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# THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 5.

MONTREAL, MAY 14th, 1881.

VOL. I.

## THE GRAND ROMAINE.

This beautiful river enters the sea about nine miles east of Mingan. It is considered one of the best for angling. The salmon are generally of large size, said to be of extraordinary strength, and give excellent sport; indeed, one cannot easily doubt this statement when he visits the place and views the magnificent falls, just above the angling pools, and opposite the camping-ground. He may naturally ask does salmon leap this mighty torrent of water? No, dear Sir, although the salmon of this river are remarkable for their size and beautiful form, they cannot reach the spawning-grounds by attempting to leap such a perpendicular fall of water. Nature has provided another entrance for the fish, a short distance east of the falls. It is therefore evident that the habits of salmon are similar to the sea trout, which are known to remain for many days feeding in the estuary, gradually becoming accustomed to the river water before they finally depart for the purpose of propagation. In like manner, salmon leaving the salt water make for the pools at the base of the Romaine falls, where they remain a short time making vain efforts to go farther, but finding a barrier they again turn seaward discovering the east entrance where they enter and reach, (after many difficulties) their spawning-grounds. While we were at Mingan in 1868, the mistake of salmon missing their native river, was illustrated by the fact that the Romaine form of fish was caught in nets placed near the Mingan. It must be remembered that although there is no structural difference in *Salmo salar*, there is an evident change in the exterior form of the fish which is remarkable and moreover applicable to the river to which the salmon belongs, and the man who net-fished the Mingan at that time, could, with confidence say, "Mr. Couper,

this salmon which I have just taken from my net has made a mistake, it has passed its own river." Capt. LeMarquand, please explain. "You see, sir, that the shape of the fish is totally different from Mingan salmon; its form is deeper; it is more bulky, and the head is not shaped like any salmon entering the Mingan. This we have ascertained through long experience; we can pick out every fish that makes this mistake." In *Lovell's Gazetteer*, the Romaine is described as a large river of Quebec; falls into the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It extends north and south many hundred miles, and has some fine falls. One hundred miles from its mouth, there is a natural bridge, and three hundred miles farther magnificent falls, said to be equal to those of Niagara." We have had the pleasure of entering the Romaine in a canoe, as far as the pool at the base of the fall on the north-west branch, about ten miles inland, where this portion of the river becomes narrow, descending from primitive rocky gulches, showing evidence of the difficulty salmon has to contend with in reaching the spring tributaries which make the river proper. If the water happens to be low, the fish must remain in the pools until rain occurs further north to add to the bulk of the stream. Should this not take place, many fish which have reached thus far must of necessity return to salt water before winter sets in. In our opinion the Fishery Department should take away this obstacle to salmon passage on the Romaine. It would cost little to make proper and permanent fish-leaps through these almost perpendicular falls, besides it would make the river more valuable, and increase the number of salmon. Several North-Shore St. Lawrence rivers are similarly situated. For instance, the Mingan; it also could be improved by making a more easy passage for salmon over its rocky fall of water.

## Microscopical.

The Microscope is a delightful source of instruction, especially when in the hands of an expert. The *minute* of this world are through it clearly presented to our view. When the instrument is properly worked by an intelligent head of a family, the information and pleasure derived from it is unbounded. Having clever microscopists in Canada, it is our wish to encourage their investigations, and we therefore solicit communications regarding new discoveries. Mr. Murphy's microscopical investigations on the structure of the mosquito's proboscis should induce others to follow correct manipulation. We cannot publish what has been microscopically examined in a hurry; an object must be repeatedly and thoroughly tested, and its structure properly defined by frequent examinations in order to claim our attention. Furthermore, in describing minute forms, it will be necessary to apply proper names to their several parts. It is not correct to call the proboscis of a Dipterous fly (the mosquito) a sting, as the latter organ does not occur in the two-winged flies. Bees and wasps (four-winged flies) are stinging insects.

### THE MOSQUITO'S PROBOSCIS.

It is an interesting question how a creature as small as the mosquito, and so very light that the slightest breeze will blow him away, can hold on to his prey with sufficient tenacity to force through a hard epidermis, and into solid flesh, his very delicate and perfect instruments. A careful examination of his organs, and repeated observation of the insect while feeding, by Mr. Edward Murphy of Montreal, (who has dissected and mounted a large number of these little creatures, and has paid particular attention to their habits) have brought to light the following particulars, which are copied from his extensive notes on the subject.

