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THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

81

No. 11.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 15th, 1881.

VOL. I.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We are anxious to have our accounts squared up by the end of the year; therefore, gentlemen who have not paid for the magazine would confer a favor by remitting ONE DOLLAR to us before the 1st of December.

THE VENISON SEASON.

There must be some alteration in the time to hunt deer, and the necessity for the change is obvious from the late long continued fine weather, which, we may say, lasted throughout the months of September and October. At present the law says that all species of deer may be hunted from the 1st of September to the 1st of February, in the Province of Quebec, so that actually two months of the present legal season is of no value to the sportsman, and we may risk making no mistake in saying that for years to come but few deer will be obtained in the month of September at least, either in the accessible woodlands of Ontario or Quebec. The animals can certainly be obtained by going far back, but what can be done with venison after it is carried a great distance in such a temperature? It would be simply unfit for human food. We must, therefore, frame our Game Laws to suit the climate and rutting season, and it would be greatly to the advantage of sportsmen and the deer to commence the open season on the 1st of October, and close on the 15th of February. We throw out these remarks that gentlemen who are interested in the sport may study the subject and give us their opinions. We are not anxious to do things rashly, but it is evident that as the woodlands are annually opened, that the climate during the two months mentioned, will continue to increase in mildness, keeping the animals far back, and, therefore, not so accessible as in former seasons.—C.

EXPOSE THEM.

A few Americans have leased the Swanton Marshes on Lake Champlain, and have called themselves "The Maldon Game Club, of Mass." We have been informed that members of this Club have lately set numbers of muskrat traps on the sand-bars in order to catch the Black duck going there to rest. The discovery was made by a party who watched the gents searching for the traps which were hidden beneath the sand washed by the waves. We are also told that members of the above Club go into the marshes with dogs to procure young ducks before they are able to fly. The sporting men of Vermont—those who love fair play to game animals—should watch these gentry and make an *expose* of a few of them. If such tricks were played in a civilized Canadian community, the guilty parties would certainly be arrested and sent to jail to convert stones into pebbles.—C.

CANADIAN MUSEUMS.

THE LAVAL UNIVERSITY, QUEBEC.

This well-known educational institution has, without doubt, better facilities for exhibiting the *fauna* and *flora* of North America than any similar one in the Dominion. The room devoted to the zoological collections is large, and well-lighted from the west side of the building, and the cases containing the Ornithological collection are erected after modern patterns, spacious, standing transversely on the floor, each case having two windows to light its contents. We may safely say that the Museum of the Laval University of Quebec, in course of time will equal that of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia.

Some years ago the Council voted a sum of money to procure preserved skins of the birds of Southern and Western America, and the

Rev. Mr. Brunet, then Professor of Botany, and the writer were sent to Washington to make arrangements with the Smithsonian Institution for the purchase of such a collection. This was arranged with Dr. Baird, and a number of specimens were afterwards received, but we have no knowledge that material was regularly forwarded in accordance with the Catalogue contract. However, with what the University now possesses in this Department and its collection of Birds' Eggs, with a fair representation of the Orders of Canadian Insects, students can pass their leisure profitably in the room. In an adjoining room will be found Dr. Taché's collection of Ethnological forms, which are very interesting as exhibiting the modes of life and early history of the Indian tribes of Canada. The indefatigable exertions of the late Rev. Mr. Brunet made the Botanical collection the best in the Dominion; in fact, it is now a reference of no mean order. The arrangement of plants are in accordance with modern classification and nomenclature, and the genera and specific names properly and intelligently placed. If the present Professor will only watch over the Herbarium as our late esteemed friend Brunet did, then it will exist to be useful for generations to come. We may add that the University possesses a magnificent collection of philosophical apparatus which are not, probably, equalled on this continent. The authorities had, from the beginning, an eye to matters of this nature as an intelligent means of advancing the knowledge of young men entering their classes, and, indeed, similar institutions in this country should endeavor to imitate Laval, and procure material of like nature, in order to keep pace with this advanced age of enquiry and thought.

