that both Professor Macoun and myself have been able through its means to identify several birds and other animals which we had failed to recognize from other more laboured and pretentious works. I may say further that it is only in the edition of 1881 that Dr. Jordan has restored the name "Lanius," having adopted "Colluris" in his former editions.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES T. BELL.

Albert College,)
Belleville, Dec. 5th, 1881.)

P. S.—I find that I made a mistake in the name of the worthy sportsman whose success among the Bass I recorded in my former letter; his name is Ormond, not Orwin, as I accidentally misspelled it. J. T. B.

Some of our hunters have visited the northern part of this district with pretty good success. Messrs. S. B. Burdett, H. Corby, and Jas. Clarke, spent a week at Loon Lake, and killed five deer in three days hunting. In Dungannon and Faraday, Messrs. R. Tait and J. Roy, one day, drove three deer into Bay Lake, all of which they killed. In the afternoon Mr. Roy went out again and killed another by still-hunting. Game of all kinds is unusually plentiful in the northern townships of Hastings this year. A few days ago Mr. R. Day shot thirteen partridges (Ruffed Grouse) within three miles of the city of Belleville.

J. T. B.

A GENERAL DELUGE.

BY G. W. BROWNS, M. D.

(Our Home, and Science Gossip.)

China claims a written history of 300,000 years. She gives the names of dynasties who have ruled over them for more than 50,000 years. May there not be more truth in their histories than we have given them credit? They have had a written and printed language from time immemorial. It is very probable,

as we have before suggested, that China has remained above the surface through all the wrecks of comparatively modern continents; that formerly the western boundary of a coast line, by submergence on the one hand, and upheaval on the other, its condition has been changed to an eastern one. This idea is strengthened by the evidences of antiquity which mark that people; by their numerous population, being nearly equal to all other portions of the globe; to their traditions extending far back into the past; their historical accounts, and the general opinions prevailing in all countries that the world was peopled from the East. And as almost conclusive evidence in support of this proposition is the identity of religious belief, universally prevailing, when stripped of additions made to earlier teachings by a advancing civilization.

P perchance, were we able to follow these reflections to a natural conclusion and had the desirable knowledge which present explorations are developing, we could show that the wonderful records left by a long extinct race in Peru and Central America, of pyramids, and walled cities, and gigantic statuary, and mummies, instead of being the reflex of Asiatic civilization are the parents of these comparatively modern nations.

The preceding pages, relative to a so called general deluge, are only suggestive, but sufficient to awaken thought in the direction we have indicated. We offer, in corroboration of this theory, what to us is conclusive—that in the remote past a continent densely populated occupied at least a portion of what is now the Pacific ocean; that the islands visible in that ocean were but elevated lands and plateaus of ancient mountains; that the now eastern and western continents were then but beds of mighty oceans; that by slow processes, extending through countless ages, they slowly emerged from the sea; that the present order of things is comparatively modern *dating back but a few hundred thousand years*; although there are evidences of a still remoter past, when animal life, man included, inhabited the present continents, antedating the glacial period, and probably before its last submergence, to which condition it is again inclining. For proof we may state that the city of Quito, since 1745, in 1870 had sunk 246 feet, by careful observations made at different periods by the ablest scientists. Pinchinea went down 218 feet during the same period, and its crater has sunk 425 feet during the last twenty six years.

When Columbus landed in America, in 1492, he found a people so closely resembling those of the extreme east of Asia, he supposed he had reached the Indies in his journey around the world, and, hence, gave them the name of Indians. A more intimate acquaintance with these people revealed the additional fact that their religious notions and many of their traditions, particularly those pertaining to a general deluge, were identical with those prevailing throughout Asia. Travellers among them found that many words used by these nomadic tribes were the same as those employed by Orientals. These travellers, accepting the Mosaic account of creation, with its very brief period of human existence, believing the Creator fashioned the earth substantially as we see it now, and not questioning the scriptural account in regard to the dispersion of races, concluded the "ten tribes of Israel" wandered toward Behring straits, crossed over, thence down the coast to Mexico, and from there gradually spread over the entire American continent.

With us, a common use of primitive terms among widely separated nations, is positive proof of a common origin of these peoples; but in no way does it corroborate the idea of those who are ever drawing upon foreign and irrelevant facts to sustain an inconsistent theory, that the Indians are descendants of Abraham.

Islands in the Pacific ocean, hundreds of miles apart, and thousands of miles from the main land, either Asiatic or American, were found by the first explorers to be inhabited by the same race, marked with the same peculiarities of complexion, general features, color of hair, etc., and each had customs in common, with gestures and expressions so similar that they could make themselves intelligible to each other when they first met; and yet, the inhabitants of one island had no idea of the existence of others outside of their own islands. It has been suggested that the ancestors of these people formerly held intercourse by means of canoes. This hypothesis is simply preposterous, as a canoe could not live for weeks on this boisterous ocean, without chart or compass, and pass from one island to another. This would and did take place with islands near to and in sight of each other; but such explorations would never be undertaken by savage tribes, as they were wholly destitute of that species of adventure.

(To be continued.)