As in all the "blood-sucking" insects there is a wonderful modification of the mandibulate

mouth. A prolongation of the *labium* forms a proboscis, covered with minute scales; having a sort of muscular contraction a short distance from the point, which not only holds all the contained organs into a compact body for insertion, but also forms a sort of "cleaning" organ, through which they can be drawn. When the instruments are inserted into the flesh, this proboscis is pushed back, bending towards the top, at an angle more or less acute, and having something the appearance of a leg with a bent joint.

The mandibles have been modified into a pair of beautiful saws, whose sharp teeth, generally ten in number, small at the point of the instrument, and increasing in size towards the mouth, and set backwards, not only act as cutting tools, but from their barbed shape, give the creature the "purchase" necessary to hold him to his prey. A careful observation of the insect while feeding, shows him *pulling* the saw on one side as he *pushes* it on the other. The side he *pulls* is the side that cuts. Thus the action that increases the depth and size of the wound, also gives him the necessary "purchase" to enable him to push in the opposite saw.

Between these saws and the central tube the *maxillæ* are modified into a pair of irritators; possibly used also to prevent any solid matter of too large dimensions entering the tube.

The tube, a modification of the tongue, is horny in its structure, sharp pointed and solid at the end; so that it may be pressed firmly against the bottom of the wound, without risk of being stopped up: the blood flowing through a hole like the eye of a needle, which passes through the tube, at a distance from the point equal to about the diameter of the tube.

### MONTREAL BRANCH ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

The Eighty-second meeting of this Society was held on the 12th April last, at the residence of H. H. Lyman, Esquire. Three gentlemen were proposed for membership, and some interesting notes of the early appearance of insects

this year were placed on record. Mr. Lyman laid before the meeting a "list of the Lepidoptera taken by Mr. Robert Bell in the Northwest Territory," which was noteworthy as showing the extensive distribution of some of our Canadian butterflies; and some time was very agreeably spent in examining his copy of "Abbott & Smith's Insects of Georgia," a standard work, and very finely illustrated.

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of the SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST

DEAR SIR,—I was astonished this week to see it stated in one of our city papers that one thousand brace of black duck had been sold a few days ago on the Montreal market. If this item of news is correct, it indicates a most lamentable state of things, calling loudly upon all sportsmen, and all others interested in the proper and reasonable preservation of game—and what good citizen is not?—to use their most strenuous and immediate efforts for the effectual prevention—as far as legislation can do so—of the killing of black duck, mallard, grey duck, and wood-duck in the Spring. With the exception of teal, all the above-mentioned species are protected in Ontario for the period between the first of January and the fifteenth of August. The law in the sister Province should be the same. Now that the Quebec Legislature is in session, I hope something will be done to prevent the suicidal policy of slaughtering and exposing for sale such splendid birds as black duck in the breeding season, too, when the females are laying their eggs. Admitting that amongst the two thousand black duck reported to have been sold in Montreal, there were one thousand females, and that each of such females, if unmolested by the worst enemy of game, the market poacher, would be able to bring up to maturity, at the very least, five of her brood, and many rear double this number, instead of two thousand, we have actually six thousand black duck imprudently and wantonly destroyed in the breeding season. This kind of work should be tolerated no longer in a civilized country. Even were there no law to control him, no civilized white man ought to be guilty of killing game in the breeding season. This kind of miserable work should be left to the Indian

who will soon have the plains to himself for anything he ever did to protect the game of the country. Trusting that during the present session of the Quebec Legislature, the legitimate sportsmen of your Province will be able to accomplish something towards assimilating the Game Act of Quebec with that of Ontario, more particularly as respects deer, wildfowl, snipe, woodcock and ruffed grouse.

I am, yours truly,

WILLIAM P. LETT.

Ottawa, April 29th, 1881.