THE BETSIAMITES MUSEUM.

On the North-shore of the Lower St. Lawrence, almost opposite Father Point, a large, good salmon river, called Betsiamites, enters salt water. It is about ninety miles below Tadousac and two hundred from Quebec. The

Hudson Bay Co. occupy a post here, to trade with the Indians who generally reside near the river, as they claim it by right. There is also a Moravian Missionary residence, where the Gospel is propagated among the tribe. Through the influence and energy of these clergymen a Museum of Natural History objects has been erected—the collection being kept in a separate building. We wish to speak of this collection in order to show what can be performed by determined exertion. Here then, we say, that on the North Coast of the Lower St. Lawrence, in a place, to a great extent, only frequented by Indians, the devoted missionaries have erected a Museum to educate the savage. We were astonished when we visited it, as we did not expect to see such things on the verge of the Labradorian coast. But we know what these missionaries mean by this exhibition, and the result of forming a collection of Natural objects before the semi-savage eye is a grand idea, brim-full of good results. The collection is extremely good, being the product of amateurs. There are quite a number of specimens from France. We believe this is the first English notice given of the above collection.—C.

OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

We have before us Transactions Nos. 1 and 2 of the above named Club, from 1879 to 1881. An institution of this nature was wanted in the City of Ottawa, the surroundings of which are prolific in objects of scientific research. We are cognizant of the valuable paleontological work done by the late Mr. Billings in the Ottawa Valley, and furthermore mention, with pleasure, that there are other Billings' following his footsteps. These facts should stimulate the closet naturalists connected with the Geological Survey to go to work for undiscovered material; it would certainly be creditable to the discoverers, and add laurels to the Department. It appears, however, that it is not the way in which these learned gentlemen wish to obtain honour. We believe that many

of the forms obtained from our rocks have been identified by American paleontologists. The State collections of New York and Massachusetts have to be consulted in order to place the matter correctly before the Canadian public. Of course this must be expected from persons having only a limited knowledge of abstruse forms found occasionally in our rocks. The Ottawa F. N. Club have now the Geological Survey Museum to consult, and with students like J. A. Grant, M.D., F.R.C.S., Edin., F.G.S., London; the Billings'; W. P. Anderson, C.E.; W. H. Harrington, and others working in the fossil valley of the Ottawa, will, we trust, add a fresh stimulus to geological study, and compel the salaried gentlemen who write on these remarkable things to be diligent and thoroughly accurate regarding them. The Transactions of the O. F. N. C. are extremely valuable, and they will, doubtless, continue to be so as long as the Club is presided over by a student like our congenial friend J. Fletcher. Mr. G. E. Heron, a young conchologist, gives a very good paper and list of the Land and Fresh-water shells of the Ottawa. Mr. W. H. Harrington's papers on Insects are valuable to the young beginner. We would like to see the authorities given in all cases after species. At page 44, No. 1, occurs *Polydrosus elegans* of Couper, which is correct according to LeConte's Catalogue; and at page 33, No. 2, the latter Weevil is called *Scythropus elegans*, Couper, from Crotch's Catalogue or Check-list. We care not who authorized the revision, but simply say that the genus *Polydrosus* should hold priority. At page 31, No. 2, a Weevil is mentioned as *Hylobius stupidus*, and on referring to the list (page 33) it is given as Schœner's species. We have no knowledge of this insect, and never met it under the name of *stupidus* in Canadian collections. There has only been two or three species of the genus *Hylobius* found in Canada, the last one was described some years ago as *H. pinicola*, Couper. It was prior to that a M.S. species called *heros* by LeConte, a gentleman who

stands at the head of all American Coleopterists. We are sorry to say that there are too many writers in the United States, who are fond of making changes of this description, and if Crotch gives this *Hylobius* as *stupidus*, Sch., we would like to examine a specimen. It is strange that the latter species should lie dormant so long when men like Billings and the writer collected together for three years around Ottawa. Ibbotson, Croft and the writer for several years around Toronto, and that *H. pinicola* was discovered in two distant places, i.e., Lake Superior, where Dr. LeConte found fragments of one which formed the MS. for his *heros*, and the others were living specimens taken on pine trees at Quebec by the writer, and described by him in the *Canadian Naturalist & Geologist*, published at Montreal, either in 1865 or '66. We are pleased to notice Mr. Fletcher's "Flora Ottawaensis" in the first number, with an addition to it in the second. We know that the late Mr. Billings published a local list of plants in the Transactions of the Literary and Scientific Society of Ottawa. In closing, we will here notice a descriptive paper on the genus *LILIUM*, by our old friend Lt.-Col. White, an associate, who is always willing to aid literary institutions. In all, we commend the Transactions of the O. F. N. C. to all those who take an interest in the Natural History of Canada.—C.

Correspondence.

"LEGEND OF THE CROSSBILL."

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:—

SIR,—I notice considerable correspondence appearing in your columns on the Robin. I am a student of ornithology, therefore, I would like to say a few words on the subject. I consider Dr. Garnier is justified in shooting *Turdus migratorius* in the autumn and winter seasons, as, during that time, they are very good eating. I have enjoyed the winter sport, shooting Blackbirds, Thrushes, Larks, Redwings and Fieldfares in England, and can vouch for the good pie they make. The Rev. Mr. Clementi

is evidently astray in regard to the tradition of the Robin picking a thorn out of Christ's head. Perhaps he confounds the Robin with the "Legend of the Crossbill," from the German of Julius Mosen, translated by Longfellow, as follows:—

On the cross the dying Saviour,
Heavenward lifts His eyelids calm,
Feels, but scarcely feels, a trembling
In His pierced and bleeding palm.

And, by all the world forsaken,
Sees He how with zealous care,
At the ruthless nail of iron,
A little bird is striving there.

Stained with blood and never tiring,
With its beak it doth not cease,
From the cross 'twould free the Saviour,
Its Creator's Son release.

And the Saviour speaks in mildness :
"Blest be thou of all the good !
Bear, as token of this moment,
Marks of blood and holyrood !"

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.

Scientific examination condemns *Turdus migratorius*, or Robin, for destroying a much larger number of useful than destructive insects, therefore, it does more harm than good to mankind.—TEAL.

Montreal, Oct. 24, 1881.

CANADIAN BIRDS.

List of Birds obtained and observed by Professor Macoun at and near the City of Belleville, County of Hastings, Ontario, in the Spring of A.D. 1881, with remarks by Professor J. T. Bell, of Albert University.

The date given with each species is that on which the first specimen was captured. Several individuals of many of the species were subsequently shot, of which no mention is made in this list. The names are taken from "Jordan's Manual of the Vertebrates of the Northern United States," Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1880.

- 1.—Jan'y 17.—*Plectrophanes nivalis* ; Snow Bunting. Very numerous before snow-storms.
2.— " 18.—*Picus pubescens* ; Downy Woodpecker.
3.— " 20.—*Scops asio* ; Screech Owl.
4.—Feb'y 7.—*Agelothus linarius* ; Red-poll Linnet.
5.— " 7.—*Piticola enucleator* ; Pine Grosbeak.
6.— " 11.—*Picus villosus* ; Hairy Woodpecker.
7.— " 11.—*Cyanura cristata* ; Blue Jay.
8.— " 23.—*Loxia curvirostra* ; Red Cross-bill. Prof. Macoun saw a flock of these birds, but did not succeed in procuring specimens.
9.— " 23.—*Eremophila alpestris* ; Shore Lark. Bred near city; young nearly fledged by May 1st.