### THE ROBIN.—*Turdus migratorius.*

MR. EDITOR,—It gave me much pleasure to read the statements by my friend Mr. Saunders of London, in regard to our insectivorous birds. I am glad he has made these especial published observations, as they agree very closely with the same variety of scientific remarks made by Mr. Riley of Missouri. Nevertheless, much may be said in direct contradiction and with equal truth. As to Mr. Saunders' remark that *Turdus migratorius* is a very mischievous bird, I cannot agree, as I know to the contrary. Nevertheless, this is not the idea I wish to introduce. Mr. Editor, did you ever eat a robin? If not, you have a great pleasure ahead. I have eaten many, and am only sorry that I cannot procure them, all the time. They are really a delicate morsel at breakfast, and well worth the trial. I do not care to shoot them in Spring, but after the first of August, when Woodcock come in, I let them pass after killing sufficient for a dish. Try some and then give your opinion. Thousands are sold in New York, and other American cities, for a few cents each. If I remember rightly, about 10 cents a pair, is what I paid for them in New York. Before cooking, I should recommend them to be plucked and drawn, as the feathers and the "innards" are as well removed. Then get them nicely fried in butter for ten minutes. Serve on toast; and any one of reasonable desires must be content. I think it strange that this bird, as well as many species of snipe and plover, are not included in the game law, as they are well worthy of protection. I moot this point, and being an enthusiastic sportsman, I sincerely wish it would be attended to. You mention a delegation to go to Quebec about the Game Act. Would it not be as well to consider the other birds that could be easily included, and that sportsmen seldom allow to pass without bagging.

J. H. GARNIER.

Lucknow, Ont.

### WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER OF WILD DUCKS.

SIR,—In reply to "Hammerless Greener's" letter published in your February number, I beg to say there are several legitimate sportsmen living in the neighborhood of Lake St. Francis, and that Soulanges County has just sent a petition to the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Quebec, signed by J. P. Lantier, M.P., W. Duckett, M.P.P., and seventy three of the most influential people in the county, praying that the wholesale slaughter of wild ducks by American "pot-hunters" be put a stop to. Where the greatest number are killed is not in the Province of Quebec; it is a few miles above the line, at Currie's Creek, in the County of Glengarry: which county, I hope, will also send in a petition to the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario.

Yours faithfully,

St. Polycarpe, Q., } T. W. W. G.  
April 26, '81. }

SIR,—The Fish and Game Protection Club have an advertisement in your Journal giving the names of Office-bearers, &c., and intimating that notice of infractions of laws for the Protection of Fish and Game should be sent to the Secretary. Your correspondent E. D. W. has not taken this course; had he notified the Secretary of illegal netting which he alleges takes place at Beauharnois, giving date and names of the offenders and witnesses, the case would have been taken up at once. It is impossible for the Club to keep men at every spot where fish may be illegally taken: the most they can do is to prosecute such offenders as may be reported to them, with sufficient information as to witnesses, &c., to secure a conviction. They invite E. D. W. to send his complaints direct in the future to the  
SECRETARY.

SIR,—Having tried long-range shooting at my "Force gauge" with two 12-bore guns, I send you the result, thinking it might be of interest to your readers:—

#### 12-BORE.—WEIGHT, 7½ LBS.

Charge, 3½ drams powder, 1½ oz. No. 4 shot, (162 pellets to the ounce.)

| Distance from Gauge. | Pellets on gauge 5 in. diameter. | Force per Pellet. | Final velocity ft. per sec. | Penetration Number of sheets. |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 40 yds.              | 4                                | 3.50              | 567                         | 27                            |
| 50 "                 | 2                                | 2.90              | 169                         | 17                            |
| 60 "                 | 1                                | 2.17              | 350                         | 10                            |
| 70 "                 | Not fired at this range.         |                   |                             |                               |

#### 12-BORE.—WEIGHT, 8 LBS. 10 OZ.

Charge 3½ drams powder, 1½ oz. No. 4 shot, (172 pellets to the ounce.)

|      |   |      |     |    |
|------|---|------|-----|----|
| 40 " | 8 | 4.03 | 652 | 35 |
| 50 " | 4 | 3.46 | 560 | 26 |
| 60 " | 3 | 2.86 | 463 | 17 |
| 70 " | 2 | 2.00 | 324 | 9  |

Same gun with 3½ drams of powder, 1½ oz. of No 7 shot (320 pellets to the ounce.)

|      |   |      |     |    |
|------|---|------|-----|----|
| 40 " | 7 | 1.60 | 519 | 19 |
| 50 " | 5 | 1.23 | 393 | 11 |
| 60 " | 3 | 0.76 | 243 | 6  |

I merely send the trial with No. 7 shot to show how rapidly the small pellets lose their velocity.