- 10.—Mar. 1.—*Nyctale Acadia* ; Saw-whet Owl.
11.— " 4.—*Corvus Americanus* ; Common Crow arrived.
12.— " 18.—*Turdus migratorius* ; Robin. In March and April the stomach of Robins contain numerous larva of the carnivorous ground beetles (*HARPALUS, CARABIDÆ*)
13.— " 25.—*Sialia sialis* ; Blue-bird.
14.— " 28.—*Lanius borealis* ; (*Collyrio* Vigors) Great Northern Shrike. Prof. Jordan has restored the old Linnæan name *Lanius* in his later edition. The bird now winters here, and feeds chiefly on the English Sparrow; this indicates that the migration of birds, and probably of other animals, is influenced more by food than by temperature.
15.— " 29.—*Melospiza melodia* ; Song Sparrow.
16.— " 29.—*Anorthura togolodytes* ; Winter Wren.
17.—April 15.—*Quiscalus purpureus* ; Crow Blackbird.
18.— " 15.—*Passer domesticus* ; English Sparrow. Is spreading into the country; was observed building in a Lombardy poplar remote from the city.
19.— " 15.—*Poocetes gramineus* ; Bay-winged Bunting, Grass-bird.
20.— " 16.—*Accipiter Cooperi* ; Chicken Hawk.
21.— " 16.—*Molothrus ater* ; Cow Bunting.
22.— " 16.—*Agelus phœniceus* ; Red-winged Black-bird.
23.— " 18.—*Sayornis fuscus* ; Phoebe Bird.
24.— " 18.—*Junco hyemalis* ; Snow-bird.
25.— " 18.—*Sitta Carolinensis* ; White-bellied Nuthatch.
26.— " 18.—*Parus atricapillus* ; Black-capped Chickadee.
27.— " 20.—*Hylocichla Pallasi* ; Hermit Thrush.
28.— " 20.—*Sphyrapicus varius* ; Yellow-bellied Woodpecker.
29.— " 20.—*Passerella iliaca* ; Fox Sparrow. Very rare here.
30.— " 21.—*Colpates auratus* ; Golden-winged Woodpecker. Local name, "High-holder."
31.— " 22.—*Regulus satrapa* ; Golden-crowned Kinglet.
32.— " 22.—*Agialitis vociferus* ; Kill-deer Plover.
33.— " 22.—*Tachycineta bicolor* ; White-bellied Swallow.
34.— " 23.—*Regulus calendula* ; Ruby-crowned Kinglet.
35.— " 23.—*Certhia familiaris* ; Brown Creeper.
36.— " 23.—*Sturnella magna* ; Meadow Lark.
37.— " 25.—*Spizella monticola* ; Tree Sparrow.
38.— " 25.—*Spizella socialis* ; Chipping Sparrow.
39.— " 26.—*Spizella pusilla* ; Field Sparrow.
40.— " 26.—*Zonotrichia albicollis* ; White-throated Sparrow.
41.— " 27.—*Passerculus Savanna* ; Savanna Sparrow.
42.— " 28.—*Carduelis purpureus* ; Purple Finch.
43.— " 29.—*Mniotilta varia* ; Black-and-white Creeper.
44.—May 2.—*Halporhynchus rufus* ; Brown Thrush.
45.— " 3.—*Pipilo erythrophthalmus* ; Towhee Bunting.
46.— " 4.—*Empidonax Acadicus* ; Small green-crested Fly-catcher.
47.— " 5.—*Myiarchus crinitus* ; Great-crested Fly-catcher.
48.— " 5.—*Setophaga ruticilla* ; American Redstart.
49.— " 6.—*Lanius ludovicianus* ; Loggerhead Shrike.
50.— " 6.—*Galeoscoptes Carolinensis* ; Cat-bird.
51.— " 6.—*Sitta Canadensis* ; Red-bellied Nuthatch.
52.— " 6.—*Sturnus nevius* ; Water Thrush.
53.— " 6.—*Ampelis cedrorum* ; Cedar-bird.
54.— " 7.—*Tyrannus Carolinensis* ; King-bird.
55.— " 9.—*Dendroica aestiva* ; Golden Warbler.
56.— " 9.—*Dendroica coronata* ; Yellow-rumped Warbler.
57.— " 9.—*Zonotrichia leucophrys* ; White-crowned Sparrow.
58.— " 9.—*Chrysomitris tristis* ; Yellow-bird.

- 59.—May 9.—*Hirundo horreorum*; Barn Swallow.
60.— " 9.—*Icterus Baltimore*; Baltimore Oriole.
(Local, Bee-bird.)
61.— " 9.—*Tringoides macularis*; Spotted Sand-
piper.
62.— " 10.—*Vireosylva gilva*; Warbling Vireo.
63.— " 10.—*Dendroica ceruleascens*; Black-throated
Blue Warbler.
64.— " 10.—*Hylocichla fuscescens*; Tawny Thrush.
65.— " 12.—*Geothlypis trichas*; Maryland Yellow-
throat.
66.— " 12.—*Troglodytes adon*; House Wren.
67.— " 13.—*Sturnus auricapillus*; Golden-crowned
Thrush.
68.— " 13.—*Empidonax Trailli*; Trail's Fly-catcher.
69.— " 13.—*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*; Black-billed
Cuckoo.
70.— " 13.—*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*; Red-headed
Woodpecker.
71.— " 13.—*Myiodytes Canadensis*; Canada Fly-
catching Warbler.
72.— " 16.—*Dendroica maculosa*; Black-and-yellow
Warbler.
73.— " 17.—*Dendroica Pennsylvanica*; Chestnut-sided
Warbler.
74.— " 17.—*Pyranga rubra*; Scarlet Tanager. (Local,
Fire-bird.)
75.— " 17.—*Goniaphea Indoviciana*; Rose-breasted
Grosbeak.

At this date Professor Macoun was called away to other duties and ceased collecting in the vicinity of Belleville. Shortly afterwards he set out on another exploring expedition to the North-West, returning home on October 14th, when he commenced his Fall collecting, the result of which, as well as of his Northern explorations, will be made known hereafter.

Professor Macoun retains mounted specimens of all the above named birds, except the Crow and Crossbill; but in future he intends to adopt the plan suggested to him by His Excellency the Governor-General, viz., to have the skins of his captures simply filled, without wiring or setting up, so that they can be kept in boxes or in drawers of a cabinet, thus economizing both time, space and money, with the additional advantage of having them in a more accessible form for examination and comparison.

NOTE.—The Red Crossbill is the *Currivora Americana* of Wilson. The genus *LOXIA* is not applied to our Crossbills by the best American ornithological authors. Jordan's Manual is, evidently, a mixture of European and American genera. It would be safer and more correct if our correspondent followed the Smithsonian Ornithological Catalogue. Jordan places our Pine Grosbeak under the European list, while it was originally described by Cabanis as *Canadensis*, its habitat being more North American than British. Again the Shore Lark or Sky Lark of America is called

alpestris, from the European list, while our bird is the *E. cornuta*. Boie. This species has been found nesting on the Island of Montreal. With regard to the Great Northern Shrike, it is, at this age, absurd to go back to the Linnæan nomenclature, especially for genera. We have not seen Professor Jordan's Manual, but suffice to say that Dr. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, years ago classified the four North American Shrikes under the genus *COLLYRIO*. The faunal and floral nomenclature of the above Institution is, therefore, supposed to be that in use throughout the United States and Canada. Pallas' Thrush is a true *TURDUS*, and the White-bellied Swallow a *HIRUNDO*. Wilson's Thrush is placed under a genus not recognizable on this continent. Indeed, we are sorry that our correspondent did not append the authorities for such species. The latter is a true *TURDUS*. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is not a *GONIAPHEA*, but a fair type of the genus *GUIRACA*, of Swainson. There are other errors which could be pointed out to Professor Jordan, but we trust our esteemed Belleville friend will look on the above remarks as emanating from a love of system which should certainly be carried out.

We know further that American entomological writers catalogued insects occurring between Mexico and the Arctic zone, placing therein, at intervals, forms either British or foreign, that never occurred on this continent.