I am about to make a trial of different kinds of powder, viz., English, Canadian and American; if you think it will be of sufficient interest I will send you a report of the result.

Yours truly,

Lachine.  
12-BORE GREENER.

SIR,—In reply to your query as to how far inland Shad have been known to go? I will state for the benefit of your readers, that fine specimens of these fish have been taken as far up the Ottawa as the "Long Sault." Never, to my knowledge, beyond this point, as the wild stretch of rapids known by that name interpose a barrier to further ascent. Consequently the fish assemble in shoals, in an inlet, on the Ontario shore, and a rich season of sport is annually enjoyed by the "few" who know of this piscatorial eldorado.

J. D. F.

Montreal, 5th April, 1881.

NOTE.—Since the receipt of the above we have ascertained that Shad visit Lake Ontario. Our correspondent's letter is interesting in regard to the farthest point reached by the fish in the Ottawa river. How they reach the "Long Sault," at the foot of Lake Temiscamingue, 233 miles above the city of Ottawa, is a matter of which we are anxious to have more information. Are there two "Long Saults" on the Ottawa? We make this enquiry because our correspondent speaks of "the Ontario Shore," leaving one to believe that a "Long Sault" occurs on the Quebec side of the river.—Ed.

## Herpetology.

### LIST OF REPTILIA OF ONTARIO.

To Reptiles that I have not seen, or those reported to me on good authority, I have affixed a mark of interrogation (?). All the others I have recognized, and they are in my cabinet. I do not consider this list by any means perfect, and other forms will doubtless be added by scientific research. I solicit exchange from Herpetologists in the Dominion, and neighboring States of America, as I have a fine lot of Ontario duplicates in the best condition for this purpose. I wish to obtain reptilia, of all classes, from the Province of Quebec, as the difference of climate is of great importance in regard to colouration. This is remarkable in the genus *Eutania*; whose geographical distribution, with other causes, seem to exert an extraordinary influence in regard to tintings and colouration, not alone in Canada, but wherever they occur. There is, perhaps, no branch of natural history less studied in a scientific manner than Herpetology. Here we have an enormous field for research, and scientific enquiry, and Ontario seems as rich in species and genera as any other country of similar extent.

### I. — TESTUDINATA.

#### Family EMYDIDÆ.

- 1—*Chelopus insculptus*. Wood Tortoise. Common.
- 2—*Nanemys gutatus*. Speckled Tortoise. Common.
- 3—*Emys meleagris*. Blanding's Tortoise. Very rare. One specimen captured on Lake St. Clair, by Mr. Buck. Now in my cabinet.
- 4—*Chrysemys picta*. Painted Turtle. Common along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, and in every pond to the south. The most handsome turtle.
- 5—*P. var. marginata*. I have a variety that approaches that described by Jordan.
- 6—*Malacoclemys geographicus*. Map Turtle.

7—*M. pseudo-geographicus*. This is merely a variety, noticeable in the carapace, and seems to be a distinction without a difference.

8—*Aromochelys odoratus*. Musk Turtle. Stink pot; found in Lakes Erie, and St. Clair; rare.

9—*Chelydra serpentina*. Snapping Turtle. Found throughout Ontario. Used for making soup, and in some localities much sought after for this purpose.

10—*Aspidonectes spinifer*. Common Soft-shell Turtle. Lakes Erie and St. Clair, scarce; sometimes taken on hooks. Considered a delicacy. One was taken some years ago, in the Ottawa River.—*Ed.*, rare.

11—*Amyda mutica* (?) Leathery Turtle. Although I never saw this species, yet there is no doubt that it exists as frequently as the preceding in Lakes Erie and St. Clair.