We may here state, in connection with the early appearance of the Snowy Owl, that Mr. N. A. Comeau, of Golbout, Lower St. Lawrence, shot a fine specimen of the latter on the 12th October, and he says "it is somewhat early comparatively." About this date several specimens were offered on the Montreal market. What causes this bird, so well clothed in soft, immaculate down—and so thoroughly lagopede—perfectly formed for Arctic regions, to appear in our temperate climate during the fall of the year? It is not cold that moves it from its summer haunts, because it can stand the lowest Arctic temperature. The Snowy

Owl must live, and its food being principally *Rodentia*, which are, in the Northern regions, thoroughly covered with snow in October, cannot be obtained by the birds, and they are, therefore, compelled to fly southward, where they can obtain an existence with greater facility. We have many beautiful illustrations of this nature in America, where animals move within frigid and temperate zones. We find birds visiting us in winter, which during summer have their habitat on the South margin of the Arctic circle. Among these we may mention the Jer Falcon (*F. Candicans*, Gmelin); the Great Gray Owl (*S. Cinerum*, Audubon); the Sparrow Owl, (*Nyctale Richardsonii*, Bon); the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nivea*, Gray); the Hawk Owl (*S. ulula*, Bon); the Three-toed Woodpeckers; the Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*, Linn); the Hudsonian Titmouse (*Parus Hudsonius*, Forster); the CURVIROSTÆ (Crossbills) and AEGIOTHIDÆ (Redpolls); the Snow Bunting *Plectrophanes nivalis*, Meyer); the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola Canadensis*, Cab); the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus Canadensis*, Bon); the Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pediceetes phasianellus*, Baird); the Ptarmigan and some of the ANATIDÆ (Ducks) and STERCORARIIDÆ (Skuas). The writer came to Canada in 1842, and has, since then, watched the gradual changes occurring in its winter temperature. There is an appreciative difference between the Canadian winter of 1843 and those that have followed. Remarks on the meteorological changes are not required from weather prophets, as they have been noticed by Europeans visiting Canada of late years, and as our Northern woodlands are annually opened up and the lands thoroughly cultivated, the result will be doubly manifest to the young communities of this portion of the earth.—C.

CAN THE CAPERCAILZIE AND BLACK COCK BE ACCLIMATIZED IN CANADA?

The following was sent to us by our esteemed friend J. M. LeMoine. He says that Col. Rhodes lately imported two hundred Messina

quail. It would be worth the money and trouble to introduce the Capercaillie into Canadian forests, but we have doubts regarding the Black Cock, its habits being different from the Capercaillie; however the subject is interesting, and we trust our rich sportsmen will not overlook it.—C.

To J. M. LEMOINE, Esq., President Literary and Historical Society, Quebec.

DEAR SIR,—As President of a Society owning an extensive collection of birds as well as on account of the efforts you have made to increase and protect the game of Canada and to popularize the study of Natural History. I beg to draw your attention to the splendid specimens of the English pheasant, black cock and capercaillie, which I now send to your rooms for exhibition. You are no doubt aware that the capercaillie is a northern specie, a denizen of Norway, living on the top of pines and spruce as lofty as our own; you are no doubt also cognizant of this fact that the *Duke of Sutherland* and the Earl of *Fyfe* have succeeded in adding to the Scotch fauna, the magnificent birds, which are now re-introduced and breed abundantly in Scotland. Will no sportsman take the lead in a movement to introduce this bird and naturalize him in Canada? Awaiting for an expression of your views,

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours respectfully,

A. WATTERS.

Quebec, 4th November, 1881.

ROOMS OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Quebec, 4th November, 1881.

To MR. A. WATTERS, Quebec:—

DEAR SIR,—I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of this date, advising me that you have sent on exhibition to our rooms, some remarkable handsome English pheasants—black cock and capercaillie, as specimens of the art of Scotch taxidermists, and asking my opinion as to the practicability of adding to our fauna, the splendid game bird, known as the capercaillie. It is now some time since I pressed this very subject on the attention of some of my sporting friends. The efforts of Col. Rhodes to introduce here the European house sparrow, show what energy and hard cash can do, and I trust the same success will attend the Colonel's praiseworthy