### II. — LACERTILIA.

#### Family SCINCIDÆ.

- 12—*Eumeces fasciatus*. Blue tailed Skink.
- 13—*E. septentrionalis*. Northern Skink.
- 14—*E. anthracinus*. Coal Skink. I captured these in Tilberry township, Co. Kent. They may be considered the same species; the young being the darkest. Specimens I possess from North Carolina of *E. anthracinus*, and the others are not distinguishable from my specimens from Tilberry.

### III. — OPHIDIA.

#### Family COLUBRIDÆ.

- 15—*Heterodon platyrhinus*, var. *niger*. Hog-nosed Snake. Blowing viper. Puff-adder. Captured near Toronto by Prof. Montgomery. A well marked specimen, though small; also reported near Port Hope and other places.
- 16—*Nerodia sipedon*. Water Snake. Water Adder. Black Water Snake; common.
- 17—*N. erythrogaster*. Red-billed Water-snake. This is a scarce species. Lake St. Clair.
- 18—*N. niger*. Black Water Adder, B. & G. I deem it to be the male of the *sipedon*, and it is now generally rejected as a species.
- 19—*Regina rigida*. Stiff Snake. Rare. Captured by Mr. Buck, at Mud creek, Lake St. Clair.

- 20—*R. leberis* (?) Leather Snake. Reported by several parties, and although I never saw a Canadian specimen, yet it has been identified by Mr. Smith, of Ann Arbor, as being in Michigan. Reports most probably correct.
- 21—*Storeria occipito-maculata*. Red-bellied Snake. Not very rare. Captured in Kent, Bruce and Huron counties, and reported from Owen Sound.
- 22—*S. DeKayi*. Little Brown Snake. Found all over the western portions of Ontario.
- 23—*Eutania saurita*. Ribbon Snake. I captured one twenty-two inches long in Bruce county; the only Canadian specimen so far examined by me.
- 24—*E. radix*. Hoy's Garter Snake. I captured several young specimens on St. Clair Flats.
- 25—*E. sirtalis*. Garter Snake. This species is considered the typical Garter Snake. I got specimens in Dover township, but never captured it farther north. Not very common.
- 26—*E. dorsalis*. Striped Garter Snake. The best known variety; everywhere abundant. The best marked specimens I have yet seen were procured near Toronto by Mr. W. Brodie.
- 27—*E. ordinata*. A variety with square spots on the sides, seemingly the young of *dorsalis*.
- 28—*E. ordenoides*.  
29—*E. parietalis*.  
30—*E. vagrans*.  
31—*E. elegans*. } Varieties with more or less red markings on the sides. Generally found in marshes or low lands.
- I have captured all sorts of gradings and shadings of coloured specimens around Lake St. Clair. I have also received a few well marked *parietalis* from Mr. John McMillan, Magnetewan, Muskoka.
- 32—*E. Pickeringii*. I have one or two specimens from Mitchell's Bay, Co. Kent, that approach closely to this species or variety, as far as blackness of colour is concerned.
- 33—*E. obscura*. A variety without dorsal stripes. Scarcely admissable even as a variety. The side stripes are generally very obscure.
- 34—*Bascanium constrictor* (?). Black Snake. Gananoque. I have not as yet seen or procured one, but doubtless it exists there among the rocks.

- 35—*Scotophis vulpinus*. Fox Snake. Kent Co. I saw one which measured 7 feet 11 inches, captured by Mr. C. Dusten, and I have one 6 feet 3 inches, taken by Mr. Buck, of Mud creek. Not common. This is the largest and most powerful of our Canadian snakes, at the same time, one of the most innocent, harmless and timid.
- 36—*Cyclophis vernalis*. Grass Snake, Green Snake, Spring or Summer Snake, &c. A well known and beautiful little creature.
- 37—*Diadophis punctatus*. Ring-necked Snake. Not rare in Huron and Bruce counties in damp woods.
- 38—*D. punctatus* var. *amabilis*. I have such a specimen which seems to be the young of the last (*D. punctatus*) and admit it in deference to Mr. Cope, though doubtful of it being worth consideration.
- 39—*Ophibolus doliatus* var. *triangulus*. Milk Snake, Chicken Snake, House Snake, Chain Snake, &c. A well-known species.