efforts and expenditure, to add the Messina quail to our Canadian moors and forests. I have a dozen of the Colonel's Sicilian quail, at present in my aviary, the breeding season being over when I got them, and am waiting for April to let them loose, in order to test Col. Rhodes' theory about this migratory species' return to where it was hatched. The capercaillie, without being as delicate a bird to eat, as our ruffed grouse, from its size, would be a very welcome addition to our fauna. In Canada, he would find a climate, haunts, food and protection, similar to which he meets with in the pine forests of the north—in Norway—it is worth while trying, if he can be naturalized here. I hope yet to learn that some public-spirited sportsman will undertake the introduction of this noble bird—the capercaillie—and succeed here, as has happened in Scotland.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours most obediently,

J. M. LEMOINE,

President Lit. & His. Society.

BAY OF QUINTE NOTES.

Owing to the unprecedented dryness of the weather in September the shooting season in this district opened under very unfavorable auspices. The Woodcock was driven out of his usual haunts, and compelled to take refuge in the inaccessible recesses of our marshes, and though some of our sportsmen tried the well-known covers, they met with but poor success, the best bag I have heard of consisting of no more than six birds. Some sport has been had within and close to the city limits among the Golden Plover, but no heavy bags have been made. Very few Partridge have been shot as yet, the foliage is too dense for the shooter; after the leaves have fallen we hope to have some sport, as the breeding season was favorable.

The Fall ducks are beginning to arrive; the frosty nights of the 5th and 11th October have started them on their Southward journey, and they have begun to appear on our market, to the great satisfaction of the gourmands. Hay-bay, an offshoot of the Bay of Quinte, about midway between Belleville and Kingston, used to be a celebrated resort for duck-shooters, but of late years the birds have been almost entirely driven away by incessant and indiscriminate cannonading. It is now, however, under the protection of an association of neighboring sportsmen, who only allow shooting on three days in the week, and who, I am

informed, charge one dollar a-day for the privilege—a sum which no true sportsman would object to pay for a fair day's sport.

The fishing in the Bay, though inferior to that of last year, has yet afforded some good "takes" to the devotees of the rod and line. Among others, Mr. Wm. Orwin has had good sport among the Black Bass. On one occasion he and his son killed 95 lbs. of Bass in an afternoon. On another they took 75 fish, weighing considerably over 100 lbs., and on the 11th October they took, at Nigger Island, half way between this and Trenton, 103 lbs. of Black Bass. His usual bait is a grass-hopper, but as the insect is rarely to be had now, his latter fishing has been done with an artificial fly, tied to resemble that tempting bait. Mr. Orwin reported some heavy flocks of duck coming in while he was fishing.

A well-known veteran angler, Mr. Alpheus Dulmage, paid a visit to Squire's Creek, in the Township of Rawdon, 25 miles from Belleville, on the 12th September, and in eight hours, took 70 Speckled Trout, one of which weighed close upon 2½ lbs., and another turned the scale at 1½ lbs. These fish were mostly killed with the worm, but, fishing by moonlight, the trout refused the worm bait, which was freely taken by the Chub, which also inhabit the creek. By way of experiment Mr. Dulmage cut up a Chub and baited his hook with pieces of its flesh, and with this bait caught several nice trout.

The bush-fires which devastated a large section of the middle district of Hastings County during the hot, dry weather of summer, made sad havoc among the game and wild animals within their sway. The lumberers report the finding of many remains of Deer, Partridges, and other animals in the burnt woods. In the Township of Grimsthorpe, a fire swept through six miles of forest in twenty-four hours. One of Messrs. Rathbun's foremen, following the track of the conflagration to look for such timber trees as were spared, found a Porcupine with all its legs burnt off and still living, and, a little further on, another with its head and shoulders singed bare, and its eyes put out by the flames; he put them out of pain with his hatchet.