#### Family CROTALIDÆ.

- 40—*Crotalus horridus*. Banded Rattlesnake. Rapidly becoming extinct. I saw one killed on the mountain a few miles east of Hamilton in 1859, and one in 1873, captured not far from Niagara. The measured about three feet each.
- 41—*Crotalophorus tergemina*. Massasanga. Prairie Rattlesnake. I saw the decaying remains of one in Tilberry marsh. The rattles were gone, but having no means of carriage, had reluctantly to leave it. Not rare formerly along Lake Erie, although now exceedingly scarce.

#### IV. BATRACHIA.

##### ANURA (Family Tailless Batrachians)

##### RANIDÆ.

- 42—*Rana helescina*. Leopard Frog. Everywhere.
- 43—*R. pulustris*. Pickerel or yellow-legged frog. Common.
- 44—*R. clamitans*. Green Frog. Common.
- 45—*R.* var. *cæruleus*. I introduce this as a local variety. I captured several with a deep indigo head, but now changing in alcohol to a dark greenish brown.
- 46—*R. Catesbeyana*. Bull Frog. Common.

47—*R. var. rufus*. I introduce this as it is a larger variety; copper brown with no trace of green on the body or head; has a hoarser voice, and keeps more in deep marshes. I obtained specimens on St. Clair Flats and in Bruce county. This variety is well marked.

48—*R. sylvatica*. Wood Frog. I emphatically deny that this species has any connection with the European *R. temporaria* and it is not a variety but a totally distinct species. On comparing it with European specimens in my Cabinet there is nothing whatever in common, and their life history is entirely different.

49—*R. sylvatica* var. *Cantabrigensis*. Specimens I have from Massachusetts, Michigan, &c., differ little from Canadian. Rare.

50—*Pelobates Americanus*. The same as *R. circulosa*, &c. Hoosier Frog. It is not a true *Rana*, nor can I admit it as such at present.

51—*Hyla versicolor*. Common Tree-toad. Common. South. Disappearing gradually northward.

52—*H. Andersonii*. I have found half-grown, and nearly adult *H. versicolor*, almost pure green, with a chocolate brown band obscuring the eye. Generally found among green herbage, and difficult to observe.

53—*H. Pickeringii*. Pickering's Tree-toad. One of the earliest frogs to croak.

54—*Acris Gryllus* var. *crepitans*. Cricket Frog. The most noisy of frogs for its size. Common.

55—*A. gryllus* var. *gryllus*. A variety here of which I have two specimens I can only relegate to this. Taken near Lucknow, Co. Bruce, May 23, 1879.

56—*Bufo lentiginosus* var. *Americanus*. Toad. Common. Very useful to destroy caterpillars and insects.

57—*B. lentiginosus* var. *niger*. I have a deep black coloured variety. Young generally blacker.

URODELA—(Tailed Batrachians).

#### PLEURODELIDÆ.

58—*Diemyctylus viridescens*. Spotted Triton. Newt, &c. Common.

59—*D. mineatus*. Red Eft. Scarce.

60—*Desmognatus niger*. Black Salamander. Captured and presented to me by Mr. Brodie, Toronto.

61—*Plethodon erythronotus*. Red-backed Salamander. Common.

62—*P. var. cinereus*. Not very rare.

#### Family AMBLYSTOMIDÆ.

63—*Amblystoma punctatum*. Large Salamander. Common.

#### PROTEIDA.

64—*Necturus lateralis*; *menobanchus* (Baird), Mud Puppy. Taken by me in Lakes St. Clair, Huron, and Erie, and near Toronto; not very rare in the Don River.

65—*N. Huronensis* (Spec. novum). About a foot long; deep sooty-brown on back, lighter on belly. Gills bushy, broad, end of each orifice red, in three rows. Throat white. Vent reddish. Upper jaw hooked over lower; eyes black, not prominent. I have only obtained two specimens in streams during twenty-five years. Very rare. I venture this as a new species.

I trust to find time to send a history of the English frog, *Rana temporaria* in an early issue of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST, and to demonstrate clearly peculiarities completely at variance with the form of *R. sylvatica*, which I think will prove their total specific difference. Any gentleman who may have a reptile of which he does not know the name, would confer a great favor by sending it in a box by mail, and after examination, I will return it with thanks. By this means, perhaps, new species, or varieties may be discovered in the Dominion.