The fires of this year, having run through many of the thick swamps which, in ordinary seasons, are incombustible on account of their moist condition, have driven many Bears, Wolves, &c., out of their strongholds, and they have, consequently made their appearance in

very unusual places, and alarmed the inhabitants of isolated dwellings. Several of them have, however, fallen before the rifles of the hunters, who are always ready to turn out in pursuit when large game are reported to show themselves. The regular hunting is scarcely begun as yet, but those who have taken "time by the forelock" have had pretty good success, in proof of which I send you the following, clipped from the Belleville *Intelligencer*, of the 12th ult. :—

"A BIG DEER HUNT.—A party of seven left for Buck Lake, Sept. 28th, arriving at their destination October 1st. They returned on October 10th, bringing with them 15 deer besides a large quantity of smaller game. Of the deer shot Mr. S. Paliser, of Foxboro', shot seven; Mr. S. Golding, of Sidney, six; and Mr. S. D. Ross, of Madoc, two."

JAS. T. BELL.

NOTE—The above was too late for the October number.

A GENERAL DELUGE.

The following foot note was omitted in the October number. It refers to an asterisk after the word desert, fitting lines from the end of the column :—

*NOTE.—The late lamented Geo. Smith, of the British Museum, in his interesting account of the Deluge, which he deciphered after long years of laborious research, wrote the London *Telegraph*: "The cuneiform inscription which I have recently found and translated, gives a long and full account of the Deluge. It contains the version of tradition of this event, which existed in the early Chaldean period of the city of Erech, one of the cities of Nimrod, now represented by the ruins of Warka. In this newly discovered inscription the account of the Deluge is put as a narrative into the mouth of Xisuthus or Noah. He relates the wickedness of the world, the command to build the ark, its building, the filling of it, the resting of the ark on a mountain, the sending out of the birds, and other matters. *The narrative has a closer resemblance to the account transmitted by the Greeks from Berossus, the Chaldean historian, than to Biblical history, but it does not differ materially from either [because all drew from a common fountain—the original Babylonian records, from which each copied.] The principal differences are as to the duration of the Deluge, the name of the mountain on which the ark rested, the sending of the birds, etc. The cuneiform account is much longer and fuller than that of Berossus, and has several details omitted both by the Bible and the Chaldean historian. This inscription opens up many questions of which we knew nothing previously, and it is connected with a number of other details of Chaldean history, which will be both interesting and important. This is the first time any inscription has been found with an account of the event mentioned in Genesis."*

Some, bolder than others, have had the independence to assert that the various races of men did not originate from a single pair; but were developed at different periods, under widely

differing circumstances, and that each was peculiarly adapted to the locality in which he is found. They saw that the islands and widely-separated continents were inhabited by similar animals and races of human beings, and accounted for this on the hypothesis that their ancestors were carried there by icebergs, or other natural methods, and to man his accidental passage by canoes. Our theory, which seems the more probable, accounts for this condition of things in harmony with the known laws of nature.

Had the earthquake of a few years ago, which created such terrible havoc to property and life on the coast of Chili, floating large ships many miles inland and leaving them high up on the mountain sides, been universal to the western continent, with a tidal wave as much greater as the convulsion would have been more general, it would have rolled over the mountain barriers, and produced a general deluge. All life save that on mountain tops, must have perished. Arks would have been of no account amid such wild and tumultuous warring of the angry elements. A moment, and down sinks the peaceful earth, and on comes the maddened, rushing waters. Billow follows billow mountain high and rolls on, spreading over the plain and leaping the highest crags. Ships would have been no more than straws floating on a surging ocean.

If a receding wave should unveil a continent, it would be a barren waste of crags, and rocks and boulders, pebbles and sand. The few, if any, who clung to mountain tops would probably starve. If any survived, ages of almost limitless duration would have been required to people the earth again.

A general traditional account of the common disaster would have survived; but no clear idea of the long period which had elapsed could have been preserved. The knowledge of the event, being passed from father to son through successive generations, would be credited to a period much shorter than its reality.

Though raised at the court of Pharaoh, Moses only possessed the knowledge common to the educated Egyptians. All the laws and customs introduced by him to his immediate followers, he carried out of Egypt with him. And the Egyptians no doubt borrowed their ideas from their ancestors, who were probably natives of Persia or Farther India.

(To be continued.)