JOHN H. GARNIER, M.D.

Lucknow, Bruce Co., O.

#### PROTECTION OF GAME.

The following address is from the pen of Dr. E. S. Holmes, President of the Michigan Sportsman's Association:—

“It has been asserted that Sportsmen's Associations are purely selfish; that the object of



game protection is to prevent the general public from the enjoyment of the health and recreation of taking, and the nourishment of partaking of wild game. Without pretending that sportsmen are possessed of more disinterested benevolence than the rest of mankind—without asserting that they labor more assiduously for the public good than those who do not enjoy the healthful recreation of forest, field, and stream sports with rod and gun—it is an unquestioned fact that the accomplishment of the objects for which game protection and sportsmen's associations are organized will promote the welfare of all classes of the community. Our object is to treat the wild game with which our State was once liberally supplied, as a wise husbandman would treat his domestic animals, so as to continue and increase the supply, that as population increases there may be an occasional full meal for all. We desire to prevent the destruction of game during their breeding and rearing seasons, and to prohibit all murderous systems of slaughter. We wish to prevent the killing of all kinds of animals when their flesh is unclean, unhealthful, and therefore not fit to eat. As a *sanitary measure*, this object of our Association should commend itself to every well-wisher of our race. It is impossible to tell how many of the insidious diseases that invite death to our dwellings, and clothe the people with the weeds of mourning, are produced by eating of the flesh of animals killed when they are unclean. Yet that sickness is so caused is patent to every one who has given this subject careful attention. It is a question worthy of consideration whether further legislation to prevent the sale and use of unclean meats is not demanded.

Again, as a *food supply measure*, the protection of game, quadrupeds, birds, and fishes, is one of vast importance. I do not need to read you, gentlemen, statistics to prove the point. The annual product of field and stream, lake and forest, provided free of cost by a bountiful Creator, is so important an item of the food of the people that an immediate stoppage of that supply would almost, perhaps quite, cause a food panic. During the open season (would it were only then) there is hardly a table in the land that is not frequently furnished with healthful nutritious game and fish food. How to continue and increase that supply is the question before us—the problem to be solved.

Then there is another reason why we should so manage as to increase rather than diminish

our stock of game and fish scarcely less important than those mentioned. And that is the healthful recreation enjoyed in its pursuit and capture. Everybody needs recreation—rest; and everybody will have it in some shape, and it is right, for nature demands it. Now, as there is no recreation more beneficial, and less harmful than true sportsmanship, or the pursuit of field sports with rod and gun, are we not engaged in a humane work while seeking to maintain the supply of game animals so as to make such sport possible? Mere out-door exercise without some intelligent pursuit, something in itself innocent to stimulate the mind, is of but little value as a recreation. All these are supplied in the pursuit of sportsmanship. The sportsman has to study the natural history of his quarry, and is frequently called upon to make the best use of his reasoning powers, as well as skill, in order to compass the capture of the wily object of his pursuit. I believe if there were no other reason for the protection of wild game than the incentive it gives to healthful out-door exercise, this alone would be sufficient to demand the most carefully considered legislation on this subject, and the most strict enforcement of the laws. These are but few, and perhaps not the most important, of the reasons that might be mentioned to show that the object for which sportsmen's association are organized—if accomplished—would promote the welfare of the people of the whole State. The mission of this association is to educate the people as to the habits of game animals of "fur, fin and feather," the best time and manner of capturing them, the correct names—both popular and scientific—by which they are, and should be, known; to teach the value of game birds as insect destroyers, as well as the usefulness of insectivorous birds that are not classed as game, in preventing the destruction of the crops of the husbandman by noxious insects; also to teach the farmers that true sportsmen are their best friends, for the above-named reasons; and to show by our actions as well as by precept that there is a vast difference between sportsmen and poachers, who slaughter with gun, trap and net, at any and all times, not only game but any other useful animal that may come within their reach.

The true sportsman is engaged in a work of benevolence and good will. Let us all be careful to so conduct ourselves at all times as to command the respect of all our fellow citizens.